

# Policy 19. Dressing Rooms

*Reviewed by: Devon Brown*

## **Current Policy**

Dorchester Minor Hockey Association believes in accommodating all genders in the sport of hockey. DMHA attempts to balance accommodation with the safety, privacy, modesty and wishes of ALL members without compromising the aspects of respect, camaraderie, social integration and bonding inherent in a team sport. Dorchester Minor Hockey

Association coaches must ensure that all team members, regardless of gender or gender identity, have equal access to pre and post activity team sessions and to all team related activities. The head coach of each team must inform players and parents of this policy and of the requirement for respect, equal access and accommodation of all genders at the start of the season and shall create a mutually agreeable and cooperative plan of action and accommodation for teams with mixed genders or gender identities. Dorchester Minor Hockey

Association permits and provides mixed gender dressing rooms at all levels up to and including Atom, and requires that participants either arrive dressed in their equipment and/or wearing, at a minimum, shorts or long underwear and a shirt (no tank tops), all of which must be in good condition and without holes/tears, at all times while in the dressing room. The Flight Exec Centre does have female only washrooms/change rooms if necessary. At the Pee wee level and above, the head coach is responsible for developing, with input from bench staff, parents and players, a fair and reasonable dressing room plan that addresses respect, equal access and accommodation of all genders and gender identities on the team. The executive

## **Updated Policy**

DMHA and its members are responsible for the reasonable safety and wellbeing of all minor athletes under the Age of Majority according to Provincial and Territorial Legislation. In Ontario the Age of Majority is eighteen (18) years old.

Athletes are to be supervised at all times.

No minor aged player shall be left alone in a room with an adult who is not the player's parent or guardian.

When an adult presence is required in a closed room (i.e. dressing room) there shall always be at least two (2) adults present at all times.

At the U12 level and above, females shall not be permitted access to a dressing room occupied by male players and/or coaches unless all players and coaches are fully dressed. Female players at the U12 level and above shall change in a separate room alone or under the supervision of their own parent(s) or guardian(s) and may not enter the team's dressing room unless they themselves and all persons in the dressing room are fully clothed.

Cell phones, video or photography equipment should never be allowed in the shower/dressing rooms while players are undressed or changing. Where special events (i.e. team picture, championships, etc.) lend themselves to this equipment, the players must be appropriately clothed. The privacy and dignity of the players is the first priority.

shall assist with such a plan where requested or necessary. Such a plan shall include a reasonable amount of time before and after a game or practice during which all team members are fully dressed in the same room for the purpose of instruction and team preparation. Dorchester Minor Hockey Association recognizes the physical limitations of some facilities and encourages members to work with cooperatively and respectfully with local facility management to ensure that appropriate changing facilities are available to all genders. Each head coach will provide or designate supervision at all team functions, including in the dressing room, on the ice, and any other location where the team requires its members to be in attendance. At no time are players to be left unsupervised. The head coach and bench staff will ensure that there are two bench staff present in the dressing room, or immediately outside an open dressing room.

The team officials and parent/guardian representatives of every team shall ensure that the dressing room doors remain closed while players and coaches are changing.

Damage to dressing rooms will not be tolerated whether on our home rinks or while visiting rinks. Any individuals or teams found guilty of such an offence will be required to make full financial restitution and will face a further disciplinary action by DMHA.

At the U10 level and up, only coaches, team officials and players are allowed into the dressing rooms and hallway of the arenas used by DMHA both for home and away games, except in the case of female dressing rooms. In special circumstances a parent and/or guardian may be allowed in the dressing room area but only with the coach's permission.

Board and Membership Feedback: