

WYHA 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 often less supervised than at other times. Athlete-to-athlete problems, such as sexual abuse, bullying, harassment, or hazing, often occur when a coach or other responsible adult is not in a position to observe – this is especially true in locker rooms. Adherence to WYHA'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.

The SafeSport Program requires this locker room policy to include the following components:

- 1) Practices for supervising and monitoring locker rooms and changing areas
- 2) Permission or lack of permission for parents to be in the locker rooms
- 3) Prohibited conduct, including at least all forms of abuse and misconduct prohibited by USA Hockey
- 4) Specific policies regarding the use of mobile electronic devices and phones and prohibiting the use of a device's recording capabilities.

This policy also includes a section on Co-Ed Locker Rooms.

Section 1: Locker Room Supervision

WYHA is concerned with locker room activities between youth participants; youth participants and adult participants; adults being alone with individual youth participants in locker rooms; and with non-official or non-related adults having unsupervised access to minor participants at team events.

It is WYHA's policy that teams have at least one responsible screened adult present and directly monitoring the locker room before and after 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. Minnesota District 3 Hockey requires that the locker room monitors must be physically in the locker room. Monitors cannot supervise from the hallway. This applies even if other parents are in the locker room to assist a player with his or her equipment.

Any individual meetings between a youth participant and a coach or other adult in a locker room shall require that a second responsible adult is present. The responsible adult that monitors and supervises the locker room shall have been screened in compliance with guidelines in the SafeSport Handbook. Any coach's(es') meeting(s) with an individual player shall be conducted on the ice, on the bench, in the locker room with the other team members and/or locker room monitor(s) present, or in a public setting, unless agreed otherwise by the player's parent or guardian.

Locker Room Monitors

- Are the responsible adults who directly monitor and supervise the locker room.
- Must physically be in the locker room Must have been screened in compliance with the USA Hockey SafeSport Program Handbook.
- Must personally monitor the locker room environment at all times while participants are present, before and after ice time
- Must make sure the locker room is appropriately secured during times when youth participants are on the ice.
- Must be of the same gender as the team they are monitoring.

Section 2: Parents in Locker Rooms

WYHA teams may prohibit parents from the locker room. However, in doing so, the team shall be required to have properly screened adults monitoring and supervising the locker room as required above.

- With younger, Mite/U6/U8 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 in the locker room to do so.
- With older, Squirt/U10 aged players and older, it is recommended teams implement locker room monitors.

Section 3: Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

WYHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. Participants, employees or volunteers in WYHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of the Locker Room Policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. Reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1-800-888-4656.

Section 4: Use of Electronics in Locker Rooms

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras increase the risk for some forms of abuse or misconduct. Use of all recording devices should be banned from the locker room, including cell phones and cameras.

Section 5: 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 WYHA 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 and then the male and female players proceed to their separate dressing rooms to undress and shower (separately), if available.
- If separate locker rooms are not available, then the genders may take turns using the locker room to change and then leave while the other gender changes.
- Where possible, 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 properly screened in compliance with the USA Hockey SafeSport Program Handbook.

Compliance

For each team, the coach and/or team administrators shall be responsible for compliance with the locker room supervision requirements of this Policy. A coach and/or team administrator that fails to take appropriate steps to ensure the Locker Room Policy is adhered to, and any WYHA participant or parent of a participant who otherwise violates this Policy is subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

WYHA's Locker Room Policies will follow policies that may be issued by Minnesota District 3 Hockey, Minnesota Hockey and/or USA Hockey.