

U.S. Figure Skating Changing Room Policy

U.S. Figure Skating requires that Local Organizing Committees (LOCs) attach a changing room policy to the sanction application for all U.S. Figure Skating sanctioned events where changing rooms will be available to minor competitors. A model policy is provided below and may be modified by the LOC to meet its specific needs and facilities. The LOC's policy shall include the club or competition's (a) practices for supervising and monitoring changing rooms; (b) permission or lack of permission for coaches and/or chaperones to be in the locker rooms; (c) prohibited conduct, including at least all forms of abuse and misconduct prohibited by U.S. Figure Skating; and (d) specific policies regarding the use of mobile electronic devices and phones and prohibiting the use of a device's recording capabilities.

The Skating Club of Vail's and Vail Invitational Changing Room Policy

In addition to the development of our skaters and the enjoyment of the sport of figure skating, the safety and protection of our participants is central to The Skating Club of Vail's goals. The Skating Club of Vail and Vail Invitational adheres to U.S. Figure Skating's SafeSport Program as a means to help protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing. To ensure that steps are being taken to provide a safe environment for all skaters, The Skating Club of Vail and Vail Invitational has adopted the following changing room policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy and to provide a safe environment in the changing rooms.

At the Vail Invitational there will be changing rooms available for the competitors' use. [Each of the changing rooms has its own restroom/shares a restroom with one or more locker rooms]. These changing rooms will be gender specific for boys and girls. Because The Vail Invitational will have many competitors with limited changing room space, we encourage competitors to use the changing rooms for changing only, and to utilize other public spaces for other purposes.

Changing Room Monitoring

The LOC at The Vail Invitational will monitor the changing room areas periodically throughout the competition to ensure that competitors are abiding by the policy. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make some competitors uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

The LOC will identify monitors to be posted directly outside of the changing rooms whenever possible, so that only competitors and credentialed coaches and family members are permitted in the locker room.

Parents in Changing Rooms

Except for competitors who are under the age of [specific age groups may be included here], we discourage parents from entering changing rooms unless it is truly necessary. We recognize that the youngest competitors rely on parents to assist them in getting dressed, applying makeup, styling hair and other preparatory activities; however, we encourage parents to complete these activities as expeditiously as possible and to only remain in the changing room for the time necessary to complete these activities.

Coaches

Coaches are expected to abide by the U.S. Figure Skating Handbook at all times:

- Any individual meeting should occur when others are present and where interactions can be easily observed.
- Where possible, an individual meeting should take place in a publicly visible and open area, such as the corner of the arena.
- If an individual meeting is to take place in an office or a locker room, the door should remain unlocked and open.
- If a closed-door meeting is necessary, the coach should inform another coach, staff member and/or volunteer and ensure the door remains unlocked.

Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are prohibited from being used in the changing rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the changing room.

Competitors, coaches and chaperones will be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these changing room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the U.S. Figure Skating SafeSport Policies.

To report any actual or suspected violations in immediate situations, notify the chief referee or the LOC chair for the competition. If the situation does not require immediate intervention, please make a report to U.S. Figure Skating by email at SafeSport@usfigureskating.org.