



USA Hockey requires that all local programs publish their locker room policies to the parents of all minor participants. USA Hockey requires that local program's policies include the program's (a) practices for supervising and monitoring locker rooms and changing areas; (b) permission or lack of permission for parents to be in the locker rooms; (c) prohibited conduct, including at least all forms of abuse and misconduct prohibited by USA Hockey; and (d) specific policies regarding the use of mobile electronic devices and phones and prohibiting the use of a device's recording capabilities.

### **Northeast Youth Hockey Association's (the Association) 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 the Association's goals. The Association 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, the Association has adopted the following locker room policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct, including hazing and bullying, in locker rooms.

At Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum there are four locker rooms available for our program's use. All four locker rooms share a restroom and shower area. Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, rest rooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location.

### **Locker Room Monitoring**

The Association has a limited use of locker rooms and changing areas. 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.

We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive, and if the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, either a coach or voluntary locker room monitors (all of which will have been screened through the USA Hockey program) 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. 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, 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. 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.

### **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. Where possible, the Northeast Huskies 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. Where this is not possible, we will ask any child who is going to undress to his / her underwear to change in the bathroom. 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.

### **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**

The Association 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 the Association 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 contact any Association coach or Board Member; or you may email USA Hockey at [SafeSport@usahockey.org](mailto:SafeSport@usahockey.org) or call 1-800-888-4656.