

# Locker Room Policy

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## FRAMINGHAM YOUTH HOCKEY

HOME OF THE JR.FLYERS & LADY FLYERS



### Framingham Youth Hockey Program

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# Framingham Youth Hockey Program (FYHP) 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 FYHP's goals. FYHP 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, FYHP 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 Loring Arena] there are locker rooms available for our program's use at the discretion of the facility staff. Most of the the locker rooms have their own restroom and shower area. Locker Room "X" at Loring Arena does not have restroom or shower facilities available to it. 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.

## Locker Room Monitoring

FYHP has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-45 minutes before and following practices and games) at the discretion of Facility management. 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.

Team coaches, managers or approved volunteers ("locker room monitors") should conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive, and if the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, a coach or approved locker room 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. Team personnel will also secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.

## Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for teams at the younger age groups (Learn to Play and 8U teams) 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, coaches may at their discretion prohibit parents from a locker room. Any parents entering the locker room on a regular basis must have a USA hockey number and a cleared CORI background check and SafeSport training.

## Mixed Gender Teams

Some of our teams consist of male, female and/or non-binary players. It is important that the privacy rights of all of our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Co-ed teams should employ one of the following options to ensure the privacy and safety of all team members:

1. All players are required to arrive at the rink wearing their hockey base layers or shorts and t-shirts/ tank tops (sports bras alone are not allowed) (in good condition - no holes or tears in clothing) under their street clothes. All members of the team must have this minimum attire on at all times in a co-ed locker room so that no player of any gender has the opportunity to see players of another gender in a state of dress/undress.

2. A second option is for the program to have players of different genders change/dress in separate, supervised locker rooms. Then approximately ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes before each game/practice everyone is to be ready in gear in one designated locker room so the coach can address the entire team. If a player (regardless of gender) is not fully dressed by the time the coach arrives, then that player must go to a separate locker room or bathroom to finish dressing. It is the player's responsibility to be properly dressed when the coaches actually begin preparing the team for the practice or game.
3. Another option is the alternate use of a single locker room. Players of one gender dress in the locker room while players of different genders wait outside. When one group is ready, then the players switch places and the players in gear wait for players of different genders 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; no gender group should be favored, nor should one group be the group who always has to wait to change.

USA Hockey considers it acceptable to have one (1) locker room monitor immediately outside the locker room and regularly checking in on the locker room. If there are two (2) monitors then they can monitor from inside the locker room. Having only one person inside a locker room can expose that person to allegations, so a second person can help protect one another from allegations. All Locker Room Monitors will have updated USA Hockey numbers and up to date CORI background checks and Safe Sport training. All volunteers of the program must be approved by the Board of Directors before assuming the role of Locker Room Monitor.

## **Cell Phones, Cameras 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. If a team wishes to utilize a phone to play music before or after a game, the player(s) may use their phone to start the music and then hand the phone to a coach or approved locker room monitor. Locker room monitors should collect phones if necessary to ensure adherence to this policy.

## **Weapons**

The Framingham Youth Hockey Program has a zero-tolerance policy regarding weapons. No weapons of any kind are permitted in the locker rooms, on the bench, on the ice, or at any FYHP-sanctioned or FYHP-affiliated event. Multi-use tools with blades (i.e., Swiss army knives) are also prohibited (team medical kits should be equipped with scissors and screwdrivers for player use).

## **Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

FYHP 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 FYHP 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. Reports of any actual or suspected violations, should be emailed to USA Hockey at [SafeSport@usahockey.org](mailto:SafeSport@usahockey.org) or phoned in to 1-800-888-4656.