

Appendix 16

Policy on Club Changing Rooms

WABA provides the following advice to clubs around changing / changing room practices.

The type and location of changing facilities vary greatly in any sporting venue / club.

The main points around changing room policy is as follows:

- Adults and young people [under 18 years] should not change or shower at the same time;
- Separate changing facilities must be provided for males and females – the exception can be that females, adults and young people change at different times;
- If adults and young people do change and/or shower together, parental consent must be obtained and, parents should be allowed to supervise such changing arrangements;
- Changing and shower areas are provided for just that, all members of clubs should be encouraged to shower and change in a timely way and quit the changing area upon completion;
- If a young person does not wish to shower / change at the club they must not be forced to do so, in these circumstances an issue should not be made regarding this;
- The practice of unauthorised entry into changing room areas should not be permitted, an example is at a tournament where visitors gather to support an athlete. Club officials and/or Officials in Charge should ensure that such practices do not take place;
- The use of photography of any type is strictly forbidden in changing rooms. This practice may well lead to disciplinary action;
- The practice of children and/or young people changing in public areas will not be tolerated, examples of this are at tournaments held in licensed premises where a bar area is used for changing whilst at the same time, members of the public are present or even consuming alcohol;
- At tournaments, the practice of weighing-in both children and adults in changing rooms is not permitted. Such procedures may take place in a separate area however, when children are being weighed, the room must be cleared of all who are not authorised to be present;
- The policy of allowing all coaches/competition secretaries and spectators to attend throughout will not be permitted. In brief terms, officials in charge must ensure that only those who expressly need to be present are present;
- Parents of children who weigh-in may be permitted to be present during the weigh-in of their child only.

This list is not exhaustive and coaches and officials in charge must adopt common sense and proportionality, when dealing with concerns around changing areas for children and young people.