

Potomac Patriots Locker Room Policy

The safety and protection of athletes is a fundamental goal of the Potomac Patriots organization. The Patriots adhere to USA Hockey's SafeSport program as a means to protect its participants from any and all types of misconduct and/or abuse. To maintain the wellbeing of our athletes in the locker room setting the Potomac Patriots have set in place the following locker room policy. This policy seeks to maintain personal privacy of athletes and reduce the risk of misconduct in the locker room.

At Prince William Ice Center (PWIC) there are 9 locker rooms available for use. Most locker rooms in the PWIC have access to a shared restroom and shower area. Locker room assignments and keys may be obtained at the front desk.

When traveling to other rinks, the Potomac Patriots should arrive in a timely fashion to make arrangements for locker room use that provides for privacy and safety in accordance with USA Hockey's locker room guidance document. Coaches and/or team managers should help to monitor and communicate the locker room provisions at away facilities.

Locker Room Monitoring

The Patriots have scheduled use of locker rooms for use during practices and games. Access to locker rooms is generally provided for 30 minutes before and following team events. Locker room should be monitored regularly throughout team use. While constant monitoring inside of these areas may be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this may make some players uncomfortable and may place adults at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

While staff often conducts a sweep of locker rooms before a team event, players should report any locker room concerns to rink staff. Coaches and/or voluntary locker room monitors should be posted outside of the locker room during periods of use. These adults should have the appropriate SafeSport training (completed annually and prior to providing any monitoring). When adequate privacy can be protected, the door may remain slightly ajar for monitoring by the adult outside of the locker room. An adult should not be present in a 1:1 setting with a singular player (aside from their own child). Locker rooms should be secured while the team is on the ice.

Players in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the U8 (and younger) level, we discourage parents (and/or caregivers) from entering locker rooms unless it is necessary. If an older player needs assistance with dressing, the coach should be notified and arrangements should be made to ensure the privacy of all participants.

With the youngest players it is necessary for parents (or caregivers) 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 the parents to leave for a short period of time before and after the game or practice so that the coaches may address the players. Coaches should communicate these expectations to the players and parents.

Mixed Gender Teams

Some of our teams consist of both male and female players. It is important that the privacy of all of our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, the Potomac Patriots will have the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room (with the coaches present) before the game or team meeting. Once the game or practice is finished, the players may come to one locker room for the meeting. Upon completion of the meeting, male and female players shall report to their separate locker rooms to undress. If separate locker rooms are not available, players will take turns accessing the locker room to dress.

Cell Phones or 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.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

The Potomac Patriots 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 (players and caregivers), employees or volunteers in the organization 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.