

PREVENTION GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFETY PERSON

Due to the nature of the Safety Person's role, and consistent with the Safety Person's Code of Ethics, the Safety Person should always adhere to the following standards of behaviour:

- Respect the dignity and spirit of all participants: children, youth, and adults.
- Treat all players fairly and equally.
- Establish supportive, positive environments for the purpose of healthy competition, skill development, fun and achievement of goals.
- Avoid contact or conduct that may be interpreted to have sexual connotations or which is defined as inappropriate by the organization.
- Do not take part in or tolerate behaviour that frightens, embarrasses, demoralizes or negatively affects players' self-esteem, including hazing or initiation rites and chronic or undue criticism.
- Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
- Work towards eliminating bullying, harassment and abuse from sport environments.
- Be prepared to intervene if a child or youth is being bullied, harassed or abused.
- In cases of child abuse, follow the appropriate Child Protection Legislation, as previously addressed.
- Engage in "Fair Play" both during and outside of sports activities. "Fair Play" is defined as showing considerate regard for players, personnel, parents, spectators and officials; and abiding by all rules of the sport; abiding by officials' decisions.
- Adhere to the policies of the sport organization.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

General Guidelines

Interaction between personnel and athletes must be based on each organization's code of conduct which establishes respect, dignity, health and well-being for all players. Due to the great amount of time the Safety Person spends in the dressing room and is in direct contact with the players, he/she has great supervisory responsibilities which are crucial to the well-being of the players. Because supervisory responsibilities are paramount to the Safety Person's role, it is essential that they understand this role.

Dressing Room, Showers and Other Rooms (First Aid Room, Training Room)

The Safety Person should ensure that the following guidelines are adhered to in dressing rooms, showers and other rooms:

- 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. If players are uncomfortable dressing or showering at the arena, they should do so at home.
- Players from competing teams or vastly different age groups should never shower together.
- Cell phones, video or photography equipment should never be allowed in the shower/ dressing rooms while athletes are undressed/changing. The privacy and dignity of the players is the first priority.
- Team officials must not change or shower at the same time as players.
- Comparable facilities should be provided for both genders, or genders should take turns using shower facilities.
- In the case of players with a disability who require assistance in showers, locker rooms or toilet facilities:
 - Encourage their own personal attendant/caregiver to help them

- When personal attendants are not available, sport personnel should only agree to provide personal aid after an explicit explanation of the nature of the aid has been given, the players' personal boundaries have been discussed, and training (if appropriate) has been undertaken
- Agreements for sport personnel acting as attendants must be mutually devised and consented to, until such a time when either party wants changes

Getting Dressed

- When players are unable to put on their own uniform or protective equipment, and that equipment is located beneath the uniform (such as a protective cup), they should be aided by a parent/guardian or their designate.
- The Safety Person should strongly recommend to parents/guardians of younger children or players with a disability that they arrive for sports activities fully outfitted in equipment and uniforms, except for skates and helmet.
- Athletes with a disability who can put on their own equipment should be allowed to dress with the other athletes.
- Where pre-activity dressing is not practical, appropriate facilities should be provided where parents/guardians/attendants can assist players in getting dressed.
- In cases where assistance is requested by the parent/guardian, attendant or the player, the Safety Person must only assist:
 - within the sight of other team members/personnel/parents
 - in a manner which preserves the dignity and privacy of the player
 - in a manner where only necessary physical contact occurs
 - and will stop assisting immediately upon the player's request

Transporting Children and Youth

While it is strongly recommended that personnel never transport players, injured or otherwise, the Safety Person should adhere to the following guidelines:

- Ideally, all players should have their own transport to and from all sporting activities.
- In the event that transportation is required by players, personnel should only provide transportation when:
 - the driver is appropriately licensed
 - other players/personnel/parents are also in the vehicle
 - the ride has been approved by parents/guardians/caregivers
 - the ride is given directly to and/or from the sports activity - no other stops or side-trips should occur
 - all passengers can be seated and secured in the vehicle according to provincial/territorial legislation
- Any extraordinary event, such as a car accident, is reported immediately to parents/guardians/caregivers and at the earliest date possible to the sports organization.

Managing Injured and Ill Children and Youth

- All injuries should be managed in a manner consistent with the guidelines of the Hockey Canada Safety Program.
- No player, regardless of the level of competition, should be forced/coerced or feel obligated to participate beyond their capacity in a sport activity when injured, suffering from illness or rehabilitating from an injury. The health and well-being of players must be the highest priority. Any discrepancies should be dealt with by the attending physician or parent/guardian.

- The Safety Person should avoid treating injuries out of sight of others. Use the “two-deep” (two adults) supervision system. For example, as most injuries occur during on-ice activities, when the Safety Person is required to take an injured player back to an empty dressing room, ensure that another adult, such as an assistant coach, manager or parent, accompanies you.
- The comfort level and dignity of the athlete should always be the priority. Example: only uncover the injured area, or drape private areas of the player’s body.

Physical Contact

When physical contact is required between the Safety Person and players, whether through the injury management principles (STOP, LISTEN, LOOK and FEEL) of this program or otherwise, a climate of mutual respect needs to be fostered, while at the same time, defining types of contact that are inappropriate or which extend beyond the personal boundaries of that relationship. Guidelines are not meant to inhibit personnel from touching athletes in order to instruct, encourage, protect or comfort, or to manage injuries. Guidelines need to provide definitions of how a player, personnel member or parent might identify inappropriate types and contexts for touching.

Guidelines

- Physical contact between the Safety Person and athletes should not involve touching the genital area, buttocks, or breasts. Injuries to these areas are very serious in nature and should only be treated by a qualified medical professional. If examination of these areas is absolutely necessary, players should perform self-examination and relay the information to the Safety Person, unless it is a medical emergency.
- All physical contact by the Safety Person should be for one of the following purposes:
 - to develop sport skills/techniques
 - to manage an injury
 - to prevent an injury
- All physical contact by the Safety Person should fulfill all of the following criteria:
 - Touching should be in response to the need of the player and not the need of the Safety Person.
 - An explanation for touch should be given by the Safety Person.
 - Permission from the player to be touched should be sought by the Safety Person except in an emergency situation.
 - The comfort level and dignity of the player should always be a priority.
 - The Safety Person should avoid touching an athlete out of sight of others. Use a “two-deep” (two personnel, or two athletes) supervision system.
 - Touching should never have a sexual nature, sexual undertones, or sexual jokes or innuendoes attached to it.
 - Touching should never be kept secretive or hidden. Remember that non-verbal communication is very powerful and very easy to misinterpret.