



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 developing our hockey players and fostering a love for the sport, 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 in our locker rooms, the Shoreline Sharks have adopted the following locker room policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy and reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms. This policy applies to all Shoreline Sharks teams and events and is mandatory for all players, parents, coaches, and volunteers to follow. It will be reviewed annually and distributed to all families at the start of each season.

Locker Room Assignments

No specific locker room is dedicated to the Sharks at our home rinks. 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 also travel to play games at other arenas, and locker rooms, restrooms, and shower facilities will vary from location to location. The Shoreline Sharks team managers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities before games away from our home arenas. In 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. Any concerns about locker room, restroom, or shower facilities should immediately be brought to the attention of a team coach or manager.

Teams will make reasonable efforts to ensure that locker rooms assigned are gender-appropriate and provide adequate privacy. If your child requires accommodations, please notify the team manager or SafeSport compliance officer so that arrangements can be made.

The Shoreline Sharks are committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for all participants, including those who identify as LGBTQ+. If a player requires accommodation for privacy or comfort in the locker room setting, parents or guardians are encouraged to contact the SafeSport Director to make confidential arrangements.

Locker Room Monitoring

The Shoreline Sharks have 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 locker rooms and changing areas is one option to ensure the safety of our participants, we understand that this approach may make some players uncomfortable and could even raise unwarranted suspicion. Therefore, it is the policy of the Sharks that a female volunteer, registered with USA Hockey, background screened by USA Hockey, and SafeSport certified, serves as a locker room monitor at the practices and games of each team. The duties of the locker room monitor include: (i) conducting a visual inspection of the locker room assigned to the team for that practice or game, including any attendant changing areas, restrooms 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, restrooms or shower facilities, once the final player has left.

Parents in Locker Rooms

We encourage parents to teach their players how to put on their own gear and tie their own skates, but we understand that 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 or for a player with a disability that warrants assistance and this has been made known to the coach in advance, parents will only be allowed in the locker room (i) at the Sand Sharks, U8, and blended U8/U10 (House or Mite Development) 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 in the locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside the locker room. Devices may be used to play music with the advance approval of the coach or for the playback of video by the coach for instructional purposes. The coaching staff or locker monitors may collect and temporarily hold any device used in violation of this policy. Any player who violates this policy may be subject to discipline.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

The Shoreline Sharks prohibits all types of abuse – physical, sexual, emotional, or otherwise –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 violating these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct, abuse, or conduct 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. Reports can also be submitted anonymously, if preferred. All reports will be handled following USA Hockey's SafeSport procedures and with appropriate discretion.