



# NM ICE WOLVES YOUTH HOCKEY

Albuquerque, New Mexico



## NMICE Locker Room Policy

The NMICE Locker Room Policy, in accordance with USA Hockey youth hockey program's policies shall include the program's (a) practices for supervising and monitoring locker rooms and changing areas; (b) permission or lack of permission for parents to be in the locker rooms; (c) prohibited conduct, including at least all forms of abuse and misconduct prohibited by USA Hockey; and (d) specific policies regarding the use of mobile electronic devices and phones and prohibiting the use of a device's recording capabilities.

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 all NMICE goals. NMICE 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, NMICE has adopted the following locker room policy.

### **NMICE Locker Room Policy**

This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms. At The Outpost Ice Arenas there are usually locker rooms available for our program's use. Some locker rooms have included restrooms/shower facilities, and some may not. Additionally, there is a separate female locker room. 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. At arenas for which you are unfamiliar, parents should plan to have extra time and some flexibility in planning for their child to dress, undress and shower if desired.

#### **Locker Room Monitoring**

NMICE has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 45-60 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make some players uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

If the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, either a coach or voluntary locker room monitor (each of which has been screened) will be posted directly outside of the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use, and leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible, so that only participants (coaches and players) and approved team personnel are permitted in the locker room. Team personnel may also secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.

### **Parents in Locker Rooms**

Except for players in 6U/8U, we discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear, if the player is or may be injured, or a player's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the player.

Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players in getting dressed. We encourage parents to teach their players as young as possible how to get dressed independently. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask that the parents leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coaches may address the players. As players get older, the coach may at his or her discretion prohibit parents from a locker room.

### **Mixed Gender Teams**

Some of our teams consist of both male and female players. It is important that the privacy rights of all our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, NMICE will have the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the game or team meeting. Once the game or practice is finished, the players may come to one locker room for a team meeting and then the male and female players proceed to their separate locker rooms to undress and shower, if available. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the players will take turns using the locker room to change. We understand that these arrangements may require that players arrive earlier or leave later to dress but believe that this is the most reasonable way to accommodate and respect all our players.

### **Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices**

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are not permitted to be used in the locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room. It is permissible to have the locker room monitor and/or team manager collect phones.

### **Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

NMICE 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 NMICE may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of the Travel Policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies.

Direct reports of any actual or suspected violations:

NMICE SafeSport Coordinator: safesport@nmice.org

LOEAHA SafeSport Coordinator: NMsafesport@gmail.com

USA Hockey: safesport@usahockey.org or 1-800-888-4656

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