

PALOS ORLAND SWIM ASSOCIATION LOCKER ROOM & LOCKER ROOM MONITORING POLICY

The Board of Directors has adopted this policy concerning locker rooms and locker room monitoring procedure. Locker room policies are not required by the USA Swimming's Safe Sport Program, but POSA has determined to implement one derived from resources provided by USA Swimming.

PURPOSE

The following guidelines are designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct or poor perceptions POSA, its swimmers, coaches and volunteers in locker rooms and changing areas.

FACILITIES

The following is a description of our practice and competition facilities to allow athletes and their families to plan their use:

We practice at Carl Sandburg High School Pool, 13100 LaGrange Rd, Orland Park, Illinois. Although access may be available from other areas at the high school, our access shall be through the doors accessed from the back parking lot on the west side of the high school (off of 131st Street). These doors provide access to the south end of the hallway adjacent to the pool.

This location has public restrooms accessible through the hallway adjacent to the pool. The use of public restrooms is intended for parents, visitors, students and the general public. The public restrooms are shared with the general public. As such, there are likely to be people who are not associated with POSA in these restrooms around the time of practice. Families should consider this aspect at all times since we know that siblings (often times younger ones) will accompany a parent to practice.

Only swimmers should utilize the locker rooms for changing. The locker rooms are situated on each side of the hallway into the pool. Entry to the locker rooms is available from the hallway and from the pool deck. Each locker room contains stalls (and urinals for men), sink areas, showers and equipment for partially drying swimsuits. We do not provide locks, towels, soap or other bathing items. In warmer months, we prefer that swimmers arrive dressed to swim and leave to shower or clean up at home except when needed, but some swimmers arrive from other locations and must change. During the colder months of the year, swimmers typically arrive dressed to swim but many need time to change into their swimwear. Regardless, our swimmers will use the locker rooms regularly.

The locker rooms are not changing areas for anyone other than swimmers and they are not to be utilized by anyone other than swimmers. Swimmers' use of locker rooms is intended to be swift. Get in and get on deck, or get in and get out to travel home. Swimmers' lingering in the locker rooms will be encouraged to speed things along.

Please note: USA Swimming article 202.2.9.I Changing into or out of swimsuits other than in locker rooms or other designated areas is prohibited. Deck Change is defined as changing, in whole or in part, into or out of a swimsuit (excluding a drag suit) in an area other than a permanent or temporary locker room, bathroom, changing room or other space designated for changing purposes while at a practice, competition, or other pool-related activity.

MONITORING

POSA DOES NOT monitor locker rooms through the stationing of an individual in the locker rooms. POSA does not promise or warrant that the locker rooms are secure from theft or that articles will not be lost. Swimmers should only come to practice with their swim gear when possible.

General Policy Considerations

Coaches and staff make every effort to recognize when an athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and competition and, if they do not return in a timely fashion, we will check on the athlete's whereabouts. A swimmer leaving the water for the locker room or changing area must ask the coach first. It is impossible to record these instances, but this request allows for a better awareness.

Parents should not enter the locker rooms. If it is truly necessary to inquire about your child, then the parent should let the coach know and a coach will enter the locker room but only for the limited, specific purpose (and time needed) for which they entered.

If an athlete needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear, or an athlete's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents use the hallway bathrooms to assist their child.

POSA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g. immediately before and following practices and meets). The Board of Directors believes that constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas could be the most effective way to prevent problems, but it believes more strongly that our swimmers have a track record of behaving well and that constant monitoring would make swimmers uncomfortable and may even place our staff or volunteers at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

POSA also has staggered practices, with different groups arriving and departing throughout the night. We share these locker rooms with swimming, diving and water polo athletes in the high school program and their use may precede or follow our use. Indeed, their use may even overlap. It is therefore not practical to constantly monitor locker rooms and changing areas over this extended course of time with varied use. While we do not post staff, coaches, parents, or other adults inside or at the doors of the locker rooms and changing areas, we do make occasional sweeps of these areas. Staff, coaches, parents, or other adults conduct these sweeps, with women checking on female locker rooms, and men checking on male locker rooms.

USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE RECORDING DEVICES

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras increase the risk for different forms of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas. **The USA Swimming Athlete Protection Policies prohibit the use of such devices in the locker room or other changing area:**

305.3 Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone camera, is not allowed in changing areas, rest rooms or locker rooms.

POSA prohibits the use of mobile devices with recording capability in locker rooms. This absolutely applies to cell phones even if the person is not using the photo, video or other recording device. Please understand that the actual use of a photo, video or other recording device can violate state law and

school policies and lead to serious consequences. Your child should be specifically advised that cell phones are not things that they require at practice. Further, if they bring one it needs to remain in a gym bag the entire time until that swimmer leaves the locker room. In order to avoid difficulty with this national policy, please insure that all swimmers are aware NOT to use any function on any mobile or recording device whatsoever while in a locker room.