



## **RYH Policy on Locker Room Monitoring**

**\*The policy applies to all USA Hockey sanctioned events (practices and games).**

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 Roseau Youth Hockey's goals. Roseau Youth Hockey 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, Roseau Youth Hockey has adopted the language of MN Hockey, published in the MN Hockey Handbook, starting on page 34. [MN Hockey Handbook](#)

Minnesota Hockey acknowledges the Locker Room Monitoring Policy as established by USA Hockey. Monitors must be the same gender as the players and undergo background screening by Minnesota Hockey to serve in this capacity. When coaches are not the same gender as the players, coaches may not be in the locker room while players are changing unless the players have a base layer on or come to the rink in a base layer.

1. No team or player shall be allowed to enter a locker room prior to a scheduled event until a locker room monitor is present in the locker room and such monitor shall remain in the locker room until the last player leaves the locker room unless coaches are present. When coaches are present in the locker room, they may serve as locker room monitors.
2. Any coach'(es) meeting(s) with an individual, minor player shall be conducted on the ice, on the bench, in the locker room with other team members and/or locker room monitor(s) present, or in an observable and interruptible setting.
3. When a player is ejected from a game there must be at least two adults consisting either of locker room monitors or coaches in the locker room with the suspended player. If there is a break and players go to the locker room without coaches, a locker room monitor must be inside the locker room.
4. Alleged violations of these rules shall cause a mandatory hearing to be held in accordance with MH Bylaw Article 6. If warranted, a suspension penalty may be levied upon the head coach or person in charge of the team if the head coach is not present. The penalty for violations of this rule shall be \$500 for the first offense, \$1,000 for the second offense, and \$2,500 for the third offense. These fines are the responsibility of the offending team and shall be paid to the applicable district.

### **Player Expectations:**

The use of team locker rooms is a privilege, not a right. Team(s) or individual team member(s) will be asked to remove gear, leave the locker room, and potentially face additional consequences if their behavior does not meet Roseau Youth Hockey and/or USA Hockey SafeSport policy expectations (\*See USA Hockey SafeSport Program Handbook, updated January 3, 2023). Those consequences will be determined by the specific offense and the discretion of the team coach following guidelines set forth by the RYH Board. Expectations include, but are not limited to:

- Only USA Hockey/RYH registered players are allowed in the locker rooms.
- No physical misconduct such as fighting, slapping, boxing, wrestling, confinement, or other similar physical contact in the locker rooms that may constitute bullying, hazing, or harassment.
- No verbal or emotional misconduct such as taunting, name-calling, or the use of ethnic, racial, or cultural slurs.
- Display respectful language and behavior to coaches, managers, and teammates, on and off the ice.
- Players should respect the rink and keep their assigned locker rooms clean. Throw away garbage, flush toilets, and store their gear appropriately (hanging items in stalls when possible).
- No food/eating allowed in the locker rooms.
- Leave others' gear alone! Do not hide, damage, or remove others' property from the locker room without their consent.
- Absolutely NO cell phone use inside the locker rooms.
- Players are NOT to be in locker rooms unattended. A monitor must be present. This may be anywhere from 30-45 minutes before a practice or game (Coach's discretion).

### **Parent Expectations:**

Except for players at the younger age groups (Tiny Mites/6U, Mites/8U), 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.

**\*Parents;** please be aware that your player may not be in the locker room unattended. Coaches/managers serving as monitors must be present. This may be anywhere from

30-45 minutes before a practice or game (Coach's discretion). Unattended players in a locker room may result in disciplinary action and the coach being fined.

**Locker Room Monitor Expectations:**

- No player is allowed in a locker room until a monitor is present.
- Coaches or managers will serve as locker room monitors. When they are not available, the coach and/or manager is responsible for communicating the need for assistance to a parent volunteer.
- Monitors are responsible adults who monitor and supervise the locker room when a coach or manager is unable to do so.
- Monitors must be USA Hockey Safesport trained, certified, and screened
  - [USA Safesport Volunteer Training](#)
  - [USA Hockey Background Screening](#)
  - Monitors should email their USA Hockey number to the RYH Administrator upon completion, identifying their associated team (12U, PeeWee, etc.).
  - Fees for the background screening will be reimbursed by RYH.
- Monitors must be the same gender as the team they are monitoring.
- Monitors must personally observe the locker room environment while participants are present and make sure the locker room is secure during times the participants are on the ice.
- Monitors may not use their cell phones inside the locker room.
- Monitors need to be respectful and keep their own emotions in check.
- Speaking calmly to a player, to help avoid embarrassment, may be best. However, it may be appropriate and necessary to use strong verbal command to stop misbehavior.
- If the attempt to intercede is ignored, or the problem persists, and there is no immediate threat of potential harm, the monitor/supervisor should seek assistance from a coach or another adult to remove the misbehaving player from the locker room and address the issue separately from the rest of the team. If the player's parent(s) are present, they should be engaged.
- In the rare situation where misbehavior could lead to the threat of immediate harm, monitors should intercede to stop the problem (examples may include fighting, boxing, wrestling, hitting with sticks, throwing items, etc.). If monitors are uncomfortable directly engaging to separate players in these circumstances, send someone for help, contact the coach, and continue to calmly attempt to de-escalate the situation.
- Immediately report any misbehavior to the coach and a member of the RYH disciplinary committee (the RYH Board). Monitors should do their best to identify those participants involved as well as anyone who closely witnessed the incident and actions of those involved.

**Additional Guidelines:**

**Mixed Gender Teams:**

It is important that the privacy rights of all our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements be made. Should we have a mixed gender team, Roseau Youth 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 and shower, if available. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the players will take turns using the locker room to change. 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:**

The use of cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, is prohibited in the locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room.