

## **ERC Safety Policy**

### **1. Rule of Two**

The vast majority of abuse incidents occur in isolated, one-on-one situations with a minor athlete. This procedure is intended to remove that risk by ensuring that there are always two adult supervisors in any team setting. This also protects coaches and parents from wrongful accusations which may also arise in some situations.

- All team activities require a minimum of two adults when interacting or supervising a minor athlete or athletes.
- All interactions with a minor athlete need to be done in an area and in a manner that they can be observed and interrupted.
- If two team representatives (coaches, assistant coaches, managers) are not available, then a parent or parents should remain in the area so the team representative is not alone. It is acceptable for the 2nd person to be within earshot and view of the person involved in a one-on-one interaction with the minor athlete.
- Males (coaches, dads, etc) are not permitted in the dressing room while the athletes are changing. Athletes are expected to have skates tied outside the dressing room, or tie skates themselves.
- Coaches (in groups of 2 or more), whether males or females, are permitted in dressing rooms for pre and post game discussions provided the athletes are not changing.
- The exception to this procedure would be in case of a medical emergency.

NB: This policy applies to on-ice and off-ice team functions (dressing room discussions, social events, tournament hotel supervision, etc...)

### **2. Cell Phones/electronic devices in Dressing Rooms**

- Due to the potential for cellular phones and electronic devices to be used as a photographic device, their use is prohibited in all restrooms and change room areas.
- Patrons and athletes may use these devices in other public areas but must adhere to restrictions regarding photography and videotaping.
- If an athlete's family requests that the athlete keep a phone/device for a legitimate reason, the phone should be turned off and stored while in the dressing room
- The single exception is the use of one device to play team music – any other use is potentially grounds for discipline.
- The Edmonton Ringette Club has adopted this policy that reflects the concern for privacy and the need to protect children from online bullying and abuse. Additionally, it is intended to support coaches in their efforts to have the athletes interact with one another while participating in the sport.

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