



Locker Room Hallway and Locker Room Access Policy

Kent Valley Hockey's Locker Room Policy

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, the safety, security and protection of our participants is central to Kent Valley Hockey Association's (KVHA) goals. KVHA adheres to USA Hockey's Safe Sport 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 or associated locker room hallways, KVHA has adopted the following policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms and the associated locker room hallways.

For each team, the coach and/or team administrators shall be responsible for compliance with the locker room supervision requirements of this Policy. A coach and/or team administrator that fails to take appropriate steps to ensure the Locker Room Hallway and Locker Room Access Policy is adhered to, and any USA Hockey Participant or parent of a Minor Athlete who otherwise violates this Policy is subject to disciplinary action; moreover, an Affiliate may impose fines or other sanctions against any Member Program whose teams do not comply with this Policy.

Policy

At Kent Valley Ice Centre there are 12 locker rooms available for our program's use. Some of our locker rooms share a restroom (and shower area) with its respective adjacent locker room. Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, restrooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. KVHA's team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance to games away from our home arena. At unfamiliar arenas, parents should plan to have extra time and flexibility in planning for their child to dress, undress and shower if desired.

Locker Room Supervision

Kent Valley Hockey has scheduled and limited use of locker rooms. The locker rooms at Kent Valley Ice Centre are available 45-60 minutes before and after practices and games. This is the time frame when the locker room monitor must begin and/or end their shift. This time can be shortened depending on the teams needs but a monitor must be in place the entire time players are in the locker room.

It is the policy of KVHA and USA Hockey that each team must have at least one responsible screened and trained adult (which may include coaches, managers or other volunteers) present at all times and 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. While it is not always possible, two locker room monitors are preferable.

Preferred locker room monitoring includes having locker room monitors inside the locker room while Participants are in the locker room; at a minimum, locker room monitors must be in the immediate vicinity outside the locker room, within ear shot. They also must regularly and frequently enter the locker room to monitor activity inside. KVHA will work with our teams and coaches to adequately ensure that locker room monitors are in place at all appropriate times.

Further, Adult Participants must also secure the locker room appropriately during times when Minor Athletes are on the ice. If a Minor Athlete goes to a locker room during practice or a game, and does not return in a timely fashion, then an Adult Participant (or if possible two) should check on the Minor Athlete's whereabouts.

Under KVHA Policy, it is permissible for teams to prohibit parents from a locker room, however, in doing so the team will be required to have properly screened adults monitoring and supervising the locker room as required above. With younger players (8U and younger), if a parent wants to be allowed in the locker room or locker room hallway to assist the player with getting equipment on and off before and after games or practices, the should register with USA Hockey, KVHA and do the necessary screening.

Except for players at the younger age groups (8U and younger), 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, the coach may, in his or her discretion, prohibit parents from a locker room.

Locker Room Use and Rules

All interactions between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete within any locker room or locker room hallway must adhere to the One-On-One Interactions Policy, provided that exceptions apply (i) for teammates that meet the Close-in-Age exception, (ii) when a Dual Relationship exists, (iii) when a Minor Athlete needs an Adult Personal Care Assistant, or (iv) in the case of emergency. Minor Athletes that are teammates with an Adult Participant that is more than four years older than the Minor Athlete, may share a locker room, but must not be alone in the locker room unless the interaction is Observable and Interruptible.

Notwithstanding the above, Adult Participants may shower with Minor Athlete(s) only if they are teammates and the Close-in-Age exception applies. If a parent/guardian requests that their Minor Athlete not change and/or shower with an Adult Participant during In-Program Contact, that request must be adhered to by KVHA. Additionally, a private or semi-private area (such as a bathroom stall or separate bathroom) must be available for Minor Athletes to change clothes or undress. At Kent Valley Ice Centre, there are bathroom stalls available through locker room access, and/or in bathrooms located above the bleachers or in the Café.

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, which includes voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, increase the risk for some forms of abuse or misconduct. As a result, the use of a device with recording capabilities in the locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces is prohibited.

Exceptions may be made for media and championship celebrations, provided that such exceptions are approved by KVHA, parent/guardian consent is obtained for all involved Minor Athletes, two or more Adult Participants are present, and where all persons in the locker room are fully clothed (and have been advised that photographs or recordings are being taken).

Coaches sometimes may need to use the team locker room to get dressed before or after practices. Coaches must always have at least a base layer of clothing at all times while changing, or must use a private area to change into acceptable clothing. An Adult Participant (other than for teammates to whom the Close-in-Age

exception applies) shall not intentionally or recklessly expose his or her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a Minor Athlete.

Any Adult Personal Care Assistant helping a Minor Athlete in the locker room must have the parent's written consent and have met the requirements of the Safe Sport Training and Background Check policies.

Co-Ed Locker Rooms

As a team sport in which youth teams can often include players of different genders, special circumstances may exist that can increase the chance of abuse or misconduct. If the team consists of players of different genders, the privacy rights of all players must be given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. It is not acceptable under USA Hockey's Sexual Misconduct Policy for persons to be observing the opposite gender while they dress or undress.

Minimum Attire

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 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. If a player is not wearing the required minimum attire, that player can be directed to a restroom or private area to change into his/her minimum attire before entering the locker room. For the purposes of this policy, sports bras and/or underwear are not considered base layers. Kent Valley Ice Centre also will have designated locker rooms for female participants, whenever possible.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

KVHA 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 KVHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. To make a report of any actual or suspected violations, you may e-mail USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1-800-888-4656. A report should also be made to the KVHA Hockey Director.

ONLY players, coaches, team managers and assigned locker room monitors are permitted in the locker room, locker room hallways and the tunnel leading to the ice. On-Ice and Off-Ice Game Officials are permitted in the locker room hallways and the tunnel leading to the ice for the purpose of conducting their game assignments.

This policy is in force for ALL practices and games.

Both home and visiting teams will adhere to this policy and the policy will also apply for away games.

In the event of a situation requiring a player's parent(s), the parent(s) will be requested by a member of the team staff and escorted by the team staff member into the restricted area.

This policy is not meant to limit the ability of medical emergency response to an injured person in any of the aforementioned areas of restriction.

This policy is considered supplemental to and inclusive of KVHA's "Locker Room Policy."

Approved as to form by:

KVHA President: _____ Date: _____

Lexi Doner