



Shuswap Ringette Association DRESSING ROOM POLICY

The dressing room is a great place for building team spirit and camaraderie. However, players need to make sure they are being respectful of their teammates, parents, opposing players and each other.

Dressing rooms are a restricted area for the exclusive use of players to change into their equipment and uniforms and share the team experience within a safe and private environment.

The dressing room is also an area for the players to physically and mentally prepare for a game or practice, and to receive instructions and direction from the Bench 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.

The following rules will govern conduct in the dressing room:

1. Access to Dressing Rooms

- a. Access to the dressing room is limited to Shuswap Ringette Association (SRA) criminal record checked Bench Staff (Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, Trainer, Manager) and SRA Board of Directors. Without exception, at least one member of the team Bench Staff present in the dressing room must be a Team Designated Female, as per BCRA Female on the Bench Requirements. Additional female team volunteers are permitted in the change room with prior approval from the Bench Staff.
- b. In the case of co-ed teams, when separate dressing rooms are available for both male and female players, males and females shall make use of separate dressing rooms and access will be the same as Item 1.a. If there are no separate dressing rooms available, the Bench Staff, on behalf of the minority gender, will seek the advice of the Rink Attendant for an adequate dressing room. Once all players are completely dressed, players may enter the designated team dressing room.

2. Parental entry to a dressing room should be a rare occurrence. In exceptional cases where a parent/guardian must enter the dressing room, it should be in the presence of the designated Bench Staff, and such entry must be announced to the players in advance and fall within the following guidelines:

- a. Bunny (U9) aged parents and guardians will have full access to the dressing room.
- b. For novice aged players (U10) and older, no males are permitted in the dressing room. If players require assistance with their skates or other equipment, this should be done in the common areas of the arena or at home prior to entering the dressing room.
- c. Coaches may wish to encourage player independence by asking players to dress into their own equipment and lace their own skates, or to seek assistance from other Bench Staff (rather than parents), provided this can be accomplished in a manner that ensures protective equipment is properly and safely secured.

3. Male Bench Staff Access:

- a. Male Bench Staff are permitted into the dressing room prior to and immediately following a game and/or practise. Prior to the entry, a Team Designated Female must first ensure that all players are completely dressed and must announce the Coaches entering in advance.

- b. To safeguard the interests of both players and Bench Staff, under no circumstances should a player and male Bench Staff be alone in a dressing room facility without a female parent, guardian or designated Bench Staff being present.
4. An exception to dressing room access could occur in the event of an injury to a player who requires the assistance of the parent, rink attendant, trainer or qualified medical personnel to render treatment on an urgent basis. However, if possible, there should still be an adult female present.
5. All dressing room facilities should be locked and secured when teams are on the ice.
6. No cameras, video cameras or pictures of any kind are to be taken while any players are still changing in the dressing room.
7. Voices will be kept to a reasonable level.
8. No graffiti or vandalism of any sort to dressing rooms will be tolerated.
9. Swearing or rude language of any kind is not acceptable in the dressing room.
10. Fighting, badmouthing, abuse, harassment and/or bullying will not be tolerated and will be dealt with under the Shuswap Ringette Association Harassment Policy.
11. There will be no alcohol or tobacco in the dressing room.
12. The dressing room must be left in a clean and tidy state.
13. The Head Coach and Bench Staff should discuss and communicate expectations of the dressing room to both parents and players in advance of the season.

All members of the Shuswap Ringette Association are expected to adhere to this policy at all times.

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