



Nashoba Youth Hockey Association Locker Room Policy

Governing Bodies: USA Hockey & SafeSport

PURPOSE

The Nashoba Youth Hockey Association (NYHA) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and age-appropriate locker room environment for all players. This policy establishes clear expectations for locker room access, supervision, and parent involvement in compliance with USA Hockey and SafeSport requirements. The purpose of this policy is to help prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A **USA Hockey registered and SafeSport certified adult must be present at all times** when players are in the locker room.
- Locker room supervision will be provided by certified coaches or designated Locker Room Monitors assigned by NYHA.
- At no time may a single adult be alone with a single player in a locker room.
- Only authorized individuals are permitted in locker rooms.

Age level: U10 and younger

We understand that younger players may require assistance with putting on their gear.

- Each player may have a **maximum of one (1) parent or guardian permitted in the locker room** to assist with skate tying and securing equipment only.
- Parents/guardians must exit the locker room immediately once the player is fully dressed.
- Following games, coaches will address the team for post-game remarks and will signal when it is appropriate to enter the locker room. At this time, one (1) parent or guardian may enter the locker room to assist their player with removing their gear.
- Players are responsible for leaving the locker room tidy.

Age level: U12 and Above

- Adult access to the locker room is limited to **only USA Hockey registered and SafeSport certified adults**.
- Parents/guardians who are not certified are not allowed in the locker room for any reason.

- Any player who requires assistance with skate tying or equipment adjustments must **exit the locker room** to receive help **outside the team room**.
- Players are responsible for leaving the locker room tidy.

LOCKER ROOM MONITORING

NYHA designates SafeSport-certified Locker Room Monitors to ensure compliance with this policy. Locker Room Monitors must comply with all USA Hockey and SafeSport policies. Monitoring responsibilities include ensuring appropriate behavior, supervision, and adherence to this policy.

- Locker room monitors at the U10 and younger levels will remain in or at the door of the locker room until all players have left the room.
- At the U12 and above levels, monitors will remain outside the locker room door, knock and announce before entering, crack the door to listen, and enter the locker room as needed with another certified adult.
- Locker rooms will be monitored until there are no players left in the room.

COED TEAMS

Some of our teams include both male and female players, and it is essential to respect the privacy of all participants.

- When co-ed teams share a locker room, players must arrive already wearing base layers, such as hockey undergarments or shorts along with sweats or leggings and a T-shirt. This ensures that all players are properly covered before entering the locker room and helps prevent situations where individuals might be exposed to others in a state of undress.
- If a player arrives without the required attire, they should change in a separate, supervised locker room or restroom. They may join the team once they are appropriately dressed.
- When COED and Girls teams share practice time, locker rooms should be separated by gender whenever possible. If this is not feasible, such as during large, mixed-group sessions, all teams must follow the co-ed locker room policy and arrive partially dressed in appropriate base layers.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER 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.
- Unauthorized recordings of any kind (including Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, etc.) may be grounds for suspension or expulsion from NYHA.
- Organized team photos/videos may be taken in locker rooms with the permission of coaches and with the full knowledge of participants (example – photos with the trophy after a championship)
- NYHA recognizes that players may want to listen to music in a locker room and may use a device to play music as long as it is placed on a bench (not hand-held) and is done with the full knowledge of the coach and players.
- NYHA reminds parents and players that locker rooms are not secure and NYHA is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

WEAPONS

NYHA has a zero-tolerance policy regarding weapons. No weapons of any kind are permitted in the locker rooms, on the bench, or on the ice. Multi-use tools with blades (i.e., Swiss army knives) are also prohibited. Team medical kits should be equipped with scissors and screwdrivers for player use.

PROHIBITED CONTACT

NYHA 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, parents or volunteers in NYHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. To report any actual or suspected violations, you may email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1-800-888- 4656.

COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action as determined by Nashoba Youth Hockey, in accordance with USA Hockey and SafeSport guidelines.

If you have questions regarding this policy, please contact the NYHA President.

