



Kent Valley Hockey Association

6015 So. 240th St.
Kent, WA 98032

Locker Room Policy

Original Draft – 27 August, 2013

Approved – 27 August, 2013

Introduction:

USA Hockey requires that all local programs publish their locker room policies to the parents of all minor participants. The policies should be specific to the facilities they regularly use. The local program's policies shall include the program's (a) practices for supervising and monitoring locker rooms and changing areas; (b) permission or lack of permission for parents to be in the locker rooms; (c) prohibited conduct, including at least all forms of abuse and misconduct prohibited by USA Hockey; and (d) specific policies regarding the use of mobile electronic devices and phones and prohibiting the use of a device's recording capabilities.

Purpose:

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 Kent Valley Hockey Association (KVHA) goals. KVHA 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, KVHA 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.

Policy:

At KVHA there are five (5) locker rooms available for our program's use. Four of the five locker rooms share a restroom and shower area with one other locker rooms. 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. KVHA 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 in making arrangements for their child to dress, undress and shower if desired.

1. Locker Room Monitoring

KVHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-45 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 for unwarranted suspicion.

Kent Valley Ice Centre Staff 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 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.

2. Locker Room Security

Since it is not possible to secure the locker rooms at Kent Valley Ice Centre or many other ice arenas when the team is on the ice, it is highly recommended that a team official or personnel secure all valuables (billfolds, electronic devices, jewelry, etc.) in a bag or other manner and hold them for return to players after the practice or game. Valuables must not be left in the locker rooms. Items stowed in hockey bags are vulnerable to theft. Each locker room at KVIC has a locker inside to secure valuables. The team's manager must supply their own lock.

3. Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups (LTP and Mites 8 Years or Under), 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 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.

4. 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, KVHA 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 available. 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, but believe that this is the most reasonable way to accommodate and respect all of our players. Parents should also read KVHA's "Gender Equity Policy-Co-ed Locker Rooms."

5. 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. (It may be permissible to have team manager collect phones prior to players entering the locker rooms.)

6. Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

KVHA 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 KVHA 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 SafeSport Policies. To make a report of any actual or suspected violations, you may e-mail USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1-800-888-4656. A report should also be made to the KVHA Hockey Director.

Approved as to form by:

KVHA Director: _____ Date: _____

Les Grauer