



## **Southcoast Panthers Youth Hockey Association Mite Locker Room Policy**

“USA Hockey is concerned with locker room activities between minor players; minor players and adult players; adults being alone with individual minor players in locker rooms; and with nonofficial or non-related adults having unsupervised access to minor participants at sanctioned team events.

It is the policy of USA Hockey and USA Hockey InLine that all Affiliates, Districts, leagues, and local hockey programs have at least one responsible adult present directly monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only participants, (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. Any individual meetings with a minor participant and a coach in a locker room shall require a responsible adult be with the coach.

Further, responsible adults must personally monitor the locker room environment at all times while participants are present and also make sure the locker room is appropriately secured during times when minor participants are on the ice.

Teams, leagues and local hockey associations shall also comply with the USA Hockey Coed locker room policy set out below. “

To ensure the safety of our players, Southcoast Panthers will abide by the above policy. We recognize that with our youngest players, it is necessary for parents to assist the players in 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.

Only players, coaches, and CORI'd volunteers will be allowed in the locker room. Coach's from each team will identify which coaches and/or CORI'd volunteers are to be

allowed in the locker room during their team's scheduled events. The role of the responsible adult is to directly monitor the locker room during all team events. They will be asked to unlock the locker rooms when the players arrive, and lock them once all the players have left the locker room. This will ensure that no player is left unattended in the locker room. Players who arrive late will be required to dress in the lobby area with his/her parent. Players are encouraged to dress/undress in the locker rooms before schedule team events. Mite parents who wish to assist their child in the locker room must be CORI'd and USA Hockey registered as an off-ice volunteer. If the parent is not CORI's and registered, the parent will not be allowed in the locker rooms.

As the season progresses, we have situations where older, college or high school level male players are using the shared locker room area either before or after our scheduled team event. It is important that the privacy rights of all of our players and those of other hockey programs are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, SCPYHA 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 and those with whom we are sharing the arena's facilities.

It is our hope that this policy promotes a safe environment for our mite players and begins to encourage a level of independence as the player progresses through the season. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.