

## **Mahtomedi Youth Hockey Association'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 is central to MYHA's goals. MYHA 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, MYHA 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 White Bear Lake County Arena there are four (4) of locker rooms available for our program's use. At St Croix Recreation Center, there are also four (4) locker rooms regularly scheduled for our use on the North side of the facility. 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. MYHA's 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 in making arrangements for their child to dress and undress.

### **Locker Room Monitoring**

Mahtomedi Youth Hockey Association 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. Teams will provide the appropriate number of same-gender volunteers to serve as Locker Room Monitors on a rotating basis that suits the size and level of that specific team. Coaches and/or managers (provided they are the same gender) can also serve as Locker Room Monitors if elected.

**All responsible parent volunteers elected to serve as a Locker Room Monitor shall have been screened** through an affiliate approved vendor in accordance with the policy as written in the Section III of the Safesport Handbook. **It is strongly encouraged that each Locker Room Monitor also complete the Safesport training video available under the Safesport tab on the MYHA website.** **Once completed, please forward your Certificate of Completion (.pdf) to [arntfamily5@msn.com](mailto:arntfamily5@msn.com). The certification is valid for 2 years.**

### **Parents in the Locker Rooms**

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 do so independently. Except for players at the younger age groups, Mite/U8, we

discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player's disability warrants assistance, or a player is injured, then we ask that parents let the coach know beforehand that they will be helping the player. When possible, players can exit the locker room to receive assistance from a parent with equipment, such as tying skates, assistance with goalie pads, etc.

### **Mixed Gender Teams**

The Mixed Gender Locker Room policy attempts to balance the social integration and camaraderie of a team sport while providing a safe and respectful environment for all of our participants. Below are three options for compliance with USA Hockey's Mixed Gender Locker Room Policy:

1) Have a minimum attire policy if sharing one locker room. All players should be required to 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.

2) A second option is for the program to have boys and girls change/dress in separate, supervised locker rooms. Then approximately ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes before each game/practice everyone is to be ready in gear in one designated locker room so the coach can address the entire team. If a player (whether boy or girl) is not fully dressed by the time the coach arrives, then that player must go to a separate locker room or bathroom to finish dressing. The onus is on the players being properly dressed when the coaches actually begin preparing the team for the practice or game.

3) Another option is the alternate use of a single locker room. Players of one gender dress in the locker room while players of the opposite gender wait outside. When the one group is ready, then the players switch places and the players in gear wait for players of opposite gender to get dressed. **No coaching or team meeting is to be done** until all the players are together in full gear. Taking turns is a means of reasonable accommodation; neither gender group/individual should be favored, nor should one group be the group/individual who always has to wait to change.

Please note that these are options for teams to consider based on available resources at a given rink, and shall not be forced on participants, but rather agreed upon by all team leaders in the best interest of the athletes. USA Hockey **strongly discourages** the use of restrooms for changing. 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. In addition, coaches who are opposite gender of players on the team may not enter the locker room until all players are in full gear.

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. Teams can elect the use of devices for the purpose of playing music if the device is under direct supervision of the Locker Room Monitor. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room. It may be permissible to have team manager collect phones and will be up to individual team leaders to elect a policy that suits the circumstances (ie. repeated non-compliance).

### **Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

MYHA 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 MYHA 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 contact your MN Hockey Safesport Coordinator, Scott Gray, at 612-349-9512 or email USA Hockey at [SafeSport@usahockey.org](mailto:SafeSport@usahockey.org) or may call 1-800-888-4656.