



Devils Youth Hockey Locker Room Policy

Youth players are particularly vulnerable in locker rooms, changing areas, and restrooms due to various stages of dress/undress and because they are often less supervised than at other times. Athlete-to-athlete problems, such as bullying, harassment, hazing, and sexual abuse often occur when a coach or other responsible adult is not in a position to observe, and this is especially true in locker rooms. The Devils Youth Hockey Locker Room Policy is designed to enhance player safety, ensure privacy, and reduce the likelihood of misconduct.

- There must be at least one responsible adult monitoring the locker room whenever players are present, and this monitor must be registered with USA Hockey, properly screened, and Safe Sport trained. This monitor is responsible for ensuring that only approved personnel gain entry into the locker room, for supervising conduct in the locker room, and for securing the locker room when not in use. Monitors should also inspect the locker room for damage prior to use and report any damage to rink personnel immediately. Acceptable locker room monitoring could mean that there is a monitor (preferably two) inside the locker room with the players/participants, or it could mean that there is a monitor in the immediate vicinity of the locker room who enters the room frequently at unpredictable intervals to monitor player conduct. Locker room activity must be observable and interruptible at all times. Monitors should be of the same sex as the players at Pee wee/12U and above.
- While parents of younger players will typically be in the locker room to assist their athletes with getting their equipment on and off, coaches may prohibit parents from entering the locker room at their discretion. If a coach elects to prohibit parents from entering the locker room, the coach is responsible for ensuring proper locker room supervision by a properly registered, screened, and trained locker room monitor in compliance with this policy.
- Under no circumstances should a player ever be alone with a coach or other unrelated adult in a locker room, automobile, hotel room, office, treatment room, or any other location. If a coach wishes to have a private conversation with a player, they must include a second responsible adult unrelated to themselves such as another coach, a manager, or the player's parent.
- USA Hockey prohibits male and female players from dressing and undressing in the same locker room. In order to protect the privacy of all players on a team, it is recommended that players



arrive at the rink wearing their base layer so that they meet the minimum attire requirements at all times. If a team consists of both male and female players, they must dress in separate locker rooms if they do not meet the minimum base layer requirement and convene in a single locker room prior to the start of the game, practice, or team meeting. Similarly, players may all convene in a single locker room immediately following a game or practice but must proceed to separate facilities before starting to undress. If separate locker rooms are not available, players may take turns using the locker room to change. Players should use the locker room that is consistent with their gender identity, and any player who prefers a private changing area should speak with their coach, manager, or a member of the Devils Youth administration or rink staff. Players and coaches will need to be flexible and adapt to the specific circumstances at each facility, but all players on co-ed teams must always receive equal consideration. Players should never be asked to dress or undress in a public bathroom.

- USA Hockey guidelines prohibit photography and video recording in the locker room except under such unique circumstances as a victory celebration or team party where all persons in the locker room are appropriately dressed and are aware that photographs or recordings are being taken. The presence of cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities in the locker room increases the risk of some types of abuse or misconduct, and as such Devils Youth strongly recommends that coaches prohibit their players from bringing these devices into the locker room at all. Players can leave their phones with their parents, or coaches/managers can collect phones upon entry to the locker room and redistribute them upon exit.

Resources

“Transgender Inclusion in High School Athletics.” *GLSEN*, www.glsen.org/activity/transgender-inclusion-high-school-athletics.

USA Hockey Sample Locker Room Policy. USA Hockey, assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0102/5710/SafeSport_Sample_Locker_Room_Policy.pdf.

Wolff, Rick. “Innovations in Sports: Making the Most of Adult Supervision of Kids.” *Ask Coach Wolff*, 18 Jan. 2014, www.askcoachwolff.com/2014/01/18/innovations-sports-making-adult-supervision-kids/.