

MILTON YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2013-14 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 MYHA's goals. MYHA 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, MYHA has adopted the following locker room policy based on guidelines and recommendations from USA Hockey. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

This policy applies to locker rooms used at the Highgate Arena, UVM (Gutterson Field House) and any facility where a MYHA team travels.

LOCKER ROOM MONITORING

Locker room monitors (each of which has been screened) will be assigned to all teams above the Mite level. Monitors will be at the discretion of Mite and Blue Blade coaches. Monitors will be of the same gender as the players being monitored. MYHA's policy is to have two coaches and/or monitors in the locker room at all times. When only one locker room monitor is available he or she will remain immediately outside the locker room and regularly check the locker room.

PARENTS IN LOCKER ROOM

Except for parents of our Blue Blade and Mite players, parents (except for monitors) are not permitted in the locker rooms. Reasonable consideration will be given to parents if a player is ill or injured. For space, safety, and privacy reasons, parents are not permitted to congregate outside the locker rooms. For skaters above the Blue Blade and Mite levels who require assistance from a parent to dress or tie skates, there are public areas available such as the lobby, bleachers, and back entrance hallway.

With our youngest skaters it is necessary for parents to assist the players getting dressed. For space and safety reasons, only one parent or guardian should accompany Blue Blade and Mite players in the locker room. Whenever possible, Blue Blade and Mite players should arrive at the rink already wearing some hockey gear such as shin guards, socks, and pants. This is to minimize the amount of time spent in already crowded locker rooms.

MYHA encourages parents to teach their players as young as possible how to get dressed so that players will learn early to get dressed independently. In circumstances, when parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask that the parents leave for a short time before the game and after the game so that the coaches may address the team.

MIXED GENDER TEAMS

It is essential that the privacy rights of all of our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made for mixed gender teams. As applicable to Squirt level and above and where possible, MYHA will have the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the practice or game 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. If separate locker rooms are not available, then 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.

MINIMUM ATTIRE POLICY

MYHA promotes a minimum attire policy. All players are encouraged to arrive at the rink wearing their hockey base layers or shorts and t-shirts under their street clothes. All team members must have the minimum attire before entering a co-ed locker room so that no player of one gender has the opportunity to see players of the opposite gender in a state of dress/undress. Players may not exit the locker room with undergarments exposed. At minimum, a sleeved shirt and shorts are required outside of the locker room.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE RECORDING DEVICES

MYHA strongly recommends that cell phones not be brought into the locker rooms. 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. Cell phones may be left powered on however if they are to be used, you must exit the locker room (i.e. cell phones must remain concealed at all times while in the locker room). It is permissible to have monitors collect phones prior to locker room entry. Acceptable devices are those without recording, camera, or video capabilities, such as an MP3 player, Zune, iPod Shuffle, or iPod Nano.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

MYHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. MYHA members, participants, employees, or volunteers 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.

Questions?

Contact MYHA SafeSport Coordinator – Gary Milo
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Or USA Hockey Safe Sport

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