



LAKES AREA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Locker Room Supervision Policy & Procedure 2026-2027 Season

The following provisions apply to participation in hockey programming with Lakes Area Hockey Association ("LAHA"), which includes the Boji Mammoths.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety, privacy, and well-being of all participants in locker rooms and changing areas associated with LAHA-sanctioned activities. This policy establishes minimum supervision and monitoring requirements consistent with MWAHA policy, USA Hockey SafeSport guidelines and provides for accountability measures for non-compliance.

2. Policy Statement

Per USA Hockey Policy, the **Head Coach** is responsible for the supervision and monitoring of locker rooms and all team activities to ensure compliance with all USA Hockey SafeSport requirements. This responsibility may be delegated to an **Assistant Coach** or other approved team official; however, ultimate responsibility remains with the Head Coach.

Failure to adequately supervise the locker room as required under this policy will result in disciplinary action as outlined in Section 6.

3. Locker Room Supervision Requirements

Each MWAHA association must develop and implement a locker room supervision plan that reflects the specific facilities they regularly use. This plan must be distributed annually to the parents/guardians of all minor participants.

a. Supervision and Monitoring

- A **minimum of two (2) screened and SafeSport-certified adults** should be present to monitor the locker room area whenever it is being used by minor participants, **unless there is an exception due to monitor availability.**
- The "Rule of Two" must always be observed whenever practicable — no single adult should ever be alone with a single minor athlete.
- In any situation where only one monitor is available:
 - i. Locker room doors must remain **open or unlocked** to allow visibility;
 - ii. The adult must **never isolate** with a single minor; and
 - iii. Another team official, parent, or rink staff member should be **informed** that supervision is occurring with one monitor.
- Monitors should be of the **same gender** as the players whenever possible.
- Coaches or designated monitors must ensure that no player is left unsupervised before or after ice sessions.
- Monitors should perform **periodic checks** but not remain inside unless players are present and active monitoring is required.
- For **travel teams**, each team will have **two (2) locker room monitors appointed** and approved for their team.

b. Parent Access

- Parents are **not permitted** in locker rooms except under limited circumstances such as assisting younger players ages 8 and under or in case of emergency. A child over the age of 8 requiring parental assistance requires coach's exception.
- If parental assistance is necessary, the parent/guardian must limit their time in the locker room.
- One **parent/guardian per player** may assist with tying skates or dressing.
- Must **exit immediately** once child is ready (max 10 minutes).
- **No cell phones** allowed during assistance.

c. Prohibited Conduct

- All forms of abuse, bullying, harassment, and misconduct as defined by USA Hockey and the **SafeSport Code** are strictly prohibited.
- No roughhousing, horseplay, or inappropriate behavior will be tolerated.

d. Use of Electronic Devices

- The use of cell phones, cameras, tablets, or any device capable of recording audio, video, or still images is strictly **prohibited** in locker rooms and changing areas.
- Violations of this rule will result in disciplinary action in accordance with LAHA and USA Hockey SafeSport policies.

4. The "Rule of Two"

The **Rule of Two** is a core SafeSport principle that requires at least two screened and SafeSport-certified adults to be present during any interaction with minor athletes. This rule:

- Protects both athletes and adults from the risk of misconduct or false allegations;
- Ensures transparency and accountability in all athlete interactions; and
- Must be followed to the greatest extent possible in locker rooms, travel, meetings, and all team activities.

Exception to Two-Monitor Rule (One-Monitor Protocol):

Only permitted when a second screened/SafeSport-certified adult is **unavailable** despite reasonable efforts.

- **Required Actions:**
 - Locker room door must remain **fully open** (not propped or cracked).
 - Monitor must remain **in the doorway or just outside** with clear line of sight.

Application to Travel

- This policy applies to **all hotel rooms, bus/vehicle rides, and team meals** during LAHA travel.
- The **Rule of Two** must be maintained during room checks.
- **No minor may share a bed with an adult** (except parent/guardian).

5. Spot Checks and Compliance Monitoring

- **LAHA SafeSport Coordinator** will, and **MWAHA** may conduct unannounced **locker room supervision spot checks** to verify compliance.
- Associations are required to maintain written documentation of their locker room monitoring practices and designate responsible individuals for each session.

6. Reporting Violations

Any suspected violations of this policy, misconduct, or failure to properly supervise the locker room must be reported immediately to the Association President, the LAHA SafeSport Coordinator, and/or USA Hockey SafeSport.

Protection for Reporters

- Individuals reporting violations in good faith are protected from retaliation under USA Hockey Whistleblower Policy. False reports may result in disciplinary action.

7. Disciplinary Action for Non-Compliance per MWAHA

For Individual Team Officials (Head or Assistant Coaches):

- **First Occurrence:** Written warning.
- **Second Occurrence:** Two (2) week suspension.
- **Third Occurrence:** One (1) year suspension.
- *Note: These are minimum disciplinary standards. More severe penalties may be imposed by LAHA as deemed appropriate.*

Fines Per MWAHA:

- Associations failing to properly monitor a locker room will be subject to a **\$250 fine per incident** as determined through LAHA/MWAHA spot checks.

8. Communication and Acknowledgment

- Each association must publish and distribute its locker room policy to parents/guardians of all minor participants annually.
- Coaches, team managers, and monitors must sign an acknowledgment confirming they have reviewed and understand the Locker Room Supervision Policy and Procedure.

9. References

- USA Hockey SafeSport Program Handbook
- USA Hockey Locker Room Monitoring Policy
- U.S. Center for SafeSport Code