

PINEDALE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

LOCKER ROOM POLICY

June 2025

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 PHA's goals. PHA 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. To help prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms, PHA 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 Sublette County Ice Arena there are five locker rooms available for our program's use. Two of the locker rooms have their own restrooms and shower area. Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, restrooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. PHA team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance of games away from our home arena. At arenas for which you are unfamiliar, parents should plan to have extra time and some flexibility to make arrangements for their child to dress, undress and shower if desired.

Locker Room Monitoring

PHA 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.

Either a coach, manager or voluntary locker room monitor (each of which has been through SafeSport training and undergone USA Hockey background screening) will be inside or 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. Only participants (coaches and players) and approved team personnel are permitted in the locker room. We also require that an adult will never be in a locker room alone with a minor nor the monitor(s) be of the opposite gender. Team personnel will also secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the age group 8U and under, we do not allow the parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. 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 (6U and 8U) it is necessary for parents to assist the players while 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.

Mixed Gender Teams

“Gender” means the biological, physical condition of being male or female, determined by an individual’s genetics and anatomy at birth.

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. PHA will 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 separate locker rooms are not 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.

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.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

PHA 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 PHA 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. Reports to USA Hockey may be made by: (1) clicking on the “Report to USA Hockey” link on the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program webpage (usahockey.com/safesportprogram), (2) emailing to usahockeysafesport@usahockey.org, or (3) calling 800-888-4656.)