

GYHA 6U & 8U Locker Room Policy

Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment

Our organization is committed to providing a **safe, respectful, and supervised environment** for all players. Locker rooms should be a positive space where young athletes can prepare for practices and games while learning teamwork, responsibility, and sportsmanship.

This policy follows guidelines established by USA Hockey SafeSport and CAHA for youth hockey programs.

Supervision Requirements

- **At least one SafeSport-trained and background-screened adult must be present in the locker room whenever players are inside.**
- This adult may be a coach, team manager, or approved team staff member who is properly registered with the organization.
- Whenever possible, the program follows two-deep leadership principles, meaning two screened adults should be present or nearby.
- Adults supervising the locker room are responsible for ensuring player safety, appropriate behavior, and adherence to locker room rules.

Parent Assistance (6U & 8U)

Because younger players often require help with equipment:

- Parents are permitted to enter the locker room to assist their child.
- Parents should remain mindful that other children are present and respect player privacy.

Locker Room Behavior Expectations

Players are expected to follow the same standards in the locker room that they follow on the ice.

Players should:

- Treat teammates, coaches, and staff with respect
- Keep locker rooms clean
- Follow instructions from coaches and team staff
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship

The following behaviors are not allowed:

- Bullying or teasing
- Roughhousing or horseplay
- Throwing equipment
- Inappropriate language
- Damage to locker room property

Electronics Policy

To protect player privacy:

- Cell phones, cameras, and recording devices are not permitted in locker rooms.
- Photos and videos may not be taken in locker rooms.

This rule applies to players, parents, and staff.

Co-Ed Locker Room Guidelines

Many youth teams are co-ed.

To maintain comfort and privacy for all players:

- Players should arrive wearing base layers (shorts/compression shorts and shirts).
- If needed, players may change in restroom stalls or designated changing areas.
- Coaches and parents should ensure all players feel comfortable and respected.

Use of Alternative Changing Areas

If locker rooms are unavailable or if players prefer additional privacy:

- Restrooms or changing stalls may be used.
- Parents may assist younger players in these spaces.

Locker Room Timing

To help maintain a supervised environment:

- Players should arrive 15–20 minutes before ice time.
- Players should leave the locker room shortly after practices or games once they are changed.

This helps prevent unsupervised locker room time.

Reporting Concerns

If you ever have concerns about locker room behavior, player safety, or SafeSport matters, please report them immediately to:

- A team coach or team manager
- Our organization's SafeSport coordinator
- League officials if necessary

Player safety is always our top priority.

Thank You for Supporting a Safe Hockey Environment

Youth hockey is built on teamwork, respect, and community. By working together, players, parents, coaches, and staff, we can ensure the locker room remains a safe and positive environment for every player.