

## SMRA Dressing Room Policy

### Purpose

This policy sets out general standards and guidance to members to ensure that all change rooms used by SMRA are safe, inclusive, and equitable environments for all ringette athletes. Change rooms are team spaces, and all members of the team should feel comfortable and be able to use these team spaces.

It is SMRA policy that there shall be no bullying, harassment or abuse permitted whether physical, emotional, or sexual of any participants in any of the SMRA Programs. SMRA expects every parent, coach, volunteer, and staff member to safeguard the welfare of all ringette athletes.

Individuals who breach any part of these rules may be subject to SMRA Discipline Policy.

### Restrictions on Access

#### 1. General

As a general principle, and access to the Dressing Rooms should be confined to Players and Bench Staff (see parental access below). Dressing rooms should be a restricted area for the exclusive use of ringette players to change into their equipment and uniforms, share the team experience, and receive team briefing.

#### 2. Female Person in Authority

**It is mandatory that SMRA teams consisting of female athletes have a female Member of Bench Staff available to participate or attend every interaction in the Dressing Room.**

#### 3. Male Coaches Access

No male coaches are permitted in female dressing rooms while players are dressing or undressing, and no male players are permitted in the female dressing rooms when other changing options are available. Male coaches and players may enter the dressing room for pre-game or post-game routines after being given the all-clear by the female Bench Staff Member.

## 4. Parental Access

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

- a) FUN1, FUN2 age group 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.

## Ensuring Privacy and Safety

### 1. Rule of Two Guidance

The following key principles of the Ringette Ontario Rule of Two Guidance apply to this dressing room policy:

- 1–on–1 interaction between a coach and an athlete, without another individual present, either in private or public spaces, **must be avoided in all circumstances except medical emergencies**. A second Person in Authority should be present for all necessary interactions
- If the athlete is the first athlete to arrive, **the athlete’s parent should remain until another athlete or second Person in Authority arrives**.

### 2. Supervision of Minors (Under 18)

If Persons in Authority are not present inside the locker room or changing area, or if they are not permitted to be present, they should still be available in reasonable proximity to the locker room or changing area, and be able to enter the room or area in the event of an emergency.

### 3. Minimum levels of attire

It is strongly recommended that all athletes wear certain “minimum attire” at all times in the change room. This means that:

- athletes should arrive at the rink wearing a base layer (e.g., shorts and t-shirt, compression shorts and shirt or sports bra).
- An athlete not arriving at the rink wearing their base layer can use an appropriate space (e.g., restroom or empty/unused change room) to change into the base layer and then enter the team change room with the other athletes.

#### 4. Use of recording devices, cameras

The use of cameras, video cameras, phone cameras, or other recording devices of any kind, in changing rooms, or any arena facilities where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, is **prohibited**.

#### 5. Additional Change Room Requests

However, if a player identifies a need for particular facilities (such as requesting separate change facilities), then every reasonable attempt will be made to accommodate. A request for alternative accommodation may be made at any time and should be dealt with by the Team Manager in consultation with the player, coach arena management, following guidance set out in Ringette Ontario Equality and Access Policy.

## Player Behaviour

The following rules apply to SMRA players home and away:

- Players must comply with all aspects of Ringette Ontario Hazing, Harassment and Bullying policies
- Voices and music will be kept to a reasonable level.
- No graffiti or vandalism or any sort to walls, benches, bathrooms or showers;
- Fighting, bad-mouthing and general abuse of fellow players will be given zero tolerance;
- No alcohol or tobacco;
- All dressing rooms will be left as clean as when occupied.

## Security of Valuables

Where possible Dressing Rooms should be left locked when players are on the ice, but in any circumstance valuable items should not be left in Dressing Rooms. Players should ensure that valuable items are given to parents/guardians before going on the ice.