

ARMSTRONG AMATEUR HOCKEY LEAGUE

LOCKER ROOM POLICY



While focusing on the development of our players while enjoying the sport of hockey, the safety and protection of our participants is priority. The AAHL adheres to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program to further protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse, and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing. To prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms, the AAHL has adopted the following Locker Room Policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

At the Belmont Ice Complex most locker rooms have a restroom and/or shower area. Some of our teams may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance of games away from our home arena. Parents/guardians should plan to have extra time and flexibility for dressing/undressing and showering (if desired).

Locker Room Monitoring

The AAHL 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. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make some players uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk of unwarranted suspicion.

We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive, and 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 directly outside of the locker rooms and changing areas (within arm's length so the monitor can sufficiently hear inside the locker room) 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.

At no point, will one coach be in a locker room with one player. If only one player is remaining in the locker room, the coach must leave the locker room and remain directly outside of the locker room to monitor and communicate with the remaining player.

All locker rooms are to be left clean and free of garbage.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups (10U/Squirts and Younger), we discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance with his or her 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 coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the player.

Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for the 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. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask that the parents leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coaches may address the players. As players get older, the coach may in his or her discretion prohibit parents from a locker room.

At least one coach or certified volunteer must remain in the locker room whenever players and parents/guardians are present.

Mixed Gender Teams

Some of our teams consist of both male and female players. It is important that the privacy rights of all our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, the AAHL will have the male and female player 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.

Co-ed Locker Room Policy

The Co-ed Locker Room policy attempts to balance the social integration and camaraderie of a team sport while providing a safe and respectful environment for all participants. Note that all stated locker room rules and procedures apply to co-ed teams and the following are additional procedures to be followed by co-ed teams. With co-ed teams, it is required that the coaches/volunteers monitoring the locker room are of the same gender as the players being monitored. Co-ed teams can choose one of the options below for locker room use when participating in a function (practice/game). The coaching staff of each team will make the decision based on the needs of the team and options available at the host rink, will communicate the method that will be used prior to the activity, and provide the required monitoring in order to comply with the chosen method.

1) Minimum Attire Policy

If the team is sharing one locker room. All players should be required to arrive at the rink wearing their hockey base layers or shorts and t-shirts (in good condition – no holes or tears in clothing) under their street clothes or will be required to change in the restroom prior to entering a co-ed locker room so that no player of one gender will see players of the opposite gender in a state of dress/undress.

2) Separate, Supervised Locker Room

Have males and females change/dress in separate, supervised locker rooms. Then approximately, 10 to 15 minutes before each game/practice everyone is to be ready in gear in one designated locker room so the entire team can be addressed by the coach. If a player of either sex is not fully dressed in time, then that player must go to a separate locker room or bathroom to finish dressing.

3) Alternate Single Locker Room (Only if the previous 2 options are not available)

Players of one gender dress in the locker room while players of the opposite gender wait outside. When the one group is ready, then the players switch places and the players in gear wait for players of the opposite gender to get dressed. No coaching is to be done until all the players are together in full gear. Taking turns is a means of reasonable accommodation: neither gender group should be favored, nor should one group be the group who always must wait to change.

Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices

Cell phones and all 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. With permission of the Head Coach, a mobile device may be used only for playing music in the locker room.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

All forms of physical, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing (all of which are described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook) are strictly prohibited in the AAHL. All participants, employees and/or volunteers of the AAHL are 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 are asked to do one of the following:

1. Immediately notify the Head Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Manager.
2. Contact the AAHL SafeSport Coordinator.
3. Contact a member of the AAHL Board of Directors.
4. If the misconduct or abuse is of a serious nature, contact the local police or authorities.
5. Email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org.
6. Call USA Hockey SafeSport at 1-800-888-4656.

Violation of Locker Room Policy

This Locker Room Policy will be strictly enforced. All coaches, parents/guardians, and players should familiarize themselves with the details of the policy and support coaches, managers, and volunteers with its implementation. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary actions.