



In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, the safety and protection of our participants is central to Butler Valley Youth Hockey Association's goals. Butler Valley Youth Hockey Association (BVYHA) adheres to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program as a means to help protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing. To help prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms, BVYHA has adopted the following locker room policy. This policy is designed to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

At The Frozen Pond Arena there are up to seven (7) locker rooms available for our program's use. Most of the locker rooms have a restroom and/or shower area. Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, rest rooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. BVYHA team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance of games away from our home arena. At arenas for which you are unfamiliar, parents/guardians should plan to have extra time and some flexibility in making arrangements for their child to dress, undress and shower if desired.

Locker Room Monitoring

BVYHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-50 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas.

BVYHA coaching staff for each team will use the following procedures:

1. Conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive.
2. At least one (1) coach or volunteer locker room monitors (each of which has been previously screened and approved) will remain in the locker room whenever there are multiple players present. Every reasonable effort will be made to have multiple coaches/monitors remain in the locker room at all times when multiple players are present.
3. At no point in time should one (1) coach be in a locker room with one (1) player. If only one (1) player is remaining in the locker room, the coach will leave the locker room and remain directly outside of the locker room so as to sufficiently monitor and communicate with the player remaining in the locker room.
4. Team personnel will also secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice. If the locker room in use is able to be locked, the locker room is to be locked and the key given to a designated "key holder" for that event, this can be the Team Manager, or one of the parents/guardians that is present.

Parents/guardians in Locker Rooms

Players in age groups 8U "Mites" and 10U "Squirts"

Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents/guardians to assist the players getting dressed. We encourage parents/guardians to teach their players as young as possible how to get dressed so that players will learn as early as possible how to get dressed independently. In circumstances where parents/guardians are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask

that the parents/guardians leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coaches may address the players.

Players in age groups 12U “Pewees” and Older

We discourage parents/guardians from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a parent/guardian feels that it is necessary to be in the locker room to assist a player, that parent/guardian must obtain approval from the Head Coach (or acting Head Coach for that event) before entering the locker room. At least one (1) coach or volunteer monitor shall remain in the locker room whenever players and parents/guardians are present.

If a player needs minor assistance getting ready, help with tying skates for example, we ask that player to meet their parent/guardian outside of the locker room for the needed help.

Players Arriving Late

Players that arrive after the locker room has been vacated by the team shall get the key holder to unlock the locker room in order to use the locker room. While the player is using the locker room the player’s parent/guardian shall remain in the locker room with the player until they exit to take the ice. If more than one player is late, one parent/guardian of each late player is to remain with their child until they exit to take the ice. Once a player leaves the locker room their parent/guardian must exit at the same time as they do. Once all late players have exited the locker room, the locker room is to be locked again and the key returned to the designated key holder.

Injured Players

If a player is or becomes injured and is removed from the ice:

1. A coach or team official will accompany the injured player and medical personnel on duty to the locker room and remain with the injured player until released by the medical personnel (EMT).
2. A parent/guardian must, if present, accompany the player, coach and medical personnel to the locker room.

Mobile Electronics

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are not permitted to be used for these purposes in the locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they must be taken outside of the locker room. It may be permissible, at the direction of the Head Coach, to have team manager collect phones if the need arises. With permission of the Head Coach, one (1) mobile device may be used only for playing music in the locker room.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

BVYHA 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 BVYHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. To report of any actual or suspected violations, you are asked to do one of the following:

1. Immediately notify the Head Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Manager.
2. Contact the BVYHA SafeSport Coordinator.
3. Contact a member of the BVYHA Board of Directors.
4. If the misconduct or abuse is of a serious nature, contact the local police or authorities.
5. Email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org.
6. Call USA Hockey SafeSport at 1-800-888-4656.

BVYHA Co-ed Locker Room Policy

The Co-ed Locker Room policy attempts to balance the social integration and camaraderie of a team sport while providing a safe and respectful environment for all of our participants. Note that **all of the previously stated locker room rules and procedures apply to co-ed teams** and the following are additional procedures to be followed by co-ed teams.

For BVYHA teams with mixed gender players (co-ed team), the team can choose one (1) of the three (3) options below when participating in a team function (game or practice). The coaching staff of each team (Head Coach or acting Head Coach for the activity) shall choose one of the methods, based on the needs of the team and options presented by the rink where the activity is located, sufficiently communicate the chosen method for that team activity, and provide the appropriate monitoring required to comply with the chosen method.

1) Minimum Attire Policy

If the team is sharing one locker room. All players should be required to arrive at the rink wearing their hockey base layers or shorts and t-shirts (in good condition - no holes or tears in clothing) under their street clothes. All members of the team must have this minimum attire before entering a co-ed locker room so that no player of one gender has the opportunity to see players of the opposite gender in a state of dress/undress.

2) Separate, Supervised Locker Room Policy

Have males and females change/dress in separate, supervised locker rooms. Then approximately ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes before each game/practice everyone is to be ready in gear in one designated locker room so the coach can address the entire team. If a player (whether male or female) is not fully dressed by the time the coach arrives, then that player must go to a separate locker room or bathroom to finish dressing. The onus is on the players being properly dressed when the coaches actually begin preparing the team for the practice or game.

3) Alternate Use of a Single Locker Room

Players of one gender dress in the locker room while players of the opposite gender wait outside. When the one group is ready, then the players switch places and the players in gear wait for players of opposite gender to get dressed. No coaching is to be done until all the players are together in full gear. Taking turns is a means of reasonable accommodation; neither gender group should be favored, nor should one group be the group who always has to wait to change.

Please note that with Co-ed teams, it is important that the person(s) monitoring the locker room is of the same gender as the players being monitored. If it not possible to arrange for a same gender monitor



for the locker room, the coach should enlist the parents/guardians of the players using the separate locker rooms to assist as monitors. The player's parent/guardian acting as a monitor is to remain in the locker room as long as the player is present.

A coach or team official, who has been screened for locker room access, shall, at a minimum, remain directly outside of the locker room so as to sufficiently monitor and communicate with the parents/guardians and/or players while the players are using the locker room.

Violation of Locker Room Policy

This locker room policy is to be taken very seriously and will be strictly enforced. We ask that parents/guardians and players familiarize themselves with the details of the policy and support coaches and team managers with its implementation. If a team is found to violate this policy team discipline will be administered per the following schedule:

First Offense: A verbal warning will be given to the Head Coach or Acting Head Coach for that event.

Second Offense: Loss of one (1) team practice ice slot.

Third Offense: Loss of two (2) team practice ice slots.

Fourth Offense: Removal of the Head Coach from the team.