



Ann Arbor Amateur Hockey Association 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 AAAHA's mission and goals. AAAHA adheres 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, AAAHA has 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 Ann Arbor Ice Cube and Yost Ice Arena there are locker rooms available for our program's use. Each of the locker rooms has its own restroom and/or shower area, or shares a restroom and shower area with one or more locker rooms. Teams in our program may also travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, rest rooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. AAAHA team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance of games away from our home arena. 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

AAAHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 60 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 AAAHA team organizers at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

AAAHA team organizers will inspect the locker rooms and changing areas for safety before players arrive, and if the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, either a coach or voluntary locker room monitors (each of which has been screened) will be posted directly outside of the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use, and leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible, so that only participants (coaches and players), and approved AAAHA team organizers are permitted in the locker room. Two approved AAAHA team organizers are required to be present in locker rooms and changing areas for player safety. AAAHA team organizers shall provide locker room supervisors who are of the same sex as the children they are to protect. AAAHA team organizers shall secure the locker room(s) appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups, U10 and under for girls program and Squirt level and under for boys programs, AAAHA prohibits parents from entering locker rooms. In emergency situations,

AAAHA team organizers shall make necessary exceptions to protect player safety. 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.

Naturally, 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 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.

Mixed Gender Teams

Some of our teams consist of both male and female players. It is important that the privacy rights of all of our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, AAAHA will have the male and female players dress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the game or team meeting. Once the game or practice is finished, the players may come to one locker room for a team meeting and then the male and female players proceed to their separate locker rooms to undress and shower, if available. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the players will take turns using the locker room to change. We understand that these arrangements may require that players arrive earlier or leave later to dress, but believe that this is the most reasonable way to accommodate and respect all AAAHA players.

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 for use in locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they shall be taken outside of the locker room.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

AAAHA 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, employees or volunteers in AAAHA 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 or may call 1-800-888-4656. Questions about Ann Arbor Amateur Hockey Association Locker Room Policy may be directed to any AAAHA team organizers.

AAAHA requires all volunteer locker room monitors to complete and pass a MAHA background check as well as have completed the USA Hockey Safe Sport video training.