



## 2021-2022 EPHA POD Instructions

Updated: October 8, 2021 (All Guidelines are Subject to Change)

**WHO** Parent on Duty (POD) is a requirement per USA Hockey to ensure *only participants from the team* are permitted into the locker room and *to supervise conduct* inside the locker room. The parent needs to be gender-matching to the players in the locker room being monitored, have a verified background screen and SafeSport training certification. Link provided at the end of this form.

**Coed Locker rooms:** Teams may approve a coed locker room policy under the condition that everyone maintains minimal attire of a base layer. Any person who must undress beyond minimal attire should leave the locker room for an alternate private area (i.e. restroom, other locker room).

**WHY** USA Hockey is focused on the safety and prevention of abuse for all its minor participants. Unmonitored locker rooms are the cause of most SafeSport complaints. The First Violation for failure to monitor a locker room is a written warning, then a \$500 fine for a second violation, and then a \$1000 fine plus a hearing with the D6 Grievance Committee for a third violation.

**WHEN and WHERE** At least one responsible adult must be directly monitoring the locker room during all team events; at home or away, at any facility. This includes dryland training, practices, scrimmages, games, and tournaments.

### **WHAT**

- ✓ Ensure the locker room is open and available for the intended time for players' use.
- ✓ Ensure locker room security is maintained while players are on the ice.
- ✓ PODs should leave the locker room and not interfere with coaching once verified members of the coaching staff are present and have assumed control of monitoring the team.
- ✓ Ensure everyone is following StaySafe MN orders.
  - Sickness** - under no circumstance should a person exhibiting Covid19 symptoms be participating.
  - Facemasks** – are currently not required at the time this document was created, but players may choose to wear them.
  - Social Distance** - must be observed when possible and practical.
  - Proper hygiene** - must be practiced. NO SPITTING. No sharing of water or squirting from bottles.
- ✓ Ensure all players are adhering to the Player Code of Conduct.

Code of Conduct includes using proper language, self-management, appropriate treatment of others, and proper respect of the facility and other property.
- ✓ Ensure adherence to the Cell Phone Policy.

Cells phones are permitted in locker rooms and the PODs should not collect them (not only are they valuable, but minors often rely on them for their own safety and ability to reach parents/guardians). However mobile devices in the locker room can NOT ever be in a mode or app that records audio, pictures, or video. A violation will result in an immediate Grievance Committee hearing and possible legal consequences.

Only under *very unique* circumstances, such as a prominent victory celebration, may a recording take place and **ONLY** when every person in the locker room is fully dressed, aware of the action, and consenting. While allowed, this practice is still discouraged as it is difficult to ensure complete consent and privacy during the excitement of celebrating.

An individual team may elect to create to a stricter policy under majority approval.

**POD Verification:** more information found here: <https://www.ephockey.com/dibs>