USA Wrestling Sample Locker Room Policy

USA Wrestling requires that all local programs publish their locker room policies to the parents of all minor participants. The policies should be specific to the facilities they regularly use. The policy below is a sample only but may be modified by the local program to meet its specific needs and facilities. The local program’s policies shall include the program’s (a) practices for supervising and monitoring locker rooms and changing areas; (b) permission or lack of permission for parents to be in the locker rooms; (c) prohibited conduct, including at least all forms of abuse and misconduct prohibited by USA Wrestling; and (d) specific policies regarding the use of mobile electronic devices and phones and prohibiting the use of a device’s recording capabilities.

[NAME OF PROGRAM]’s Locker Room Policy

In addition to the development of our wrestlers and enjoyment of the sport of wrestling, the safety and protection of our Participants is central to [PROGRAM’s] goals. [PROGRAM] adheres to USA Wrestling’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, [PROGRAM] 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 [NAME OF FACILITY] there are [number (#)] of locker rooms available for our program’s use. Each of the locker rooms [has its own restroom [and shower area]/shares a restroom [and shower area] with one or more locker rooms]. [if program uses multiple facilities, the same information should be included for each facility] Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other facilities, and those locker rooms, rest rooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. [PROGRAM’s] team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance of games away from our home facility. At facilities for which you are unfamiliar, parents should plan to have extra time and some flexibility in making arrangements for their child to dress, undress and shower if desired.

Locker Room Monitoring

[PROGRAM] has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas. 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 would likely make some wrestlers uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion. We use a “two deep” system to monitor (always monitor in pairs). We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before wrestlers arrive, and if the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, either a coach or voluntary locker room monitors (each of which has been screened) will be posted directly outside of the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use, and leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible, so that only participants (coaches and wrestlers), approved team personnel and family members are permitted 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 wrestlers at the younger age groups [specific age groups may be included here], we discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a wrestler needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear, if the wrestler is or may be injured, or a wrestler’s disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the wrestler. We encourage parents to teach their wrestlers as young as possible how to get dressed so that wrestlers will learn as early as possible how to get dressed independently. The coaches may in their discretion prohibit parents from a locker room at certain times to prepare for a match.

Mixed Gender Teams

Some of our teams consist of both male and female wrestlers. It is important that the privacy rights of all of our wrestlers are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, [PROGRAM] will have the male and female wrestlers dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the game or team meeting. Once the game or practice is finished, the wrestlers may come to one locker room for a team meeting and then the male and female wrestlers proceed to their separate locker rooms to undress and shower, if available. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the wrestlers will take turns using the locker room to change. We understand that these arrangements may require that wrestlers arrive earlier or leave later to dress, but believe that this is the most reasonable way to accommodate and respect all of our wrestlers.

Coaches and Adult Athletes

Coaches and Adult Athletes shall avoid showing or disrobing (exposing private parts) in the locker room with minor athletes present. Adult Athletes on the same team with minor athletes 15 or older may use the locker room facilities together.

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. 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]

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

[PROGRAM] prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Wrestling Safe Sport Handbook. Member Programs, participants, employees or volunteers in [PROGRAM] 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 Wrestling SafeSport Policies. Reports of any actual or suspected violations may reported to USA Wrestling at safesportdirector@usawrestling.org.