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Team Dressing Room Policy

Preface

This policy establishes the guidelines for coaches and teams regarding access to the dressing room facilities of the North Shore Female Ice Hockey Association (NSFIHA) teams before, during, and after games, practices or team events. The primary purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the safety and privacy of our players.

Background

The team dressing room is a social, learning, and private environment for NSFIHA teams and players. It is the NSFIHA's position and policy that the dressing room is a restricted area for the use and privacy of players. It is the responsibility of the designated team official* to ensure the safety, security, and privacy of the dressing room for all players. Frequently, concerned parents wish to enter the dressing room to assist their child with equipment. For reasons of player safety and privacy, NSFIHA has adopted the following procedures regarding dressing room access.

Procedures

Dressing rooms should be a restricted area for the exclusive use of players to change into their equipment and uniforms, share the team experience, and expect privacy. In general, access to team dressing rooms is limited to designated team officials,* players, coaches, managers or trainers. Without exception, at least one member of the team staff present in the dressing room must be an adult female.

Dressing rooms must be supervised at all times when players are expected to be in them. Two adult females ("Den Moms") are required to supervise a dressing room.

The dressing room is also an area for the players to build team spirit, to physically and mentally prepare and focus on game preparation and strategies, and to receive instructions and direction from the coach and team management staff.

Parents, siblings, friends and other persons should not infringe upon the dressing room privacy of our players as they dress and prepare for a game or after a game.

Many of the arena dressing rooms are not overly large and with skates, bulky equipment and bags in these areas, there is no room for visitors in the dressing room facilities. In addition to the privacy issues, traffic through these areas presents a safety hazard.

Parental entry to a dressing room should be a rare occurrence. If players require assistance with their skates, this should be done in the common areas of the arena.

In exceptional cases where a parent/guardian other than a “Den Mom” must enter the dressing room it must be in the presence of a team staff member, one of which must be an adult female and such entry must be announced to the players in advance.

At the U7/U9 age group, parents and guardians will have full access to the dressing room.

Persons wishing to enter an unoccupied dressing room during the course of a practice or game may do so with the consent of a team official. It should first be verified that there are no remaining players in the room. All dressing room facilities should be locked and secured when teams are on the ice.

An obvious exception to room access restrictions would be in the event of an injury to a player who may require the assistance of the parent, Hockey Canada Safety Person (HCSP) or qualified medical personal to render treatment to an injured player on an urgent basis. There should however, always be an adult female present.

To safeguard the interests of both our players and coaching staff, under no circumstances should a player and coach be alone in a dressing room facility without a third party such as a parent or guardian or other designated team official being present, one of who should be an adult female.

There should be team rules that discourage unsafe practices. It can be useful for the coaching staff to have designated times for entering the dressing room for pre-game instruction and planning, i.e. All players must be fully dressed and ready to go on the ice 10 minutes before the game time. A coach can also take advantage of having the players go to the players’ bench after a practice for a quick discussion before the players enter the dressing room. In all cases, the coach should discuss and communicate expectations from both parents and players in advance of the season.

In order to protect players of the NSFIHA the use of any electronic device to send, receive or record a message or images within the dressing rooms will be strictly prohibited. Any team officials, parents, or players that have an electronic device with them shall keep the electronics device stored and turned off while in the dressing room.

“Cyberbullying” is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. Cyberbullying is strictly prohibited as between any NSFIHA members in relation to any NSFIHA event or activity.

It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that the dressing rooms are left in a neat and tidy condition after use.