

Reading Youth Hockey Association

Locker Room Policy

Updated December 2014

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 Reading Youth Hockey's goals. Reading 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, Reading Youth Hockey 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 Burbank Arena there are five locker rooms available for our program's use. Four of the locker rooms share two bathroom/shower areas. Reading Youth Hockey also conducts practices at Holland Arena, which has two locker rooms with bathroom/shower areas. Most teams in our program also regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, rest rooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location.

Locker Room Monitoring

Reading Youth Hockey has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (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.

Coaches are expected to ensure that the locker room is monitored while in use by their team. A coach or other team representative should be either inside the locker room or directly outside, depending on the age and make-up of the team. Only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members (when appropriate) are permitted in the locker room. Team personnel will also secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.

All RYH players, coaches, parent/guardians and guests shall be expected to adhere to reasonable standards of conduct at all times, including but not limited to USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy standards. Bullying, hazing, threatening behavior, unpermitted offensive or harmful physical contact, and use of foul, threatening, offensive, insulting or derogatory language will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Offenders may be subject to removal from the locker room and other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by RYH coaches, directors, officers or board members.

Parents in Locker Rooms

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

With our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players getting dressed. We encourage parents to teach their player 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 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 our players are given consideration and that appropriate arrangements be made. This is especially true at the PeeWee/U12 level (age 11 and older). Accordingly, the following policy shall be implemented for any mixed gender team for players age 11 and older without exception. For players age 11 and older, Reading 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 player 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. For players age 10 and younger, the above policy for mixed gender teams with players age 11 and older shall be communicated to all coaches and player parents. The parent/guardian of a player under age 11 may request, in confidence to a RYH coach, level director, officer or board member, that the mandatory policy for older players be adhered to due to any good faith concern for their child's privacy. In the event of such a request, the mandatory policy set forth above shall be applied to that player's team.

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 for coaches to arrange for all phones and other devices to be collected upon entry into the locker room and to be returned at the conclusion of the game or practice.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

Reading 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 Reading Youth Hockey 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 may be reported to any member of the Reading Youth Hockey Board of Directors, or may be sent via e-mail to USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or via telephone call to 1-800-888-4656.