



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 PREP HOCKEY CLUB'S goals. PREP 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. It is the policy of USA Hockey that all USA Hockey Member programs publish a locker room policy specific to the facilities they regularly use and that said policy includes locker room supervision by responsible, screened and SafeSport trained adults. To help prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms, PREP 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 our home rinks for games and practices there are several locker rooms available for our program's use. Locker rooms at Mt. Prospect Ice Arena and West Meadows Ice Arena have their own restroom and shower areas. Locker rooms at Nelson Sport Complex do not have restrooms or showers within. Teams in our program also regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, restrooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location.

Locker Room Monitoring

LOCKER ROOM SUPERVISION - POLICY Under USA Hockey's current Locker Room Policy "all USA Hockey Member Organizations are required to have at least one responsible [NCSI screened and SafeSport trained] adult (which may include coaches, managers or other volunteers) present at all times and monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only Participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room." While USA Hockey expressly prefers that locker room monitors remain inside the locker room while Participants are present, if the monitor is "in the immediate vicinity outside the locker room (near the door within arm's length and so that the monitor can sufficiently hear inside the locker room) who also regularly and frequently enters the locker room to monitor activity inside," the Member Organizations in compliance. However, despite this policy, more than half of all SafeSport incidents reported each year occur in locker rooms. In all but a few cases, there was no locker room monitor present. AHAI believes that the presence of adults inside the locker rooms is critical to maintaining a safe and positive environment for our players. For this reason, Illinois is joining the many states that have imposed stricter locker room monitoring requirements than those required by USA Hockey. Effective immediately, the following conditions are REQUIRED of all AHAI Member Organizations for locker room use at all team events including conditioning clinics, tryouts, practices, games, and any event that a

locker room is being utilized: • No players shall be allowed access to the locker room unless an NCSI background screened/Safe Sport trained locker room monitor is present in the locker room. • If a single player is present, the locker room should be monitored by at least two adults until additional players arrive. • If there is only one adult present, whether a coach or volunteer parent, they should wait for multiple players to arrive before allowing access to the locker room. • The same strategies should be applied after practice with a monitor staying until the last player leaves, and at no time should one adult be alone in the locker room with one player, unless the player is their own child. This policy applies to all minor USA Hockey Participants up through the youth 18U level and through girls 19U level. It should be noted that an Affiliate may at its discretion adopt stricter policies than those defined by USA Hockey or AHAI, but in no case may said policy be less strict. Member Organizations found in violation of this policy will be sanctioned automatically, under Zero Tolerance, in the following manner starting December 1, 2023.

PREP has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-60 minutes before and 30 minutes following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas.

We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas at the beginning of our locker room use period. 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 inside the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use so that only participants (coaches and players) and approved team personnel are permitted in the locker room.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Parents/family members are prohibited from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance due to an injury or illness, then we ask that parents let the coach or team manager know beforehand that he or she will be helping the player.

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, PREP will have the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the game for a 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. Our current home ice rinks have dedicated separate locker rooms for female players. Some away rinks we visit do not have separate dedicated female locker rooms or extra locker rooms available, but typically provide another acceptable private space for female players. In the rare occasion that neither of these accommodations is 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 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 except in the case of an emergency. Should adhering to this policy become a frequent problem, PREP reserves the right to prohibit cell phones from being brought into the locker rooms at all.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

PREP 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 PREP 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. To report any actual or suspected violations, you may email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1-800-888-4656.