



Locker Room Policy

Effective Immediately | Updated August 22, 2024

Chester County Skating Club is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for members and ensuring that it promotes an environment free of misconduct. Skaters are vulnerable to misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas due to various stages of dress/undress and because they are often less supervised than at other times. Youth players are particularly vulnerable in locker rooms, changing areas, and restrooms due to various stages of dress/undress and because players are often less supervised than at other times. Athlete-to-athlete problems, such as sexual abuse, bullying, harassment, or hazing, often occur when a coach or other responsible adult is not in a position to observe—this is especially true in locker rooms. Adherence to a locker room policy enhances privacy and significantly reduces the likelihood of misconduct. Proper supervision of the locker room areas also helps ensure that players who may have suffered an injury during a game or practice have an adult present to confer with regarding the injury. Accordingly, all members shall adhere to this locker room policy at all times.

The locker room should be a safe and appropriate environment for ALL members. Members using the locker room should keep in mind that the locker room is for storage and active preparation for skating. The locker room is NOT a lounge or social area. Members wishing to socialize or pass time between sessions should use the public areas of the rink.

John M. Cleveland Ice Rink Locker Rooms and Facilities:

- **Locker Rooms:** There are five (5) locker rooms available for our program's use. Four (4) locker rooms are located between the Zamboni door and the Visitor Bench, and one (1) locker room is on the opposite end of the rink next to the bleachers.
- **Restrooms:** None of these locker rooms have their own or shared restrooms. The only restrooms at the rink are in the Warm Room.
- **Showers:** The rink does not have shower facilities.
- **Public Spaces:** The Warm Room and lobby are available for socializing and putting on skates for programs other than Cougars hockey. All Cougars must use the assigned locker rooms.

USA Hockey SafeSport Requirements for Chester County Cougars Hockey Teams

The Cougars adhere to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program 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, The Cougars have adopted the following locker room policy for use at Chester County Skating Club and while traveling to other clubs. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

Locker Room Monitoring

- The Chester County Cougars have predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (generally 30 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas.
- While constant monitoring inside 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.
- When players arrive, either a coach, assistant coach, or designated locker room monitor (each of which has been screened) will be posted directly outside of the locker rooms during periods of use. Doors will be kept open when adequate privacy is still possible.
- Only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel, and family members are permitted in the locker room.

Parents in Locker Rooms

- Except for players in the younger age groups (Learn to Play, 6U, 8U, and 10U) 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 if 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 in 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 at his or her discretion prohibit parents from a locker room.

Mixed Gender Teams Locker Room Options

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. The Separate Locker Rooms option provides the safest option for our players and is our preferred policy. The Minimum Attire and Alternate Use of One Locker Room policies are also in place for when it is not possible or practical for a team to use the Separate Locker Rooms policy.

- **Separate Locker Rooms (Preferred Policy)**

- 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 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.
- The onus is on the players being properly dressed when the coaches actually begin preparing the team for the practice or game.

- **Minimum Attire**

- When only one locker room is available 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.
- All members of the team must have this 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.
- If a player is not wearing the required minimum attire, that player can be directed to a restroom or private area to change into his/her minimum attire before entering the locker room.

- **Alternate Use of One Locker Room**

- Players of one gender dress in the locker room while players of the opposite gender wait outside. When the one group is ready (this may mean dressed in gear but not skates and helmets), then the players switch places and the players in gear wait for players of opposite gender to get dressed.
- No coaching is to be done until all the players are together in the locker room.
- Taking turns is a means of reasonable accommodation; neither gender group should be favored, nor should one group be the group who always has to wait to change.

SafeSport Trained Locker Room Monitors for Co-ed Locker Rooms:

- Where possible, when players of different genders are together in the locker room, there should be at least two adults in the locker room who have completed SafeSport Training and been properly screened in compliance with the USA Hockey Screening Policy.
- USA Hockey would consider it acceptable to have one locker room monitor immediately outside the locker room and regularly check in on the locker room, but two locker room monitors are always preferable.
- If there are two monitors, then they can monitor from inside the locker room. Having only one monitor inside a locker room can expose that person to allegations or possible violations of the One-on-One Interactions Policy, so a second person can help protect one another from allegations.

Locker Rooms and Facilities at Other Rinks

- All locker room policies apply to our teams no matter where they play.
- 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.
- Chester County Cougars 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.

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 the locker room.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

- Chester County Skating Club 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 Chester County Skating Club 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.
- For reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org.