

South Windsor Youth Hockey Association's 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 SWYHA's goals. SWYHA 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, SWYHA 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 South Windsor Arena there are 5 of locker rooms available for our program's use. Locker room 1 has been reserved for female players. Some teams in our program may also travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms will vary from location to location. 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.

Locker Room Monitoring

SWYHA has a limited time use of locker rooms 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. 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), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room. Please note that with co-ed programs, it is important that the person(s) monitoring the locker room is of the same gender as the players being monitored.

Permitted - Minimum one (1) screened monitor immediately outside the locker room and regularly checking in on the locker room.

Permitted - Minimum two (2) screened monitors inside the locker room. Having only one person inside a locker room can expose that person to allegations, so a second person can help protect one another from allegations.

Co-ed 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. SWYHA has reserved locker room 1 for female players and other rinks our association travels to may also have a similar option available so players can 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. If separate locker rooms are not available when traveling then the teams will need to follow the guidelines for a Co-ed locker room. The Co-ed Locker Room policy attempts to balance the social integration and camaraderie of a team sport while providing a safe and respectful environment for all of

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our participants. Below are some other options for compliance with USA Hockey's Co-ed Locker Room Policy:

- 1) Coaches may opt to have a minimum attire policy when sharing one locker room. All players will be required to 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.

Permitted - Minimum one (1) male and one (1) female screened monitors inside the locker room. Having only one person inside a locker room can expose that person to allegations, so a second person can help protect one another from allegations.

- 2) If a minimum attire policy is not going to be used the team will need to practice an alternate use of a single locker room. Players of one gender dress in the locker room while players of the opposite gender wait outside. When the one group is ready, then the players switch places and the players in gear wait for players of opposite gender to get dressed. No coaching is to be done until all the players are together in full gear. Taking turns is a means of reasonable accommodation; neither gender group should be favored, nor should one group be the group who always has to wait to change.

Permitted - Minimum one (1) same gender screened monitor immediately outside the locker room and regularly checking in on the locker room.

Permitted – Minimum two (2) screened same gender monitors inside the locker room. Having only one person inside a locker room can expose that person to allegations, so a second person can help protect one another from allegations.

Parents/Guardians in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups 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. Parents/Guardians will need to wait outside the locker room until all players are properly covered with minimum attire wearing their hockey base layers or shorts and t-shirts. 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.

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Pre and Post Game Team Meetings

It is important that each player is in full gear approximately fifteen (15) minutes before each game and the entire team is in one locker room so the coach can address the entire team. If a player (whether boy or girl) is behind schedule and not in minimum attire by the time the coach arrives for the team meeting, then that player must go to a separate locker room or bathroom to finish dressing. The onus is on the players being properly dressed when the coaches actually begin preparing the team for the practice or game.

Also all parents/guardians need to be done assisting their players getting dress 15 minutes before game and will need to leave the locker room during the team meeting. After the game the entire team will converge into one locker for the post game meeting. Parents/Guardians will not be permitted in the locker room during post game meeting.

Permitted – All coaches and for co-ed teams minimum one (1) female screened monitor

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.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

SWYHA 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 and volunteers in SWYHA 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 USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1-800-888-4656.