



VTMHA Team Officials Communication/Locker Room Policy

The intent of the VTMHA Team Officials Communication Policy is to generate recommended guidelines for team officials in regards to communication with their teams. Team Officials should always abide by the 'Two-Deep' method for all communication and activities, whereby at least one other rostered team official and/or a parent is included in communications which should only communicate message about hockey, scheduling and logistics. With regards to electronic forms of communication the "Two-Deep" policy would result in, no private messages and no one-on-one direct contact through Facebook messages, Twitter, direct messaging, Skype, chats, instant messaging (including but not limited to Google Messenger, AIM, and the like) or other similar messaging features provided through social media sites.

Specific Recommendations for Coaches

- Telephone
 - It is strongly recommended coaches should not engage in telephone conversations with only a player. Any telephone conversation with a player should include a parent/guardian as part of the conversation.
- Text Message
 - It is strongly recommended coaches do not communicate with players by text message.
 - In certain situations it may be appropriate for players to communicate with coaches for informational purposes only (i.e. player cannot make practice, player is sick).
 - In this case it would be appropriate for a coach to confirm receipt of message, but not to engage in any conversation over the topic via text message.
- Email
 - It is strongly recommended coaches engage in email communications with players only when parents are included.
- Social Media
 - Facebook
 - Coaches should not be 'Friends' with any players on Facebook.
 - It would be acceptable for a team to have a 'Facebook Group' for their team. Players, parents, coaches, and members of the VTMHA Social Media committee are required to be members of such a group.
 - Twitter



- Coaches should not communicate with any player via 'direct messaging'.
- Coaches should only tweet appropriate communications.

Specific Recommendations for Managers

- It is recommended Team managers communicate as much as possible with the VTMHA's website team management function, or another approved team management communication tool for communicating scheduling, logistics and communications to their team.
- When communicating via email team Managers should ensure parents are copied on any and all communications.
- Team managers should abide by the notes in the coaches communication recommendations for social media as much as possible.

Specific Recommendations for Team Safety People (HCSP)

- Due to the potentially sensitive personal information and material HCSP people should never communicate directly with a player. Where ever possible they should communicate directly with parents, and/or abide by the two-deep method at all times.

Personal and Contact Information

- All team officials are only permitted to share contact information within the team or for VTMHA/league purposes.



Locker Room Policy

Dressing Room

Players should be supervised at all times. A lone personnel member should never be in the dressing room with players at any time, and especially when they are showering or changing: two (2) adults should be present together; which is called the “Two Deep Method” of supervision.

Injury Treatment

The safety person should avoid treating injuries out of sight of others. Use the “Two Deep Method” (two adults) supervision system.

Female Teams

Recommend that when using the “Two-Deep Method” with female hockey teams, there shall be 2 female supervisors with the players where possible. If not possible there may be one (1) male and one (1) female supervisor. Please refer to the BC Hockey Co-Ed Dressing room Policy and dressing room dress codes on Co-ed teams.

Road Trips

Ideally, personnel and players should not share accommodations, regardless of the potential cost savings or other benefits. If sharing a room is unavoidable, be sure that the “Two Deep Method” rule is observed at all times. If only one player and one personnel are alone in the room for a brief period of time, the outer door must be left open.

Physical Contact

Team personnel should avoid touching a player out of sight of others. Use the “Two Deep Method” (two personnel, or two players) supervision system.

Isolated Spaces

Parents/guardians should never leave their child unsupervised in a facility, nor should they leave their child alone with a single personnel member (use the Two Deep Method supervision system).

Sport and Training Facilities

Participants who are minors should never be left waiting in a facility without the supervision of their parent/guardian or personnel member (use the Two Deep Method).