

Locker Room Policy

1. Supervision. USA Hockey mandates that responsible adult individuals monitor the locker room environment at all times while participants are present. In addition, NYSAHA mandates that these responsible adults be screened. Self-screening is performed by an organization identified by NYSAHA to perform background checks on all volunteers who have interaction with participants on and off the ice. The self-screening process is a simple online procedure that requires limited personal information from the applicant.

The following policy has been modified from the USA Hockey 2010 mandate to satisfy the needs of NYSAHA and those of the CCYHA.

All CCYHA teams must have at least one responsible, screened, adult present during all (at home and away) team events to assure that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel, and family members are allowed in the locker room. Any individual meeting with a participant and a coach in a locker room requires the presence of the responsible, screened, individual.

The responsible adult(s) must personally monitor the locker room for all age groups at all times participants are present.

2. COED Locker Room Policy. Privacy rights must be provided to both female and male participants. The following recommendations are made by USA Hockey (Girls’/Women’s Section, Coaching Education Program, and Officiating Program) and are supported by the CCYHA.

“**NOTE:** Make certain that two properly screened adults are present in locker room settings to supervise. Arrange to provide supervisors who are of the same sex as the children they are to protect. Please follow Coaching Ethics guidelines.

A. Where possible, have the male and female players undress/dress in separate locker rooms; then convene in a single dressing room to hold the coach’s pregame meeting. Separate locker rooms should be provided for all players at the squirt and above levels.

B. Once the game is finished, hold the coach’s post-game meeting; then have the male and female players proceed to their separate dressing rooms to undress and shower (separately), if available.

C. In those cases where separate facilities are not available, have one gender enter the locker room and change into their uniforms. That gender then leaves the locker room, while the other gender dresses. Both genders would then assemble in the locker room and hold the coach’s pregame meeting.

D. Following the game and the coach’s post-game meeting, where separate facilities are not available, the second gender group enters the locker room and undresses, while the first group waits outside until they have undressed and left the room. Once the second group leaves, the first group enters the locker room and undresses.

NOTE: Taking turns is a means of ‘reasonable accommodation’, so neither gender group is favored, nor is “the ones who always have to wait” and it’s fair. Failing to establish some type of similar procedure, or failure to seriously consider the privacy issues will likely lead to complaints and/or lawsuits. By being proactive on this issue, everyone [coaches, players,

officials, volunteers and parents] can enjoy the sport without the worry of legal actions or the invasion of privacy concerns arising. Lastly, reinforce to all players, coaches, officials, volunteers and parents that your organizations are going to take this issue seriously. It is not acceptable under USA Hockey's By-Laws – Policies on Physical and Sexual Abuse – for members to be observing the opposite gender while they dress or undress. Members and volunteers who violate USA Hockey's policies, or who violate the privacy rights of others, could be subject to appropriate discipline.”