

Harwood Youth 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 HYHA's goals. HYHA adheres to USA Hockey's Safe Sport 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 and follows a ZERO TOLERANCE policy.

To help prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms, HYHA has adopted a policy that incorporates locker room monitoring, restricted access, clothes-changing rules for mixed gender teams, and proper behavior and conduct of players. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy and safety, reduce player/coach distraction and to minimize the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

At the Ice Center of Washington West there are four locker rooms available for our program's use. Each of the locker rooms has its own bathroom and shower area. Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, restrooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. At arenas with which they are unfamiliar, parents should plan to have extra time and flexibility to make arrangements for their child to dress, undress and shower if desired. This locker room policy applies to locker room use at all away rink locations as well as our home rink at the Ice Center.

1. Locker Room Monitoring

HYHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas at home or away rinks (e.g., generally 30-45 minutes before and after practices and games.) This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. Designated Team Parents and coaches are responsible for conducting a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before and as players arrive, and a coach and designated Team Parent must be present inside the locker rooms during periods of use. Only approved coaches and Team Parents are permitted in the locker rooms for ages 10U and up.

2. Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups (8U and under) 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 parents to let the coach(es) or Team Parent 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 independently. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches may ask that the parents leave for a short time before or after the game so the coaches may address the players without distraction and crowding in the locker room.

As players get older, the coach may in his or her discretion prohibit parents from entering a locker room. Siblings, relatives, friends and other non-players are not permitted in the locker rooms unless necessary (e.g.: to take the place of a parent of a player who needs assistance.)

3. Mixed Gender Teams and Locker Room Use

Our teams have both male and female players. It is important that the privacy and dignity of all of our players are given consideration and that appropriate arrangements are made. On our mixed gender teams ALL players will be required to either arrive at the rink wearing their hockey base layers or shorts and shirts over their undergarments (in good condition, no large holes or tears in clothing) or they must change into their base layers in a closed bathroom. No players in a mixed gender locker room will be permitted to undress down to their undergarments before or after a game unless they are in a closed bathroom.

4. Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices

Use of cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are not permitted in the locker rooms.

5. Hockey Sticks

Hockey sticks of any kind are not permitted in the locker rooms and shall be stored on the designated racks outside of the entrance to each locker room.

6. Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

HYHA follows a ZERO TOLERANCE policy and prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook. Participants, employees or volunteers in HYHA 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 Safe Sport Policies. Reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email the HYHA SafeSport coordinator or USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1(800)888-4656.