

Oahe Hockey Association Locker Room/Code of Conduct Policy

Introduction

The Oahe Hockey Association (OHA) strives to provide a youth hockey experience for parents, players, and coaches in a safe, positive, and respectful environment. Parents, players, and coaches share an equal responsibility to demonstrate good sportsmanship.

The OHA adheres to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program to help protect 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 the locker rooms, the OHA as adopted the following policy that applies to any locker room in any location used by OHA Capitals teams.

1. Locker Room Monitoring

OHA has scheduled and predictable use of locker rooms and changing areas for a general period of 30-60 minutes before and after games and practices.

Having a coach present in the locker room is encouraged whenever possible. While constant monitoring inside of the locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand this may make some players uncomfortable and may even place our coaches and volunteers at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

Where possible, coaches shall visually inspect locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive. During game use, either a coach or voluntary locker room monitor parent (each of whom has been screened) will be posted directly outside the locker room and changing area. Locker room doors shall be open only when adequate privacy is still possible. The locker room shall be secured when the team is on the ice so that only coaches, players, and team personnel or OHA officials are permitted in the locker room.

When locker room monitoring is conducted by a pre-screened volunteer, the volunteer will be assigned by the team coordinator. The decision to use volunteers shall be determined between the team coordinator and the coach. Locker room monitoring counts towards volunteer points.

The volunteer locker room monitor is considered an OHA official and has authority to segregate players who present an immediate threat to another person. The locker room monitor is expected to report any behavior of concern to the team's coach as soon as possible and appropriate.

2. Parents in Locker Rooms

Having a parent in the locker room is allowed for non-league levels. Parents are encouraged to teach their players how to dress independently. Coaches may request parents leave the locker room shortly before and after games or practices to address players privately.

Parents are discouraged from being present in league level locker rooms except when necessary, and may be prohibited from locker rooms at the coach's discretion. If a player needs assistance with

uniform or gear, is or may be injured, or a disability requires assistance, the parent should discuss the circumstance with the coach in advance of assisting the player in the locker room when possible.

3. Mixed Gender Teams

Privacy rights of all players are to be respected and appropriate accommodation made for any mixed gender team.

For league level teams, male and female player shall dress/undress in separate areas and convene in a single locker room before the game or team meeting. If separate locker rooms are not available, and unless other arrangements have been agreed upon, all players are required to arrive at the rink wearing their hockey base layers or shorts and t-shirts (in good condition – no holes or tears in the 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 player of the opposite gender in a state of dress/undress.

4. Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices

Cell phones, smart phones, and other devices capable of recording images, video or audio are prohibited from use in the any locker room. Coaches are authorized to temporarily collect any such devices to prevent their use.

5. Behavior Expectations

Coaches, players, and parents are expected to actively encourage a locker room environment which is respectful, encouraging, disciplined, and team-focused.

6. Prohibited Conduct

All types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing (all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook) are prohibited. There shall be no physical abuse of any participant involved in any of its Member Programs by any employee, volunteer, independent contractor or other participant. Physical abuse means physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes or has the potential to cause the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse also includes physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates a threat of immediate bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse may also include intentionally hitting or threatening to hit an athlete with objects or sports equipment. Any incidences of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and/or bullying will be turned over by the Head Coach and/or parents/players directly to the Disciplinary Committee for investigation. Penalties will then be recommended by the Disciplinary Committee to the OHA Board. Physical contact and/or abuse that occurs between participants during play is covered by the playing rules and is not covered under this section.

Any OHA Player/Coach/Volunteer currently under investigation or charged for any Felony shall not be allowed to participate in any OHA sanctioned event to include practice unless recommended to do so by the OHA disciplinary Committee prior to participation.

7. Locker Room Care

Players shall ensure locker rooms are clean at the end of each practice or game. Vandalism or theft of any property or equipment is prohibited.

8. Reporting Violations

Coaches, parents, volunteers and players shall report any violations of this policy to an appropriate OHA official, including a board member, coach, or SDAHA league official.

Players, coaches, and volunteers may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse. If you do not feel comfortable contacting an OHA official or board member about an actual or suspected violation, you may email the USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org – or you may call 1-800-888-4656 to report the incident. ***Players may not be disciplined in any manner for reporting actual violations of this policy.***

9. Player Violation of Locker Room/Code of Conduct Policy

Coaches shall take appropriate action with their players if they observe or are informed of a violation of this policy or any other acts not directly addressed by this policy or that are covered by the USA SafeSport Handbook. Appropriate action may include:

- A. Speaking to the player directly;
- B. Addressing the issue in general terms with the team;
- C. Discussion with the player's parent(s);
- D. Disciplinary action, including loss of playing time;
- E. Referral to the Disciplinary Committee for consideration of suspension from games or other team activities. The Disciplinary Committee can require a violation go in front of the Committee if they deem a Coach did not take appropriate action.

As a board rule, coaches are generally the first line of discipline, and are expected to take corrective action when prohibited behavior is either witnessed or reported.

10. Other Violation Activities on Official Property

If an OHA board member, coach, game official, security official, or locker room monitor volunteer witnesses a clearly egregious action or behavior that violates this policy in a locker room or otherwise on Expo Center or other OHA leased property, the person is authorized to take immediate action to stop the action or behavior. This may include removal of the person from the property.

In the event such observed action or behavior includes the use or consumption of illegal or prohibited substances, or involves the direct threat or actual use of physical violence, or other illegal behavior, an appropriate law enforcement agency may be contacted.

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