



## KVHA 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 KVHA's goals. KVHA 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 team locker rooms, KVHA 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.

This policy is to be followed at Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Sports Center, as well as any facility where teams travel to play.

### Locker Room Monitoring

**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 in the locker rooms.**

If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room.

KVHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. Coaches or locker room monitors (see below) should conduct a sweep of the locker room or changing area before players enter. If the coaches or monitors are not remaining inside the locker room(s), either a coach or approved team personnel (all of which have been screened) will be posted directly outside of the room 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 (where allowed) are permitted in the locker room. Team personnel will also secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.

### Locker Room Monitors

It is the policy of MAHA and USA Hockey that all Affiliates, Districts, Leagues, and Local Hockey Programs have at least two (2) responsible adults monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only participants and screened team personnel or screened family members are permitted in the locker room, and to supervise locker room conduct. KVHA recommends that teams appoint at least two locker room monitors, who are Safesport certified and background screened to serve in this capacity, in addition to the rostered coaches and managers who are certified and screened as well.

Any individual meetings with a minor participant and a coach in a locker room shall require an additional responsible adult be with the coach. There should be no private, one on one interactions between a coach or manager and a minor participant at any time.

Please note that with Co-ed programs, it is important that the person(s) monitoring the locker room is of the same gender as the players being monitored.

USA Hockey would consider it acceptable to have one (1) locker room monitor immediately outside the locker room and regularly checking in on the locker room. If there are two (2) monitors then they can monitor from inside the locker room. Having only one person inside a locker room can expose that person to allegations, so a second person can help protect one another from allegations.

### **Parents in Locker Rooms**

Except for players in the 8 and under (8U) age groups, we discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance with his or her equipment, 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.

For 8 and under teams who typically have co-ed locker rooms, players should arrive at the rink wearing their hockey base layers or shorts and t-shirts (in good condition - no holes or tears in clothing) under their street clothes. All members of the team must have this minimum attire before entering a co-ed locker room so that no player of one gender has the opportunity to see players of the opposite gender in a state of dress/undress.

At the 10U and older levels, the male and female players should 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.

If separate locker rooms are not available, then the players will take turns using the locker room, or players can come partially dressed for games and finish dressing at a bench inside the rink.

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.

### **Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

KVHA 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 KVHA 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](mailto:SafeSport@usahockey.org) or may call 1-800-888-4656.

Associations/Clubs and/or Coaches found in violations of this policy shall be sanctioned in the following manner:

- 1) 1st offense; a one game suspension to the head coach

2) 2nd offense; a warning to the Association/Club and a one week suspension to the head coach

3) 3rd offense; the head coach and Association/Club representative shall attend a hearing which may result in further sanctions up to and including fines, suspensions and/or removal of an associations good standing within MAHA.

Teams, Leagues and Local Hockey Associations shall also comply with the USA Hockey Co-Ed Locker Room Policy. Please refer to the USA Hockey Guide Book under "Policies".