

## **Mendocino Coast Sea Dragons (MCS D) Locker Room Monitoring Policy**

### **PURPOSE**

The following guidelines are designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas.

### **FACILITIES**

We practice at the CV Starr Center and at the Mendocino Sports Club when the CV Starr Center is unavailable. These locations have locker rooms at each facility. Both have a changing area that is shared with the general public. As such, there are likely to be people who are not associated with MCS D in the changing area around the time of practice.

### **MONITORING**

#### **General Policy**

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.

We discourage parents from entering locker rooms and changing areas unless it is truly necessary. In those instances, it should only be a same-sex parent. If this is necessary, parents should let the coach or administrator know about this in advance.

If an athlete needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear (for example, a child under the age of eight), or an athlete's disability warrants assistance, then we ask parents to notify the coach or a Board Member beforehand that they will be helping the athlete.

MCS D has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., immediately before and following practices). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. 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 swimmers uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

The team staff conducts a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before athletes arrive, and they conduct regular sweeps inside locker rooms as well, with women checking on female locker rooms, and men checking on male locker rooms. Additionally, the CV Starr pool staff also regularly monitors the locker room areas.

Any misbehavior in the locker area is dealt with according to our team discipline policies and procedures as outlined in our Team Handbook.

#### **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.*

Additionally, the use of cell phones and other recording devices in the locker rooms is strictly prohibited at both sites where we practice.