



CHAPERONE GUIDE

DUC (Dallas United Crew) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of its athletes during rowing trips. To achieve this, DUC staff, coaches, and volunteers, including chaperones, play a critical role in adhering to the following responsibilities and principles:

Assist in Preparing Junior Rowing Team Athletes for Travel: Prior to departure, chaperones, along with DUC rowing coaches and staff, will prepare athletes for travel by explaining all expectations and guidelines they must follow. Special attention will be given to athletes who are considered inexperienced travelers or new to rowing team trips. When the Development Team travels, athletes will be paired with a member of the Competitive Team as a travel buddy.

Be Familiar with Itineraries and Schedules: Chaperones will thoroughly familiarize themselves with all rowing trip itineraries and schedules to ensure a smooth and organized travel experience for the athletes. Regatta schedules can be very dynamic. We will do our best to provide you with a list of the athletes you are traveling with prior to travel. Sometimes a chaperone will be responsible for athletes by boat; other times athletes are assigned by gender, age or hotel room assignment. This is more often the case when we travel by bus. Regardless, chaperones will always be provided with a list of athletes they are responsible for and athletes will know who their chaperone is. Chaperones should get in the habit of asking coxswains or stroke seats for help in keeping track of your athletes.

Ensure Adherence to Policies: Chaperones are responsible for monitoring and ensuring that all team members, including rowers, staff, coaches, and volunteers, adhere to DUC's policies and guidelines during rowing trips.

Chaperones will promote a positive and safe environment by discouraging any behavior that violates DUC policies, including the consumption of illegal substances, bullying, or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Please refer to the DUC Code of Conduct for more details about our policies.

Assist with Logistics: As far as possible, chaperones will assist DUC staff, coaches, and volunteers with rowing trip logistical needs, ensuring a seamless travel experience for the junior rowing team athletes. Coaches will do their best to provide you with a schedule of events for the next day of the event the night before. Chaperones will be responsible for confirming that we have all athletes present on each bus before departing for any event. Vans can change according to race results.

Monitor Curfew Restrictions: Chaperones will closely monitor junior rowers to ensure they adhere to curfew restrictions set based on age and rowing competition schedule as outlined in the rowing trip itinerary. Most often this means lights out at 9PM starting with U19 rooms and then the rest of the team. If you have a question, ask a coach.

Ensure Room Restrictions: Chaperones will ensure that junior rowers comply with hotel room restrictions based on gender or age group requirements. Chaperones are to always travel in pairs while interacting with hotel rooms.

Contact Coaching Staff and Program Director for Assistance: If chaperones have any questions, concerns, or are unsure about any aspect of the rowing trip or their responsibilities, they should promptly contact the coaching staff and program director for guidance and assistance.

Report Policy Violations and Concerns: Chaperones will promptly report any concerns about physical or sexual abuse, misconduct, or policy violations to the coaching staff and program director of DUC.

If a chaperone becomes aware of any form of abuse or misconduct, they will immediately inform the coaching staff and program director and cooperate fully with any necessary investigations.

Provide Support and Guidance: Chaperones will act as mentors and role models for junior rowers, providing support and guidance to help them develop their rowing skills and character both on and off the water.

Encourage a Positive Team Culture: Chaperones will foster a positive team culture that promotes respect, inclusivity, and sportsmanship among all team members, staff, coaches, and volunteers.

Adapt to Outdoor Nature of Rowing: Chaperones should be aware that rowing is an outdoor sport, and as such, they need to be prepared to pivot on the plan due to weather conditions and other outdoor-related factors. Flexibility and adaptability are essential in ensuring a successful trip.

Safely Drive Vans: Chaperones may be required to drive vans to transport the junior rowing team during the trip. If you are unfamiliar with the vehicle, take the time to familiarize yourself with its controls and handling before setting off. Safety should always be the top priority when operating the vans to ensure the well-being of everyone on board. Chaperones will be required to provide a current driver's license and proof of auto insurance.

Emergency Procedures: In case of accidents, injuries, or medical emergencies during the rowing trip, chaperones should immediately contact the coaches for assistance and follow the designated emergency procedures. In case of a serious medical emergency, chaperones should call 9-1-1 first.

Communication via Slack: Chaperones should use Slack or any designated communication platform to stay in touch with the coaches, providing updates, sharing information, and coordinating logistics throughout the trip.

Coach-Sanctioned Nutritious Food: Our rowers are well-informed about what fuels their bodies for success on the water, but they may need a little assistance and guidance from us during these exciting trips.

Chaperones will focus on providing athletes with nourishing options that will help them excel during their racing. Please check with your coach before offering any food items that would be considered "treats".

Your Role as a Chaperone with an Athlete on the Water: While coaches will do their best to accommodate your desire to see your own kids row during the trip, the role of a chaperone extends to the entire junior rowing team. As a chaperone, you are entrusted with the safety, supervision, and well-being of all the junior rowers during the entire duration of the trip. While it is natural to want to support and watch your own children participate in the sport they love, it is equally essential to prioritize the collective needs of the team.

NEW Report to Coaches After Room Check: Chaperones are asked to meet with the head men's and women's coaches after room check each night. Coaches will sign off on the room check list, accounting for all athletes, and present the regatta plan for the following day to the chaperones.

Policy Exceptions: Requests for exceptions to this policy may be submitted in writing by a parent or guardian at least 30 days before the scheduled travel begin date. The requests will be addressed to the appropriate head coach and Program Director. A decision will be communicated in writing within 7 days. If your concern is not addressed to your satisfaction, please contact the Executive Director.

We appreciate your commitment to this role and trust that you will fulfill your duties as a chaperone with dedication and integrity. Your active participation and support play a vital role in providing the athletes with a memorable and enjoyable rowing experience. Thank you for being an essential part of our team and for helping to ensure the trip is a resounding success for everyone involved.