

# Locker Room Policy

*USA Hockey requires that all local programs publish their locker room policies to the parents of all minor participants.*

## **Newport Whaler's 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 our goals. We adhere 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, The Newport Whalers have 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 The Portsmouth Abbey and at St. George's School, we have locker rooms available for our program's use. Some locker rooms have a restroom and shower area, or shares a restroom and shower area with one or more locker rooms. 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. 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**

The Newport Whalers have predictable but limited use of locker rooms and changing areas generally 30 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. Coaches conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive. So that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker rooms, the doors are generally closed. Please do not leave valuables in the locker rooms. Secure items by leaving with parents or don't bring in valuable items.

## **Parents in Locker Rooms**

**Except for players at the younger age groups, U10 Squirts and younger, 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 get dressed or tie skates. 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 leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coaches may address the players. **As players get older, the coach may in his or her discretion prohibit parents from a locker room.**



### **Mixed Gender Teams**

The Newport Whalers is a co-ed organization. As such, it is imperative that all players have equal access to the team locker rooms to engage in the camaraderie of their team. Before entering the team locker room, all players are expected to be wearing their hockey base layers under their street clothes. All members of the team 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. If a player does not have this minimum attire on when arriving at the rink, they are expected to change in the restroom or ask the rink manager for a separate changing area. If a host rink policy overrides the Newport Whalers policy, no coaching shall take place in the locker room until all members of the team are present.

### **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 should be taken outside of the locker room. It may be permissible to have team manager or coaches collect phones.

### **Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

The Newport Whaler's Youth Hockey Program prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. Players are required to complete a code of conduct form and will submit to the coach at the start of the season.

Participants, employees or volunteers in our 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](mailto:SafeSport@usahockey.org) or may call 1-800-888-4656. The Newport Whaler's also have an incident report that can be used to make a report.

