



Unaccompanied Minor Services

Travel Information & Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the definition of Unaccompanied Minor?

In airline policy an Unaccompanied Minor is typically an airline passenger aged between 5 and 15 years old (airline regulations vary) who travels without an accompanying adult. A parent or guardian who requests for this service fills out a release form, identifying another guardian who will pick up the minor at the destination airport. Airline personnel are responsible for escorting the child through immigrations and customs and boarding the flight in time.

During the flight, no special attention is given to the minor until the flight enters final descent to the destination. On descent, the minor is moved to the nearest exit, which could be in business or first class, so that he or she can leave the aircraft at first opportunity and be transferred to the local ground staff. Upon arrival, the child is released only to the adult identified on the paperwork provided to the airline.

For athletes classified as Unaccompanied Minors traveling to High Performance National Training Programs, coaches are assigned to greet and receive athletes at the gate on arrival when their travel itinerary is confirmed. See below details on how to communicate Unaccompanied Minor travel information for an athlete in advance of a training program as well as timing of coach assignment to athletes.

How do I communicate that my child is traveling as an Unaccompanied Minor to USA Volleyball?

Families who pay the additional fee to reserve Unaccompanied Minor services **MUST** indicate this on their travel itinerary form online **AND** must upload/attach proof of purchase of their Unaccompanied Minor reservation to their travel itinerary online. Once confirmed, USA Volleyball will send the name and pertinent information for the coach who will meet the athlete approximately 1-2 weeks out from the training start date.

Most airlines will request information for the adult who will be receiving the athlete at the gate at the time of purchase. In this case, we request that parents provide the contact information for any other legal guardian for the athlete and then provide updated information to the airline once received by USA Volleyball in email communication once a coach has been assigned.

What if my child is traveling alone, but I have not paid for Unaccompanied Minor services?

For all High Performance National Training Programs, athletes who are **NOT** classified as Unaccompanied Minors (traveling alone without purchase of an airline's Unaccompanied Minor service) are greeted by USA Volleyball Coaches upon arrival at the designated airport at baggage claim. Most athletes in the older age groups (Youth & Junior) typically travel alone without the assistance of Unaccompanied Minor services.

How do Unaccompanied Policies differ by airline?

Unaccompanied Minor policies differ greatly by airline and can include restrictions based on age, location, number of connections and eligible flights where services may or may not be available.

Be sure to review this information from the U.S. Department of Transportation on "When Kids Fly Alone" to familiarize yourself with air travel policy and procedures, as well of those for the airline that you book travel: https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.dev/files/docs/Kids_Fly_Alone.pdf

Below are links to information on Unaccompanied Minor policies for some of the most frequently traveled airlines in the United States.

[United Airlines](#)

[American Airlines](#)

[Southwest Airlines](#)

[JetBlue Airlines](#)

[Delta Airlines](#)

[Spirit Airlines](#)

[Frontier Airlines](#)