



## **Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association Locker Room Policy**

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, safety of our participants is essential to the Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association. The Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association adheres to USA Hockey SafeSport Program as a support to help protect its participants from physical 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, The Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association has adopted the following locker room guidelines. These rules are designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of wrongdoing in locker rooms.

### **Locker Room Monitoring**

Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association has limited use of locker rooms and changing areas at home and away games. This allows for consistent monitoring of locker room areas. Constant monitoring inside our locker rooms and changing areas will be the most effective way to prevent problems. Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association coaches and volunteers will look over the locker room and changing area before players arrive. Either a coach or a volunteer locker room assistant (each of which has been screened through USA Hockey and SafeSport) will be posted directly inside/outside the locker room and changing area during periods of use. They will leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible, so that only coaches, players, 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, Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association discourages parents from entering the locker room unless it is truly necessary; if a player needs assistance due to any injury or medical concern. Certainly, with our youngest age groups, it is necessary for parents to assist with the players getting prepared. We encourage parents to teach their players how to get properly dressed for hockey so that they can self-sufficiently complete this task in the future. Coaches will ask that the parents leave for a short time before and

after the game. This will allow the coaches to communicate with their players effectively. As players get older, the Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association coaches may prohibit parents from any locker room.

**Mix Gender Teams**

Some of our teams consist of both male and female players. It is imperative that the privacy rights of all of our Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association players are given respect and that appropriate locker room arrangements are made. If needed and separate locker rooms are not available, then the Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association players will take turns using the locker room to change. Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association understands that these arrangements may require that players arrive earlier or leave later to dress. This will be the most sensible way to accommodate and respect all of our participants.

**Cell Phones and Other Technological Devices**

Cell phones and other technological devices with recording capabilities; including voice activated recorders, still cameras, and video recorders, ARE NOT PERMITTED to be used in any locker room. If cell phones or other technological devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room.

**Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association prohibits all types of physical abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport handbook. Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association Participants, Coaches, or Volunteers may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room guidelines. Reports of any actual or suspected violations should be reported to the Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association team coaches, team manager/volunteer, or SafeSport representative. All reported violations will be directed to the Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association Board and investigated in a timely manner.

Player: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_