



## USA Hockey / Minnesota Hockey / District 10 Hockey / Blaine Youth Hockey Locker Room Policy

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport, the safety and protection of our participants is central to Blaine Youth Hockey's goals. Blaine Youth Hockey 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, Blaine Youth Hockey 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.

### Locker Room Monitoring

Locker Room Monitors shall conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas. If the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, then another volunteer locker room monitor(s), which have been screened, must be posted directly **INSIDE** of the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use, and leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible. Only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel, and family members are permitted in the locker room (when appropriate). Team personnel should appropriately secure the locker room during times when the team is on the ice.

Adult supervisors monitoring locker rooms must follow the screening process in the MN Hockey Handbook, Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse and Criminal Background Screening Policy. Volunteers **MUST** be registered as a volunteer with USA Hockey and complete SafeSport training. No team/player(s) shall be allowed to enter a locker room prior to a scheduled event until a proper locker room monitor is present and such monitor shall remain present until the last player leaves the locker room. When coaches are present in the locker room, they may serve as locker room monitors.

### Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups, 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 to leave for a short time before and after a game so that the coaches may address the team. As players get older, the coach may in his or her discretion, prohibit parents from the team locker room.

## **Mixed Gender Teams**

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

## **Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices**

Cell phones and any other devices with photographic recording capabilities, including still cameras, and video cameras, etc., **are not permitted to be used or out in plain view in the locker rooms**. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room before use.

## **Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

Blaine Youth Hockey 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, Members or Volunteers in Blaine Youth Hockey 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. Any actual or suspected violations must be reported to the appropriate Blaine Youth Hockey personnel and/or local authorities. You may also email USA Hockey at [SafeSport@usahockey.org](mailto:SafeSport@usahockey.org) or call 1-800-888-4656 to report any SafeSport violations.