



FMMHA Bussing Directive

Last Update: Sept 2025

Approved by Vote: Executive Board

Purpose

This directive aligns with the FMMHA Financial Policy, is mandatory for all teams, and allows flexibility in exceptional cases with approval from the Rep Operations Committee (Division Director, VP Rep) and oversight from the VP Rep Operations. It provides clear guidance for the use of team buses across all FMMHA teams (Rep and WBHL), balancing team bonding, safety, and convenience with the financial realities of rising bussing costs.

1. Guiding Principles

- **Safety:** For player protection, minors are strictly prohibited from driving themselves or transporting teammates to games and tournaments outside the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. This reduces risks associated with inexperienced drivers and ensures travel is organized and supervised by adults. FMMHA will not assume liability for rideshares—if a bus is not provided, parents must arrange transportation independently.
- **Development & Team Bonding:** Bussing supports team cohesion, responsibility, and a safe, structured travel environment.
- **Financial Stewardship:** Teams must include bussing costs in their budgets using the FMMHA template and recommended estimates. Teams may opt out of bussing for trips where usage would be very low (e.g., late-season games near Edmonton) if the decision is communicated to families and reflected in the budget.

2. Bussing Requirements

- **Tournaments:** Teams may choose to use a bus for tournaments at their discretion, considering cost, distance, weather, and player safety.
- **U18:** Bussing is mandatory for all away league games, and teams must do everything they can to secure a bus. If a bus cannot be secured, players may not self-drive or carpool with other minors.
- **U11–U15:** Bussing is strongly encouraged for at least 80% of away league games. Between Sept. 1–Oct. 31 and Mar. 1–end of season, teams may use discretion to travel without a bus when conditions allow.

3. Bus Booking Process

- Managers must submit a Bus Request Form via the FMMHA website to notify the office for invoicing.
- Requests are automatically sent to preferred providers (Diversified, Golden Arrow) for quotes, though teams may use any bus company and are not required to accept quotes.
- All buses must invoice FMMHA directly. FMMHA pays the invoice and bills the team afterward.
- Teams may pay from their team account or raffle account (if funds are held in trust).

4. Budgeting for Bussing

- **Recommended Estimates:**
 - Short trips (<5 hrs): ~\$5,000 per trip
 - Long trips (e.g., Grande Prairie): ~\$8,000 per trip
- Teams are responsible for booking accommodations for their driver. This is an additional room and does not count toward the team limit for officials.
- Gratuities for bus drivers are customary and, if teams choose to provide them, must be included in the team budget and communicated to parents for transparency. The following are recommended guidelines, though final amounts remain at the discretion of the Team Manager based on team size, age group, and service received:
 - \$150 for a one-day trip
 - \$200 for a two-night trip
 - \$300 maximum for a three-night trip
- Actual costs must be updated in the budget once confirmed and communicated to families.
- Bussing grants, if received, must be applied directly to bussing expenses.

5. Bus Conduct & Management

- The bus is for the team, and the comfort and safety of players and staff is the priority.
- The Head Coach sets rules, including seating plans. U18 players should have individual seats where possible.
- Manager controls who (if anyone) outside the team may ride, ensuring space and safety are maintained and are in line with the coaches rules.
- The Food Coordinator arranges water, snacks, and light meals for travel. Stops and itineraries should consider player comfort and basic needs.
- No alcohol is permitted on any minor hockey bus; alcohol permits are not allowed by FMMHA.

6. Alternative Support (In Lieu of Bussing)

- If a team chooses not to use a bus for a trip, or if a bus cannot be secured for reasons outside the team's control, non-parent staff (Head Coach, Manager, Assistant Coaches) may request gas cards of up to \$300 per trip to support coach travel.
- Gas cards must be used ethically and in line with FMMHA's Code of Conduct.

7. Compliance & Oversight

- Teams must follow this directive when planning travel.
- Deviations require Division Director and VP Rep Operations approval.
- Non-compliance may result in loss of reimbursement privileges or other sanctions.



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