

# Winston Salem Youth Hockey Association

## Locker Room Policy

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport, Winston Salem Youth Hockey Association (WSYHA) has created the following policy for members to follow. The safety and protection of our participants is of utmost importance to the Board Members, so that we create and maintain a safe, clean and enjoyable environment for all WSYHA members and participants. WSYHA adheres to the 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. WSYHA has zero-tolerance to any of the above. This policy covers any WSYHA events, including games, practices and fundraising events.

To help prevent abuse and misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms, WSYHA has adopted a policy that incorporates locker room supervision and overall proper behavior of players.

### Supervision in Locker Room

It is the policy of WSYHA to have at least one responsible adult present and directly monitoring the locker room during all team events and at all times while participants are present. A responsible adult must be a background checked and safe sport trained coach, team parent, and/or WSYHA volunteer as approved by the Safe Sport Coordinator of WSYHA. It is the responsibility of the adult supervisor to assure that only participants (*coaches and players*) are in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. Designated Team Parents and coaches are responsible for conducting a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before and as players arrive. Only adults approved by the Safe Sport Coordinator of WSYHA are permitted in the locker rooms for ages 10U and up.

Any meetings with a WSYHA participant in a non-public area (e.g. locker rooms, vehicles, or other enclosed/private meeting areas) shall require another adult approved by the Safe Sport Coordinator of WSYHA to be present in the meeting with the coach/parent coordinator/or other adult at all times.

### Parents in Locker Room

Except for players at the younger age groups (8U and under) we do not permit parents from entering the locker room. If a player needs assistance with their uniform or gear, if the player is or may be injured or a player's disability warrants assistance, then we ask parents to let the coach(es) or designated Team Parent know beforehand.

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 independently. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches may ask that the parents leave for a short time before or after the game so that coaches may address the players without distraction.

## **Cell Phones and Other Technology Devices**

Use of a cell phone and/or other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are **not permitted** in the locker rooms. The use of cell phones can be distracting for players and interfere with coaching and player conversations. In addition, the opportunity for inappropriate locker room photos exists, and may cause harm to those that were not prepared for photos to be taken and/or shared. The supervising parent or coach will ask that cell phones be kept out of the locker room. It may be permissible to have the Team Manager collect phones before entering the locker room.

## **Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

WSYHA follows a zero tolerance policy and prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook. Participants, employees or volunteers of WSYHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct that violates the USA Hockey Safe Sport Policies.

## **Food and Drink in the Locker Room**

At times players, coaches and their families will have food or drink in the locker room prior or post games and practices. WSYHA would like to continue a positive relationship with our home and away rinks and encourages respect for all rink properties. Therefore, WSYHA asks that members be sure to leave their locker room area clean and bring all food and waste out of the locker room when they leave. Adult supervisors monitoring the locker room are encouraged to help players leave their locker room area clean.

The implementation of these above stated policies require and deserve the assistance of all players, coaches, parents and volunteers. Thank you for supporting the safety and well-being of all players and their families.