

APPLE VALLEY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION LOCKER ROOM POLICIES

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, the safety and protection of Apple Valley Hockey Association's (AVHA) participants is central to AVHA's goals. AVHA 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, AVHA has adopted the following locker room policies. These policies are designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

LOCKER ROOM MONITORING

AVHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-60 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this is not always practical.

AVHA's locker room monitoring policy consists of having at least one screened monitor posted either inside the locker room or outside the locker room in close proximity while periodically checking in on the locker room. This monitoring will take place at all times during periods of use of the locker rooms by the players. The monitors will leave the doors unlocked only when in use, so that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room. At no time shall a single locker room monitor/coach and a single player be alone in the locker room. Team personnel will also secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.

PARENTS IN LOCKER ROOMS

Except for players at the Mite/U8 age groups, AVHA discourages 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. 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.

CO-ED LOCKER ROOM POLICY

Apple Valley Hockey Association's Co-ed 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.

1. In the event that there are two locker rooms available for the Co-Ed team, AVHA's Co-Ed teams will have the boys and girls change/dress in separate, supervised locker rooms. Approximately ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes before or after each game/practice the Co-Ed AVHA team may meet, 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 is prepared to address the team, then that player must go to a separate locker room or bathroom to finish dressing. The onus is on the players to be properly dressed when the coaches actually begin preparing the team for the practice or game.

2. In the event only one locker room is available, the AVHA Co-Ed team will 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 is to be done until all the players are together in full gear. Taking turns is a means of reasonable accommodation; neither gender group should be favored, nor should one group be the group who always has to wait to change.

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.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE RECORDING DEVICE POLICY

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

AVHA 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 AVHA 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 or may call 1-800-888-4656.

USA Hockey Locker Room Supervision Policy

USA Hockey is concerned with locker room activities between minor players; minor players and adult players; adults being alone with individual minor players in locker rooms; and with nonofficial or non-related adults having unsupervised access to minor participants at sanctioned team events.

It is the policy of USA Hockey and USA Hockey InLine that all Affiliates, Districts, leagues, and local hockey programs have at least one responsible adult present directly monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only participants, (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. Any individual meetings with a minor participant and a coach in a locker room shall require a responsible adult be with the coach. Further, responsible adults must personally monitor the locker room environment at all times while participants are present and also make sure the locker room is appropriately secured during times when minor participants are on the ice. Teams, leagues and local hockey associations shall also comply with the USA Hockey Coed locker room policy.