



Wonderland Wizards Youth Hockey Association (WWYHA) 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 Wonderland Wizards Youth Hockey Association (WWYHA) program goals. WWYHA 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, WWYHA 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. Youth players are particularly vulnerable in locker rooms, changing areas and restrooms due to various stages of dress/undress and because they are often less supervised than at other times. Athlete-to-athlete problems, such as sexual abuse, bullying, harassment or hazing, often occur when a coach or other responsible adult is not in a position to observe – this is especially true in locker rooms. Adherence to a locker room policy enhances privacy and reduces the likelihood of misconduct.

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

At Wonderland of Ice there are eight locker rooms available for our program's use. Some of the locker rooms have access to a restroom and/or shower area. Some teams in our program may also travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, rest rooms and shower facilities 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, and shower if desired.

Locker Room Monitoring

WWYHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-45 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas during those time periods before and after hockey practices and hockey games. It is the policy of USA Hockey that all USA Hockey Member Programs have **at least one** responsible screened adult present monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only participants (coaches and players), **approved** team personnel and family members (**refer to 'Parents in Locker Rooms' section**) are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. Acceptable locker room monitoring could include having locker room monitors in the locker room while participants are in the locker room, or could include having a locker room monitor in the immediate vicinity (near the door) outside the locker room that also regularly and frequently opens the locker room door to monitor activity inside. If the monitor(s) are inside, then it is strongly recommended that there be two monitors, both of which have been screened. Any **individual** meetings between a minor participant and a coach or other adult in a locker room shall require that a second responsible adult is present. In addition, it is a good idea for either a coach or voluntary locker room monitor(s) (each of which has been screened) to conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive.

Parents in Locker Rooms

With younger players (Mites and Squirts), it is generally appropriate to allow parents to assist the player with getting equipment on and off before and after games or practices and they should be allowed in the locker room to do so, as long as another approved, screened adult is in the locker room. For older players (Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget), 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. **Across all age groups**, if a parent(s) has permission to enter the locker room to provide assistance, they should only be providing assistance. They should not engage in any other “directorial” conversations with the players, or conduct themselves in any way that may be perceived as derogatory, condescending, or offensive to any players. Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players 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 screened coach(es) may at their discretion prohibit parents from a locker room. If those parents are screened and designated as the locker room monitors, in the absence of the coach(es) being present, they can monitor that locker room in the immediate vicinity (near the door) outside the locker room, and regularly pop open the door to check that everything is ok with the activities inside.

Mixed Gender 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. 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 our participants. Given the limited availability of locker rooms at Wonderland and many away rinks, we have chosen the following procedure which allows us to remain in compliance with USA Hockey’s Co-ed Locker Room Policy:

Minimum Attire Policy: 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. We require that girls must always be wearing shorts, and a shirt and boys must always be wearing shorts. No undergarments. If players need to change beyond shorts and shirts, then they either must wait for the locker room to be single gender or go to the restroom.

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, because they increase the risk of some forms of abuse or misconduct. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room. Having parents hold these device types, mentioned above, for their players during practices and games is ideal. Should this not be possible, the device types mentioned above should be powered off and stored within the player’s hockey bag. One exception may include the following activity: it may be acceptable to take photographs or recordings in a locker room in such unique circumstances as a victory celebration, team party, etc., where all persons in the locker room are appropriately dressed and have been advised that photographs or recordings are being taken.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

WWYHA 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 WWYHA 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.