



# Change Room Protocol

## Match Officials Development

March 1, 2017

## Change Room Protocol

1. Only assigned Match Officials and assessors are permitted in the change room.
  - a. Unauthorized visitors are **not allowed** in the Change Room prior to, during, or after any sanctioned game.
  - b. It is the responsibility of all officials working a sanctioned game to ensure that a “professional” appearance and perception is maintained with regards to activities in the change room
2. If male and female officials must share the same dressing room, whoever arrives at the venue first has the opportunity to change first. The other officials will remain outside the room at this time.
  - a. It is never appropriate to change or dress in the same space at the same time. Officials will take turns changing before and after games based on gender.
  - b. The key should be held by the person within the change room
  - c. If male and female officials are in the same dressing room at any time, the door must not be completely closed
3. Cameras and any other electronic devices capable of capturing images are prohibited in the change room.
  - a. Cell phones that have camera capability are permitted for the purposes of telephone communications only and imaging is strictly prohibited.
4. Any inappropriate behavior in the change room must immediately be reported to a supervisor or someone in a position of trust, and may need to be followed up in writing to The Manager of Match Officials Development at Ontario Soccer.



5. Regardless of gender, if any officials under 16 years of age are working with another official(s) who is 16 years or older, the same official policy must be observed, regardless of gender. The other officials will remain outside the room at this time.
  - a. If <16 and >16 officials must share the same change room, whoever arrives at the venue first has the opportunity to change first.
  - b. It is never appropriate to change or dress in the same space at the same time. Officials will take turns changing before and after games based on age and gender.
  - c. The key should be held by the person within the change room
  - d. If <16 and >16 officials are in the same dressing room at any time, the door must not be completely closed


***It is essential to respect each other's privacy. These guidelines are for the official's safety and protection.***

Opposite genders must never use the change rooms at the same time without following the Change Room Protocol, regardless of age.

***Officials found guilty of violating the dressing room protocol will be subject to disciplinary action under Ontario Soccer Published Rules.***



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