



Shoreline Sharks Locker Room Policy

USA Hockey requires that all local programs publish their locker room policies to the parents of all minor participants.

In addition to the development of our hockey players and fostering enjoyment of the sport of hockey, ensuring the safety and protection of our participants is central to the goals of the Shoreline Sharks organization. The Shoreline Sharks adhere 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, the Shoreline Sharks 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.

There is no specific locker room dedicated to the Sharks at our home rinks, Patsy DiLungo/East Haven, Northford Ice Pavilion, and Louis Astorino/Hamden. Locker room assignments are posted in the lobby of each rink. Locker room restrooms and shower facilities vary from location to location. Some teams in our program may also travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, restrooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. The Shoreline Sharks team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance of games away from our home arenas. At unfamiliar arenas, parents should plan to leave extra time and have some flexibility in making arrangements for their child to dress, undress and shower, if desired.

Locker Room Monitoring

The Shoreline Sharks has limited designated use of locker rooms and changing areas, generally 30-45 minutes before and following practices and games. This allows for direct and predictable monitoring of these areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to ensure the safety of our participants, we understand that this would likely make some players uncomfortable and may even raise unwarranted suspicion. Therefore, it is the policy of the Sharks that there is to be a female volunteer registered with USA Hockey, background screened by USA Hockey/CHC and SafeSport certified serving as locker room monitor at the practices and games of each team. The duties of the locker room monitor will include: (i) conducting a visual inspection of the locker room assigned to the team for that practice or game, including any attendant changing areas, rest rooms or shower facilities, no later 45 minutes prior to the start time of the event; (ii) remaining directly outside of the locker room/changing area during periods of use, with the door(s) open only when adequate privacy is possible, and allowing entry only to those non-coaches/players permitted to do so according to this policy; (iii) reminding players to power off cell phones and other mobile devices; (iv) letting the coaching staff know when they can enter the locker room without compromising the players' personal privacy; (v) seeing that the locker room is appropriately secured during times when the team is on the ice; and (vi) conducting a visual inspection of the locker room used for that practice or game, including any attendant changing areas, rest rooms or shower facilities, once the final player has left.



Parents in Locker Rooms

We encourage parents to teach their players from the outset how to put on their own gear and tie their own skates, but we understand less experienced players may need assistance. We have found that in many instances the player can exit the locker room to receive the necessary assistance, and this practice is encouraged. With this in mind, unless in the case of an emergency, such as to tend to an injury/apparent injury, parents will only be allowed in the locker room (i) at the SandSharks, U8, and blended U8/U10 age levels and (ii) at these levels only to render assistance that cannot reasonably be provided outside of the locker room, after advance approval of the coach or locker room monitor, and only for as long as is required to provide the necessary assistance. Parents shall not be allowed in the locker room when any player on a U10 age level team or older is present. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, the coaching staff and locker room monitor shall have the discretion to terminate or limit locker room access as may be appropriate, including requiring that parents not be present for a short time before and after the event so that the coach may address the 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 for capturing visual images or audio in the locker rooms and players must power off any such devices upon entry. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room. Without limiting the prohibition on the use of devices for video or audio recording purposes, devices may be used to play music with the advance approval of the coach. The coaching staff and locker monitors may collect and temporarily hold any device used in violation of this policy and any player who violates this policy may be subject to discipline.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

The Shoreline Sharks prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. Shoreline Sharks participants, parents, and volunteers 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. To report any actual or suspected violation, you may email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org, call 1-800-888-4656, or advise the Shoreline Sharks' SafeSport compliance director or its designee.