



# Dressing Room Policy

## REVISION SUMMARY

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|----|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1A | Issued for <b>Implementation</b> | 2020-03-01 |
| 2A | Updated                          | 2022-10-04 |
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# 1. PURPOSE

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

Dressing rooms are a restricted area for 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 Team Staff. Parents, siblings, friends and other persons should not infringe upon the dressing room privacy of players as they dress and prepare for a game or after a game.

The following rules will govern conduct in the dressing room:

## 1.1. DEFINITION

Dressing Room as referenced in this policy is defined as a general player dressing room, referee change room, unassigned change room, or any multi-purpose type room with a closing door.

Team Staff is defined as adult screened (criminal record check) Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, Trainer, and Manager. Junior Coaches are not designated team staff and cannot be considered for policy compliance.

## 1.2. ACCESS

- Access to the dressing room is limited to Airdrie Ringette Association (ARA) criminal record checked Team Staff (Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, Trainer and Manager) and ARA Board of Directors. Without exception, at least one member of the Team Staff present in the dressing room must be a Team Designated Adult Female, as per Ringette Alberta's Female on the Bench requirement. Additional female team volunteers are permitted in the change room with prior approval from the Team Staff.
- 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 noted above. If there are no separate dressing rooms available, the Team 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.

- 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 privacy issues, traffic through these areas presents a safety hazard. In cases where siblings are present, they will also be required to act in a respectful way and adhere to the same rules and guidelines our players are subject to.

### **1.3. PARENTAL ENTRY**

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 Team Designated Female, and such entry must be announced to the players in advance and fall within the following guidelines:

- U10 Active Start, Step 1, and Step 2 parents and guardians will have full access to the dressing room.
- U10 Step 3, U12 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 communal areas of the arena or at home prior to entering the dressing room.
- 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 Team Staff (rather than parents), provided this can be accomplished in a manner that ensures protective equipment is properly and safely secured.

### **1.4. MALE TEAM STAFF ACCESS**

- Male Team Staff are permitted into the dressing room prior to and immediately following a game and/or practice but must be accompanied by a Team Designated Female. Prior to entry, a Team Designated Adult Female must first ensure that all players are completely dressed and must announce the Coaches entering in advance.
- To safeguard the interests of both players and Team Staff, under no circumstances should a player and male Team Staff, be alone in a dressing room facility without a female parent, guardian or Team Designated Adult Female being present.
- At all times an open and observable environment should be maintained for all interactions between adults and athletes. Private, or one-on-one situations should be avoided. Where/when needed move such a meeting to an open and observable location if the meeting inadvertently begins in private.

### **1.5. EXCEPTIONS**

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.

## 1.6. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Technology advancements have allowed cell phones, PDA's, etc. to carry new functions, such as cameras that allow users to secretly photograph objects in front of them while appearing to dial a number. The potential exists for inappropriate behavior of camera phone users photographing others undressing and/or showering in the dressing rooms. An individual's privacy, and the potential danger of violating it, is something that the ARA takes very seriously. Therefore, the following policy will take effect immediately:

- The use of any form of electronic device capable of capturing photographs is prohibited in any recreational facility dressing room during any ARA sanctioned event.
- iPods or similar music playing devices that do not have cameras may be utilized for the sole purpose of playing music in the dressing room.
- Serial or repeat offenders are subject to possible ARA sanction, including, but not limited to, loss of team locker room privileges. This behavior will **NOT** be tolerated.

Players shall leave any such devices with a family member/guardian until the player has left the room after a game or practice. If a family member/guardian should need their device to take a phone call, such phone call must take place outside the dressing room.

## 1.7. OTHER RULES

1. All dressing room facilities should be locked and secured when teams are on the ice.
2. Voices are to be kept at a reasonable level. No screaming or yelling.
3. No graffiti or vandalism of any sort to dressing rooms will be tolerated.
4. Swearing or rude language of any kind is not acceptable in the dressing room.
5. Fighting, badmouthing, abuse, harassment and/or bullying will not be tolerated and will be dealt with under the ARA Discipline and Complaints Policy.
6. There will be **NO** alcohol, tobacco, or cannabis (chew, cigarettes, pipes, cigars, or vaping devices) in the dressing rooms. Illegal drugs are strictly prohibited.
7. The dressing room must be left in a clean and tidy state. It is the responsibility of the Coach to ensure this is done
8. The Head Coach and Team Staff should discuss and communicate expectations of the dressing room to both parents and players in advance of the season.
9. As per the City of Airdrie policy all arena dressing rooms are to be vacated within 30 minutes following any game or practice.
10. The City of Airdrie policy also states that there should be no team meetings held before or after a practice/game in the dressing rooms, if a meeting room is required, bookings can be made via email to [rentals@airdrie.ca](mailto:rentals@airdrie.ca) or via phone to : 403.948.8804 ext. 5523.

All members of the Airdrie Ringette Association are always expected to adhere to this policy.