



## **Grand Traverse Hockey Association 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 the Grand Traverse Hockey Association (GTHA) goals. GTHA 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, GTHA 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 Centre Ice Arena there are 18 locker rooms available for our programs use. Some of the locker rooms share a restroom/shower area. At Howe Arena there are 4 locker rooms available for our programs use. All of the locker rooms share a restroom/shower area. Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, rest rooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. GTHA team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance of games away from our home arena. At arenas for which you are unfamiliar, parents should plan to have extra time and some flexibility for their child to dress, undress, and shower if desired.

### **Locker Room Monitoring**

It is the Policy of USA Hockey that all Affiliates, Districts, Leagues, and Local Hockey Programs have at least one (MAHA recommends two) responsible adult(s) monitoring the locker room during all team events to ensure only participants (players/coaches), approved team staff, and family members are permitted in the locker room. The locker room monitor(s) must have a completed Background Check with USA Hockey and have up-to-date Safe Sport Training. The locker room monitor(s) is responsible for supervising all locker room conduct. Any one-on-one meetings between an adult and a non-related minor in the locker room **shall** require a locker room monitor to be present in the room. Further, locker room monitors must personally monitor the locker room environment when players are present and also make sure that the locker room is appropriately secured when the players are on the ice.

GTHA Teams found in violation of this policy shall be sanctioned in the following manner:

- 1st offense; a one game suspension of the Head Coach dictated by the GTHA Executive Vice President
- 2nd offense; a one-week suspension of the Head Coach dictated by the GTHA Executive Vice President
- 3rd offense; a hearing with the Head Coach which may result in further sanctions up to and including suspension and/or removal from coaching for a length of time dictated by the GTHA Executive Vice President

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".

USA Hockey and MAHA have taken a very hard stand on this and consider the monitoring of Locker Rooms a Critical Responsibility of team staff in providing a safe environment for our players. We have had hearings within MAHA because of violations of this rule, which could have been prevented had this policy been followed.

### **Parents in Locker Rooms**

Except for players at the younger age groups (Mites/IP), 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, GTHA or the team's Head 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. Where possible, GTHA 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 player can use a restroom. 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**

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 of the locker room.

### **Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

GTHA 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, and volunteers within GTHA 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. For reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email USA Hockey at [SafeSport@usahockey.org](mailto:SafeSport@usahockey.org) or call 1-800-888-4656.