

Dayton Hockey Association



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 the Dayton Hockey Association's goals. The Dayton Hockey Association ("DHA") adheres to USA Hockey's Safe Sport 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, DHA 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 South Metro Ice Arena, the Kettering Recreation Center Ice Box, and Hara Arena, there are a number of locker rooms available for our program's use. Some of the locker rooms have restroom(s) and shower area(s) or otherwise share a restroom and/or shower area. 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

DHA, through its member team(s), has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-60 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. No coach, monitor, or parent should ever be alone with a child other than their own in a locker room.

DHA relies on the Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, and Manager of each team to ensure locker room areas are properly monitored. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, and Manager to appoint locker room monitors for the team. These monitors may be the coaching and team management staff or they may be parents; however, ALL locker room monitors, coaching and team management staff MUST undergo and pass the required USA Hockey/Mid-Am District background screening process.

It is the responsibility of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or designated adult Monitor appointed by the Head or Assistant Coach of each DHA team, to conduct a sweep of the subject locker rooms and changing areas assigned to their respective team BEFORE players arrive. This Monitor 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. The Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or designated Monitor will also lock and secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice, retain the key, and not unlock said locker room until the team has left the ice at the conclusion of the subject game, practice, at scheduled break between periods, or for such occasions where an individual player needs to enter the locker room during the scheduled ice event.

Parents in Locker Rooms

DHA discourages parents from entering locker rooms of the high school/midget (varsity and junior varsity) teams **unless it is truly necessary**. If a player needs assistance with his 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 Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Monitor know beforehand that he will be helping the player.

Naturally, with our younger age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players getting dressed. We encourage parents to teach their players as young as possible how to get dressed so that players will learn as early as possible how to get dressed independently. **When the coaches are addressing the players, parents are expected to be silent and unobtrusive. If not, they cannot stay in the locker room. In situations where the locker room is too small to include parents, the coach may at his discretion ask parents to leave the locker room.**

It is common among the younger age groups for both mothers and fathers to help players dress in the locker room. Because of this, players in the younger ages should have underwear on at all times in the locker room. No players should be exposed when there is someone of the opposite sex in the locker room. If a bantam aged player needs assistance, only fathers should assist in the boys' locker room and only mothers in the girls.

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, DHA, through the Head or Assistant Coach of the subject DHA team, will attempt its best efforts to 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. 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, then the different genders 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 but not limited to voice or video recording are never permitted to be used in the locker rooms. Any player violating this rule is subject to suspension or other appropriate disciplinary action as determined by the DHA Ad Hoc Committee or Executive Board. All such devices, if brought into the locker room, must be and remain turned off and in a container until the player leaves the locker room. It is the player's responsibility to secure their own cell phone and any other mobile devices, and DHA, its board members, coaches, and/or anyone else assumes no responsibility for damage, loss, theft, repair, reimbursement, and/or replacement of same. DHA recommends these devices be kept and stored outside the locker room and used only in the lobby area or outside the arena. Some arenas may have public lockers on premises to store such items. However use of these lockers or other storage area of any kind is entirely the option, cost, responsibility, and liability of the subject player and/or their parent or guardian. In addition, some locker room facilities provide lockers inside of the locker rooms. Should players decide to use these lockers to secure their belongings, DHA recommends that a player carry a combination padlock for use in locking those types of lockers.

Because both practice and game times are communicated well in advance to each player and/or parent or guardian, DHA recommends its players, parents, coaches, and volunteers do not bring such devices into the ice arena unless absolutely essential, but rather they should be left at home or in a locked vehicle.

Picture taking in any locker room is strictly prohibited and violation of this rule subjects the offender to suspension or other appropriate disciplinary action as determined by the DHA Ad Hoc Committee or Executive Board.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

DHA prohibits ALL types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook. Participants, employees or volunteers of DHA 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 Safe Sport Policies. Reports of any actual or suspected violations should be made to DHA's Safe Sport coordinator through the DHA website at www.daytonstealth.com. The entire USA Hockey Safe Sport Program may also be viewed at the DHA website.

The Dayton Hockey Association, Inc.