

Billings Amateur Hockey League – SAFESPORT POLICY



USA Hockey requires that all local programs publish their locker room policies to the parents of all minor participants. The policies should be specific to the facilities they regularly use. The local program's policies shall include the program's (a) practices for supervising and monitoring locker rooms and changing areas; (b) permission or lack of permission for parents to be in the locker rooms; (c) prohibited conduct, including at least all forms of abuse and misconduct prohibited by USA Hockey; and (d) specific policies regarding the use of mobile electronic devices and phones and prohibiting the use of a device's recording capabilities.

BAHL's (Billings Amateur Hockey League) 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 BAHL's goals. BAHL 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, the BAHL 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. The Safesport Manual is available on the USA Hockey website.

At Centennial Ice Arena there are five boys locker rooms and one girls locker room available for our program's use. 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

BAHL has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (generally 30-45 minutes before and after 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.

Employees routinely conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive. 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), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room. If a coach or locker room monitor is inside the locker room at least one other screened adult should be in the locker room as well. Team personnel will also secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice (this should be done by the designated locker room monitor).

Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups, U8 and younger only, 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 they will be helping the player. Parents of the opposite sex are only allowed in the locker rooms for U8 player age groups.

Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players getting dressed. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches may 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

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. BAHL will have the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the game or team meeting. The coach or team manager will ensure there are arrangements for separate change areas when out of town. 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, the team manager will ensure a change room for both sexes is arranged. We understand that these arrangements may require that players arrive earlier or leave later to dress, but this is the most reasonable way to accommodate and respect all of our 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 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.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

BAHL 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, parents, employees or volunteers in BAHL 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.

For reports of any actual or suspected violations, you should notify the BAHL Safesport administrator Brad Federenko at director@centennialicearena.net or 406-256-1192 and/or may email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1-800-888-4656.

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