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MINNESOTA HOCKEY

SUGGESTED PROVISIONS FOR ASSOCIATION OR TEAM LOCKER ROOM MONITORING RULES AND POLICIES

Background. In June 2010 the USA Hockey Board of Directors with a nearly unanimous vote adopted a policy mandating locker room monitoring for all USA Hockey youth teams, including teams of all USA Hockey affiliates. The policy originated with the Coaching Section and the Risk Management Committee, and was supported by the Legal Council. The rule simply provides that teams "...have at least one responsible adult present directly monitoring the locker room during all team events..." USA Hockey 2010-11 Annual Guide, p. 35. The details of how to implement the rule were left to the affiliates and the teams to determine.

Suggested Policies and Rules. This policy has given rise to numerous questions and possible interpretations. The MN Hockey Board of Directors recommends that the rules adopted by each local association or team include the following provisions:

1. The "responsible adult" can be the coach, but it might be more practical to add the team manager and/or selected team parents. Coaches have many tasks, and are not always in the locker room. Suggest choosing several parents to be certain every team event is covered.
2. "Responsible adults" should be of sufficient maturity (an early twenty-something is not mature enough to supervise a bantam locker room).
3. All locker room monitors must be screened in accordance with the MN Hockey Screening Policy. Screening involves no cost to the affiliate.
4. The locker room monitors should be carefully chosen, and understand that their role is strictly supervision of the locker room. The non-coach locker room monitors are not coaches and should not attempt to be such.
5. The locker room monitors must be gender correct.
6. "All team events" means both games and practices, and monitoring is required whenever players are in the locker room. The staff must come early and stay late.
7. The locker room monitors must be physically in the locker room. One cannot supervise from the hallway. This applies even if other parents are in the locker room to assist a player with his or her equipment.

8. All recording devices should be banned from the locker room, including cell phones and cameras.
9. At a minimum the locker room monitors' specific duties should include:
 - a. Responsibility for locker room security, including allowing only team-authorized persons to enter the room and locking the room when the team is on the ice. Responsibility for the locker room key.
 - b. Collecting and safeguarding any cell phones or other recording devices brought by players.
 - c. Being in the locker room at all times when a coach is in the room with a single player.

Questions? Comments? Your District Director or Bruce Kruger, Risk Manager, Minnesota District, USA Hockey. 763-478-4671 or kruger444@hotmail.com