Worcester RFC

Youth Changing Room Policy

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YOUTH CHANGING ROOM POLICY

Introduction

This policy is designed to establish good practice within the Club around the use of changing rooms by children (Under 18s) thus ensuring that the safeguarding of these children is treated as being of paramount importance. The policy draws heavily on the England Rugby Safeguarding Children Policy which specifically addresses key areas including:

- The use of changing rooms by children and open age adults
- Access by adults to changing rooms being used by children
- Action to be taken when the changing room block is being used by children and adults on the same day
- Action to be taken where a disability requires significant support from a parent or carer

Under the Policy are some additional guidance notes designed to give clarity on issues including:

- The use of changing rooms for the Colts and Girls U18 teams where players may include those both over and under the age of 18
- The use of the changing room block by both boys and girls teams
- The use of the changing room toilets

The Policy

Adults and children must never use the same changing or wash room facilities at a venue to shower or change at the same time. The exception to this is when a 17 year old is playing in the adult game. In these circumstances they should be offered the choice of having a separate changing room and showers or using the same facilities as the team.

Adults must only enter children's changing rooms by themselves when absolutely necessary due to poor behaviour, injury or illness, or in an emergency and when waiting for another adult could result in harm to a child.

If children need supervising in changing rooms, or coaches or managers need to carry out a range of tasks in that environment this must involve two individuals cleared to work in Regulated Activity of the same gender as the children. For mixed gender activities separate changing and wash room facilities should be available.

If the same changing and wash room facilities must be used by adults and children on the same day a clear timetable should be established. No pressure should be placed on children who feel uncomfortable changing or showering with others; if this is the case they should be allowed to shower and change at home.

Where a disability requires significant support from a parent or carer, the child concerned and their parents/carers should decide how they should be assisted to change or shower. Before any assistance is offered by another person, appropriate consent should be given by a parent/carer and the child themselves if they are of sufficient maturity to consent.

(England Rugby Safeguarding Children Policy)

Additional Guidance Notes

- For clarity Colts (U17 to U19) and Girls U18 (U16 to U18) are expected to share one changing room per team.

- The changing rooms comply with Sport England regulations. Each room has it's own showers and it is not possible look into the room without entering. It is acceptable for boys and girls to use the changing room block at the same time in different rooms. However when this is necessary consideration should be given to further safeguarding measures where practical. For instance locking the door between changing rooms 1&2 from the rest of the block thus keeping separate access points. **N.B. the door between changing rooms 3&4 and 5&6 is a fire door and must not be locked under any circumstances.**

- As recognised in the policy, there will be times when it necessary for coaches, cleared to work in Regulated Activity to enter a changing room when children are present. However the Club encourages coaches to do so only when this is necessary and not merely desirable. Therefore coaches are encouraged not give team talks / debriefs to players in the changing rooms.

- While it may be acceptable for an adult to use the changing room toilets whilst children are changing we do discourage this. However, it is recognised that there may be circumstances when this is the only option available, for example when the clubhouse is closed.

SC 10/2023