

Essex Youth Hockey Association'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 EYHA's goals. EYHA adheres to USA Hockey's Safe Sport 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, EYHA has adopted the following 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 ESSEX SKATING FACILITY there are 4 locker rooms available for our program's use. Each of the locker rooms has its own restroom and 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. EYHA's 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 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

- EYHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-45 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas.
- We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive, and either a coach or locker room monitor (each of which has been screened) will be posted directly inside of the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use.
- Only **approved team personnel** (those who have completed SafeSport and a Background check) are permitted in the locker room. Team personnel will also secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.

Parents in Locker Rooms

- Except for players at the younger age groups, House Programs, 8U and mites, 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/locker room monitor 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 and Locker Room Use

- 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. On our mixed gender teams ALL players will 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 coed 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. 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 prohibited in the locker rooms. Players should not bring their cell phones and “leave it in their bag”. If they must bring a phone, they should give it to a parent or coach for the duration of the practice.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

- EYHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook. Participants, employees or volunteers in EYHA 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 Safe Sport Policies. Reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email Helen MacAndrews (hmacandrews72@gmail.com) the EYHA SafeSport coordinator, USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1.800.888.4656