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### Los Alamos Hockey Association 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 Los Alamos Hockey Association's (LAHA) goals. LAHA 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, LAHA 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 Los Alamos County Ice Rink there are four locker rooms (plus the referee locker room) available for our program's use. **Changing in the warming hut is strictly prohibited as it violates Los Alamos County health codes.** At LACIR, there are no in locker room restrooms or showers; players are to use the public restrooms. 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. LAHA'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 rooms are for players and coaching staff. Parents (except as noted below), siblings, other relatives, and friends are not permitted in the locker rooms!**

#### Locker Room Monitoring

LAHA 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. 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.

We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive, and if the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, either a coach or voluntary locker room monitors (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 screened and approved team personnel 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 [Atoms, Mites, & Squirts], parents may not enter locker rooms unless it is truly necessary and only if a screened and cleared team official or locker room monitor is present. If a player needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear, if the player is or may be injured,

or if 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, 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 of our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, LAHA will have the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms (at LACIR, locker room #1 is female only) 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 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.

### **Locker Room Cleanliness**

Locker room cleanliness is the players' responsibility. Coaches will police the locker room after every game or practice to ensure that it is picked up. When players are done dressing for games or practices, they are asked to zip and stow their gear bags so that other players may walk in the locker room without obstructions.

The use of pucks or balls off the ice surface is not allowed; this includes but is not limited to tape rolls, tape balls, bottle caps, chunks of ice/snow etc. Some arenas have a place for this type of activity but most do not. The exception to this is under the direction and supervision of a team official for the purposes of instruction/skill development.

### **Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

LAHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. All zero tolerance policies are strictly enforced in the locker rooms. Participants, employees or volunteers in LAHA 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. Reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email the LAHA SafeSport Coordinator at [esortiz75@msn.com](mailto:esortiz75@msn.com), the Land Of Enchantment Amateur Hockey Association Safe sport Coordinator at [nmsafesport@gmail.com](mailto:nmsafesport@gmail.com), or USA Hockey at [SafeSport@usahockey.org](mailto:SafeSport@usahockey.org), or may call 1-800-888-4656.