**Ozaukee Youth Hockey Association**

**LOCKER ROOM SUPERVISION POLICY**

USA Hockey has adopted new rules for participating hockey clubs to improve locker room security, supervision and behavior. OYHA is also committed to the safety of our youth players in all hockey activities. Consistent with that commitment, OYHA has adopted and approved USA Hockey’s locker room supervision policy, with the additional requirements set forth below.

***Restatement of USA Hockey Policy***

USA Hockey is concerned with locker room activities between minor players; minor players and adult players; adults being alone with individual minor players in locker rooms; and with non-official or non-related adults having unsupervised access to minor participants at sanctioned team events.

It is the policy of USA Hockey that all affiliates, districts, leagues, and local hockey programs have at least one responsible adult present directly monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. Any individual meetings with a minor participant and a coach in a locker room shall require a responsible adult be with the coach.

Further, responsible adults must personally monitor the locker room environment at all times while participants are present.

***OYHA Statement of Policy***

Locker room supervision is primarily the responsibility of the Team Coach(es). Each Team Coach has completed the USA Hockey background check requirements; and therefore meets the requirements for being a responsible adult. They are also the individuals with the access and authority to ensure the safety and security of our youth players, and to enforce appropriate locker room behavior.

Team Coaches should regularly check into their team’s locker room before and after all practices and games to ensure that appropriate behavior is exhibited by the players at all times. We encourage coaches to remain in the locker rooms during these times, but at a minimum a Team Coach should regularly and personally check the locker room for appropriate behavior.

Further, Team Coaches should not allow unauthorized adults to be in the locker room or the locker room area at any time. Parents or family members are permitted to help out in the locker rooms, especially at the younger ages. However, at pee wees, bantams, U14 and above, we encourage that only Team Coaches and players be allowed in the locker rooms. **If adults that you do not know are in the locker room area, please ask them to leave immediately and report the situation to Rink Management.**

It is encouraged that at least one Team Coach remain at the rink until all players have left the locker room and a parent or other authorized adult has claimed them. Team Coaches should also take care to have a parent attend any individual meetings with a player. It is also recommended that a Team Coach include an assistant coach or manager in any individual meeting with a player and his/her parents to help avoid any misunderstandings. Prudence and caution are encouraged to prevent difficult situations or even any appearance of inappropriate conduct.

As all OYHA participants know, our rink operations are extremely busy and time is critical. As a result, all teams will be required to be completely clear of their locker room within 20 minutes following completion of their game or practice. This will allow time before the next team(s) will need locker room access. We ask for everyone’s cooperation in this effort.