

South Boston Youth Hockey's Locker Room Policy

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 South Boston Youth Hockey's goals. South Boston Youth Hockey 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, South Boston Youth Hockey has adopted the following locker room policy. This policy is designed to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

Locker Room Monitoring

South Boston Youth Hockey requires direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. Prior to and at the end of practices and games, South Boston Youth Hockey requires an adult presence in the locker room. The head coach, assistant coach, or screened parent volunteer must be present in the locker room before practices and games and accompany the team into the locker room at the end of practices and games.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups [Mites and Squirts] 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 getting dressed. We encourage parents 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 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 in 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 of our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, South Boston Youth Hockey 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 of 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 for use in the locker rooms. Parents should instruct and coaches will remind players to **POWER OFF** cell phones before entering the locker room. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be used in public areas or outside the rink. A violation of the cell phone policy may result in disciplinary action by the board which may include suspension from hockey activities.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

South Boston Youth Hockey 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 South Boston Youth Hockey's 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 any actual or suspected violations, you may email xxx at xxxx or call xxx.