

Wadena Hockey Club Locker Room Policy

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, the safety and protection of our participants is central to Wadena Hockey Club goals. Wadena Hockey Club 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, Wadena Hockey Club 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 Wadena Hockey Arena there are 8 locker rooms available for our program's use. Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, rest rooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. Wadena Hockey Club team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance of games away from our home arena. At arenas 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

Wadena Hockey Club has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-45 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 would likely make some players uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive, and if the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, either a coach or voluntary locker room monitors (each of which has had a background check and safe sport certified) will 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, so that only participants (coaches and players), 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.

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. Also, if there is only one player remaining in the locker room, it is a requirement to have two locker room monitors.

In the event that a player is asked to leave the ice during practice or a game, the player will only be allowed to enter the locker room if accompanied by his/her parents or guardian. If no parent or guardian is available, the player will be requested to wait outside of the locker room until two locker room monitors are available.

How to Become a Locker Room Monitor. Complete the 3 steps below.

1. USA Hockey Link to Obtain Volunteer Registration Number.
 - a. [USA Hockey Member Registration](#)
 - b. Once you have received your USA Hockey number, you must email a copy of it to our Registrar.

2. USA Hockey Background Check for Locker Room Monitoring.
 - a. A link to submit for screening will be included in your membership registration confirmation email and posted in the drop-down menu under the OFFICIALS tab at USAHockey.com.
 - b. There is a fee associated with the background check and it can be reimbursed by the Wadena Hockey Club upon request by the member to the board of executors.

3. SafeSport Training Link
 - c. [SafeSport Program Training \(usahockey.com\)](#)

Parents in Locker Rooms

Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players in 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. Parents will be permitted in the locker room before and after practice/games to help players dress and undress. Coaches are permitted to ask that parents leave for a short time before a practice/game and for a short time after a practice/game (time will be determined yearly by coaches' rules) so that the coaches may address the players. As players progress to Peewee and Bantam levels, the coach may at his or her discretion prohibit parents from a 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. Where possible, Wadena Hockey Club 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.

8U Base Layer

All players 8U and under (Mites, Mighty Mites and Hockey Tots) 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 teams 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.

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 must be taken outside of the locker room. [it may be permissible to have team manager collect phones]

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

Wadena Hockey Club 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 Wadena Hockey Club 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.

Visiting Team Locker Room Key Guidelines.

A key will be given to a responsible adult of the opposing team to open the visiting team's locker room after they document their name on the sign out sheet. In the event the concession stand is not open, it will be up to the home team's head coach or team manager to provide the locker room key to the opposing team's responsible adult.

The Wadena Hockey Club is not responsible for monitoring the visiting team's locker room.