**A horse head with green mane

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**Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices**

**Intent**

With the advancement of certain technology allowing cell phones and personal digital devices to have the capability to offer functions such as cameras, video recording, and voice recording that allows users the opportunity to secretly photograph or record objects or persons without consent, the potential exists for inappropriate behavior of camera phone users photographing or recording others in potentially compromising positions while in the dressing rooms. The potential danger of violating an individual’s privacy will not be tolerated by the MLMHA.

Cellphones and other electronic devices with recording capabilities (audio or video), have increased the risk of bullying, abuse, and misconduct. The ability to take and share photos, videos, and recordings without others’ knowledge has raised concerns from Meadow Lake Minor Hockey and its Members.

**Procedures**

1. The use of any form of camera, video camera, camera phone, voice recorder, tablet, or any other digital accessory that is capable of photo, video, or voice recording is prohibited in any recreational facility change rooms, on the players bench, or on the ice during any MLMHA sanctioned event.
2. Players and/or coaches are not to wear microphones while in the dressing room, on the player’s bench, or on the ice without the express permission of the MLMHA Board.
3. Players are not to wear any form of helmet communication system during any games or practices.
4. In the event that an individual is required to take a phone call, they should remove themselves from the bench area until they have finished their business provided there are other team officials remaining on the bench.
5. The privacy and dignity of our players is our first priority. Any incident involving the violation of another’s personal privacy (e.g. the taking of unauthorized photos or videos) through the use of such a device as stated above will result in immediate discipline to any persons involved at the discretion of the Coach and/or MLMHA Disciplinary Committee and may result in suspension of practice, games, and other sanctioned events of Meadow Lake Minor Hockey.
6. For successive violations discipline may include lengthy suspensions from team activities such as regular season games, tournaments and exhibition play, and playoffs at the discretion of the Coach and/or MLMHA Disciplinary Committee which would include the player not being in the dressing room or on the bench until all suspensions are served.
7. All major violations as considered by the Coach will result in a meeting of the player, their parents, the Coach, and the MLMHA Disciplinary Committee or ethics committee of the boards choosing to discuss further repercussions.

**Exceptions**

Although the use of electronic devices is prohibited as stated above, Meadow Lake Minor Hockey recognizes that there are special circumstances where the use of an electronic device may be practical:

* It may be acceptable to take photographs or recordings in a locker room in such unique circumstances as a victory celebration, team party, etc., where all persons in the dressing room are appropriately dressed, have been advised that photographs or recordings are being taken, and consent;
* It may be acceptable for a team to have a designated coach or player to operate an electronic device for music playing purposes in the dressing room. The electronic device must be on airplane mode, if applicable, and only used for this purpose;
* In the event of an emergency;
* Any other situation where express permission has been granted from the MLMHA Board.

**Considering the vulnerability of minors and the seriousness of an adult (parent, volunteer, etc.) using an electronic device which has the ability to take photos and recordings inside a dressing room, any violation of this Policy by an adult shall result in an indefinite suspension pending a hearing with the MLMHA Disciplinary Committee to determine disciplinary action.**

**In all circumstances where this policy has been violated and/or a complaint has been received, a team representative must notify the Board of any disciplinary action taken for review.**