



**USA Hockey (USAH) requires that all local programs publish their locker room policies to the parents of all Minor Participants that are specific to the Facilities they regularly use.**

## **Wenatchee Amateur Hockey Association WAHA 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 WAHA goals. WAHA 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, WAHA 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 Toyota Town Center Event Ice and Community Ice Arena there are 8 locker rooms, 6 of which have showers/bathrooms available for our program's use. The locker rooms are shared for both sheets of ice. 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. WAHA'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 Supervision**

WAHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas generally 15-30 mins before and following practice and games. During this time an approved locker room monitor shall be within reason close enough to monitor locker room use. This allows for direct oversight and monitoring as it is the policy of WAHA and USA Hockey. Each team must have at least one (preferably two) responsible background screened and Safe Sport trained adult(s) (which may include coaches, managers or other volunteers) present at all times and monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only Participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members (if appropriate) are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. While it is not always possible, two locker room monitors are preferable.

Preferred locker room monitoring includes having locker room monitors near or inside the locker room while Participants are in the locker room; at a minimum, locker room monitors must be in the immediate vicinity outside the locker room who also regularly and frequently enter the locker room to monitor activity inside. **WAHA requires one parent of each registered player to be safe sport trained and background screened to assist with locker room monitoring during the season. WAHA board, coaches, team managers and player parents are responsible to ensure that locker room monitors are in place at all appropriate times. This important requirement is all our responsibility to ensure a safe environment.**

Further, Coaches and Assistant Coaches must also secure the locker room appropriately during times when Minor Athletes are on the ice. If a Minor Athlete goes to a locker room during practice or a game, and does not return in a timely fashion, then a coach (or if possible two) should check on the Minor Athlete's whereabouts.

Except for players at the younger age groups, generally 10 and under, 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.

## **Locker Room Use and Rules**

All interactions between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete within any locker rooms or changing areas must adhere to the One-On-One Interactions Policy, provided that exceptions apply (i) for teammates that meet the Close-in-Age exception, (ii) when a Dual Relationship exists, (iii) when a Minor Athlete needs an Adult Personal Care Assistant, or (iv) in the case of emergency. Minor Athletes that are teammates with an Adult Participant that is more than four years older than the Minor Athlete, may share a locker room, but must not be alone in the locker room unless the interaction is Observable and Interruptible.

Notwithstanding the above, Adult Participants may shower with Minor Athlete(s) only if they are teammates and the Close-in-Age exception applies. If a parent/guardian requests that their Minor Athlete not change and/or shower with an Adult Participant during In-Program Contact, that request must be adhered to by WAHA. Additionally, a private or semi-private area (such as a bathroom stall or separate bathroom) must be available for Minor Athletes to change clothes or undress. At WAHA, that location is available in 6 locker rooms and public bathroom locations throughout the facility.

**Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities**, which includes voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, increase the risk for some forms of abuse or misconduct. *As a result, the use of a device with recording capabilities in the locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces is prohibited.*

Notwithstanding the foregoing, exceptions may be made for media and championship celebrations, provided that such exceptions are approved by WAHA, parent/guardian consent is obtained for all involved Minor Athletes, two or more Adult Participants are present, and where all persons in the locker room are fully clothed (and have been advised that photographs or recordings are being taken).

**Coaches** sometimes may need to use the team locker room to get dressed before or after practices. Coaches must have always at least a base layer of clothing while changing or must use a private area to change into acceptable clothing. An Adult Participant (other than for teammates to whom the Close-in-Age exception applies) shall not intentionally or recklessly expose their breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a Minor Athlete.

Any Adult Personal Care Assistant helping a Minor Athlete in the locker room must have the parent's written consent and have met the requirements of the SafeSport Training and Background Check policies.

## **Co-Ed Locker Rooms**

As a team sport in which youth teams can often include players of different genders, special circumstances may exist that can increase the chance of abuse or misconduct. If the team consists of players of different genders, the privacy rights of all players must be given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. It is not acceptable under USA Hockey's Sexual Misconduct Policy for persons to be observing the opposite gender while they dress or undress. There are a variety of ways to comply with the above tenets, and what works may depend on the locker rooms that are available at any given time or facility. Below is WAHA's recommendation to accommodate teams of different genders:

### Minimum Attire

All players should 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. If a player is not wearing the required minimum attire, that player can be directed to a restroom or private area to change into his/her minimum attire before entering the locker room. For the purposes of this policy, sports bras and/or underwear are not considered base layers.

### ***Locker Rooms are a Privilege not a Right***

Think before you act inappropriately or violate this policy.