

PLSHA Locker Room Policy

Youth players are particularly vulnerable in locker rooms, changing areas and restrooms due to various stages of dress/undress and because they are less supervised than at many other times. Athlete-to-athlete problems, such as sexual abuse and bullying, harassment, and hazing, often occur when coaches and/or volunteers are not in a position to observe – this is especially true in locker rooms. Adherence to PLSHA’s locker room policy enhances privacy and reduces the likelihood of misconduct. Proper supervision of the locker room areas also helps ensure that players that may have suffered an injury during a game or practice have an adult present to confer with regarding such injury.

- It is the policy of PLSHA that teams have at least one responsible adult present and directly monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. These individuals will be called “Locker Room Monitors”.
 - Locker Room Monitors
 - Are the responsible adults that monitors and supervises the locker room.
 - Shall have been screened in compliance with section III of the USA Hockey Safesport Program Handbook.
 - Must personally monitor the locker room environment at all times while participants are present and also make sure the locker room is appropriately secured during times when minor participants are on the ice.
 - Shall be of the same gender as the team they are monitoring. If a team is co-ed a team monitor of both genders will be required.
- Any individual meetings with a minor participant and a coach in a locker room shall require a responsible adult be with the coach.
- PLSHA teams may prohibit parents from the locker room. However, in doing so the team shall ensure that properly screened individuals monitor and supervise the locker room as required above.
 - With younger, Mite/8U/6U aged players, it is generally appropriate to allow parents to assist the player with getting equipment on and off before and after games or practices and they should be allowed to do so.
 - With older, Squirt/10U aged players and older, it is recommended teams implement locker room monitors.
- PLSHA prohibits the use of cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras, and video cameras from being used in locker rooms without specific approval from the team’s locker room monitor and/or coach. Approval will only be granted when all persons present in the locker room are appropriately dressed and have been advised that photographs or recordings are being taken.
- Co-Ed Locker Rooms:
 - As a team sport in which youth teams can often include both male and female players, special circumstances may exist that can increase the chance of abuse or misconduct. If

a team consists of both male and female players, both female and male privacy rights must be given consideration and appropriate arrangements made.

- It is not acceptable for players, coaches, locker room monitors or any other PLSHA member to be observing the opposite gender while they dress or undress.
- Where possible, the male and female players should undress/dress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single dressing room prior to the game or team meeting.
- Once the game is finished, the players may come to one locker room to discuss the game, but no player may begin undressing until the opposite gender has proceeded to their separate dressing room.
- Coaches are prohibited from discussing hockey in the locker room unless both genders are present.
- If separate locker rooms are not available the genders may take turns using the same locker room. One gender must wait to use locker room until all opposite gender's players have finished and left the locker room.
- When male and female players are together in the locker room there should be at least two adults in the locker room that have been screened in compliance with section III of the USA Hockey Safesport Program Handbook.