



## **Purpose**

This policy establishes expectations and standards for dressing room access to ensure the privacy, safety, and respect of all players in U10 through U19 divisions. It reflects NWRA's commitment to creating a safe and respectful space for athletes, while fostering independence and trust among players, parents/guardians, and team personnel.

NWRA is committed to ensuring that dressing rooms are safe, inclusive spaces free from bullying, harassment, or discrimination.

## **Policy**

### 1. Definition of Dressing Room Access

Dressing rooms are private spaces reserved exclusively for players and authorized personnel, such as coaches or team staff. Parents/guardians/non-team members such as siblings are excluded from entering dressing rooms for players at the U10 through U19 levels.

### 2. Scope of the Dressing Room Privacy Policy

This policy applies to all players, parents/guardians, coaches, and team personnel involved in NWRA teams from U10 through U19. It covers activities such as pre-game preparation, post-game routines, practices, and any other team-related events.

### 3. Ensuring Player Independence

Starting at the U10 level, players are encouraged to develop autonomy in managing their equipment and preparing for games and practices. Should a player require assistance with their equipment, they either must step outside the dressing room to receive assistance or alternatively, they can seek assistance from a coach/team manager.

### 4. Respect for Privacy and Maintaining Distance

Parents/guardians/non-team members are to avoid gathering near dressing room entrances. Dressing room doors may open unexpectedly, and standing too close can compromise player privacy. Parents/guardians/non-team members must not linger in the hallways or loiter near dressing room doors. This is to ensure a respectful and comfortable environment for all athletes and to maintain the integrity of the private space. Respectful distance should be maintained at all times to protect the comfort and privacy of all athletes.

#### 5. Female Coaching Staff Access, Supervision, and Player Safety

Female team staff or coaches are permitted to enter the dressing room to assist players with equipment if needed, provided the Rule of Two is followed. This allowance supports both player development and logistical needs while maintaining compliance with safe sport standards. Team staff are expected to monitor player conduct and intervene if any inappropriate behavior occurs.

#### 6. Team Personnel Access Post-Dressing

All team personnel (including coaches, assistant coaches, and managers) are permitted to enter the dressing room once all players are fully dressed. This ensures player privacy while allowing the team to conduct pre-game talks, post-game discussions, or other team-related activities within the dressing room environment.

#### 7. Monitoring and Enforcement

The responsibility for enforcing dressing room access lies with team staff, such as coaches and managers. NWRA encourages proactive and ongoing communication of this policy to parents/guardians at initial team meetings each season.

#### 8. Addressing Violations

Should a parent/guardian or other individual fail to adhere to the dressing room policy, team personnel or managers may address the issue directly. Persistent violations may be escalated to the NWRA board, which will evaluate the situation and take appropriate actions to ensure compliance.

*\*PLEASE NOTE: Policy subject to change at discretion of NWRA board\**