



USA Hockey requires that all local programs publish their locker room policies to the adult participants and parents of all minor participants. The local program's policies shall 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.

MN Special Hockey'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 are central to MN Special Hockey's goals. MN Special Hockey adheres to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program 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, MN Special Hockey 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 arenas where we practice and play games, there are locker rooms available for our program's use. Locker room and rest room facilities will vary across the various arenas used by MN Special Hockey. Some teams in our program may travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms will vary from location to location. MN Special Hockey team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance of games away from our home arena, but that may not always be possible. At arenas for which you are unfamiliar, parents/guardians and participants should plan to have extra time and some flexibility in making arrangements for the player to dress, and undress.

Locker Room Monitoring

MN Special Hockey 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. 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 recommend a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive. If the coaches are not directly inside the locker rooms, either a coach or other team volunteer 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/guardians are permitted in the locker room.

Please note that valuables left in locker rooms are not secure and MN Special Hockey is not responsible in the case of theft.

Parents/Guardians in Locker Rooms

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 parent/guardians let the coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the player in the locker room.

Naturally, with our youngest players with disabilities, it is necessary for parents/guardians to assist the players getting dressed. We encourage parents/guardians to teach their players to get dressed themselves as young as possible, and as much as their disability allows, so they can be as independent as possible.

Mixed Gender Teams

All 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, MN Special Hockey 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. 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, players will be asked to wear appropriate base layers of attire into the locker room. These base layers

can be worn from home or put on in a rest room at the arena, in order for the player to remain fully clothed inside the locker room. Appropriate base layer attire is defined as: shorts (Jock or Jill) and a t-shirt or tank top. 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 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. Players and others in the locker room will first be reminded to put their device away, or the device will be taken away until after the event. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

MN Special Hockey 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 MN Special Hockey 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.