

Locker Room Policy

ST. ALBANS SKATING ASSOCIATION

ADOPTED 9/14/2026

St. Albans Skating Association (SASA) is committed to the development of our hockey players while providing a safe, respectful, and appropriate environment for all participants. SASA follows the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program and applicable VSAHA requirements to help protect participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, hazing, and other prohibited misconduct.

To protect player privacy and reduce the risk of inappropriate conduct, SASA has adopted the following Locker Room Policy.

Locker Room Facilities

SASA primarily utilizes locker rooms at Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center and may also use other facilities for practices, games, tournaments, and other team activities.

Locker room, restroom, shower, and changing-area configurations may vary by facility. When SASA teams travel to other arenas, families should allow additional time and flexibility for players who may require alternative changing arrangements or assistance.

Players, coaches, and any other team personnel are responsible for cleaning up any tape, bottles, wrappers, or trash before leaving the locker room. Ensure no personal items are left behind. The expectation is to **leave every place better than we found it**.

Locker Room Monitoring

SASA teams generally use locker rooms for a limited period before and after practices and games.

During periods of locker room use:

- A SASA-approved coach, team manager, or locker room monitor who has completed applicable USA Hockey screening and SafeSport requirements must be present in the locker room or positioned immediately outside the locker room and regularly monitor the area.
- Locker room monitors must remain close enough to provide effective supervision while respecting player privacy.

- Only players, coaches, approved team personnel, and permitted parents or guardians may enter the locker room.
- Team personnel should ensure locker rooms are appropriately secured while players are on the ice when reasonably possible.
- Coaches and other authorized adult participants shall not engage in an isolated one-on-one interaction with a minor athlete in a locker room, restroom, changing area, or similar space. Any individual conversation must occur in the presence of another responsible adult and remain observable and interruptible. If only one player remains in the locker room, the coach must leave until another adult or player is present. This requirement applies regardless of the coach's or player's gender, except in an emergency or another exception expressly permitted under the USA Hockey SafeSport Program.

Parents and Guardians in Locker Rooms

SASA recognizes that younger players may need assistance dressing, tying skates, adjusting equipment, or otherwise preparing for the ice. Parents and guardians may provide assistance when necessary, while encouraging players to become increasingly independent as they are able.

For 10U and older teams, the locker room should primarily be a player and team space. Access should be limited to players and adults approved by the Head Coach who are needed for coaching, supervision, safety, player assistance, or another legitimate team-related purpose. SafeSport/background screening or designation as a locker room monitor does not, by itself, provide unrestricted locker room access.

Parents and guardians should generally remain in lobby or spectator areas and should not congregate immediately outside locker room doors unless their presence is needed or requested. Reasonable exceptions may be made for equipment needs, injury, disability, or other legitimate circumstances.

Coaches may establish reasonable locker room boundaries and may ask parents and guardians to leave for a period before or after practices or games so the coaching staff can address the team, consistent with USA Hockey SafeSport requirements.

Mixed-Gender Teams and Privacy

SASA will respect the privacy and dignity of all players.

When players of different genders are changing, SASA will use reasonable arrangements based on the facilities available. These may include:

- Separate locker rooms or changing areas;
- Players changing at different times;
- Players arriving partially or fully dressed when practical; or
- Other appropriate privacy arrangements consistent with USA Hockey SafeSport requirements.

Players may come together in a single locker room for coaching discussions or team meetings once players are appropriately dressed.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

SASA locker rooms and changing areas are device-free environments for players.

Cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, cameras, or other devices capable of photography, video recording, audio recording, livestreaming, or video calls may not be used by players in locker rooms or changing areas.

There will be no photographs, videos, audio recordings, FaceTime/video calls, livestreaming, or social-media recording in locker rooms or changing areas.

If a player needs to use a phone for an urgent or necessary reason, the player must leave the locker room and use the device in an appropriate public area.

Coaches and team managers may possess or use a device for legitimate emergency, safety, scheduling, team-management, or coach-approved music purposes, provided the device is not used to photograph or record players.

All SASA teams must also comply with the SASA Cell Phone, Electronic Device & Communication Policy.

Prohibited Conduct

SASA prohibits physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, hazing, discrimination, intimidation, or other misconduct prohibited by USA Hockey, SafeSport, VSAHA, or SASA policy.

Players, coaches, parents, team personnel, and volunteers are expected to maintain appropriate behavior in and around locker rooms at all times.

Horseplay or other conduct that creates an unreasonable safety risk, invades another player's privacy, or interferes with the team's ability to maintain a safe locker room environment may also be addressed by coaches or SASA leadership.

Violations and Reporting

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action under applicable SASA policies.

Depending on the nature and severity of the conduct, SASA may take action including:

- Verbal warning;
- Parent or guardian notification;
- Removal from the locker room or team activity;
- Loss of locker room privileges;
- Referral to the SASA Discipline Committee;
- Suspension or other disciplinary action; and/or
- Reporting to USA Hockey, VSAHA, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, law enforcement, or another appropriate authority when required.

Any suspected abuse, misconduct, inappropriate recording, or serious SafeSport concern should be reported promptly to the SASA SafeSport Coordinator or appropriate SASA leadership and through USA Hockey or the U.S. Center for SafeSport when required.

Responsibility

All SASA players, coaches, team managers, volunteers, parents, and guardians share responsibility for maintaining locker rooms that protect the safety, privacy, and dignity of every athlete.

Coaches and team managers are responsible for reviewing this policy with their teams at the beginning of each season and reinforcing its requirements throughout the year.

Policy Basis: USA Hockey Safe Sport Program Handbook, USA Hockey Locker Room Policy requirements, U.S. Center for SafeSport Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP), and applicable VSAHA policies.