

PIHO: MALES/FEMALES/MINORS DRESSING ROOM POLICY

We have received additional guidance from USA Hockey and the Mid-Am District on how to handle situations in which members of opposite genders are using or have access to the same dressing room facilities.

Some rinks in the area have been directing female players to dress in the officials' dressing room. These rinks are being directed to stop this practice and establish separate, clearly-marked dressing rooms for female players and female officials. However, this is not always feasible due to space limitations or other issues at the facility.

It is recommended that all officials knock and announce themselves before entering a dressing room where there may be a member of the opposite gender getting dressed. If a person of the opposite gender responds, or if you open the door and see a person of the opposite gender in the room, DO NOT ENTER THE ROOM. This prohibition applies even if you are "passing through" the dressing room to get to your own. Find another route to your dressing room or wait until the person has vacated the room before entering. It is not appropriate for persons of the opposite gender to get dressed and/or undressed in the same dressing room at a hockey rink, with the exception of spouses (assuming there are no other officials in the room). This is a SafeSport violation.

If you are assigned to a game with an adult official of the opposite gender, do not dress in the same room at the same time as that official. You should either find a separate dressing room, or, if there is only one official's room, take turns: the first official will dress fully and leave the room, and then the adult official of opposite gender will enter and fully dress. Once both adult officials are fully dressed, they can be in the same room together to hold their pre-game meeting.

If you are assigned to a game with an official under the age of 18, do not dress in the same room at the same time as that official. In this case, you have three (3) options for getting dressed:

1. Find a separate dressing room.
2. If a separate room is not available, take turns: the first official will dress fully and leave the room, and then the minor official will enter and fully dress.
3. Ask the minor official's parent or guardian to stay in the room while both officials dress (unless the only available parent/guardian is of the opposite gender).

Once both the adult and minor officials are fully dressed, they can be in the same room together to hold their pre-game meeting; HOWEVER, you should prop the dressing room door open. Alternatively, you may request that the minor's parent/guardian (of any gender) join you in the dressing room at this time. Do not put yourself in a one-on-one situation with a minor behind a closed door. This is a SafeSport violation.

As a general rule, use common sense to avoid putting yourself or another person in a compromising position that could result in allegations of misconduct (regardless of the truth or falsity of such allegations).

If you have any questions concerning male/female or adult/minor dressing room interactions or policies, please contact Mid-Am SafeSport Coordinator Todd Naylor via e-mail: gerri4jacob@gmail.com.