

Request for Decision

Arena Dressing Rooms

Presented To: Community Services
Committee

Presented: Monday, Feb 27, 2012

Report Date Wednesday, Feb 15, 2012

Type: Managers' Reports

Recommendation

WHEREAS there has been a significant increase in co-ed hockey teams as part of the minor hockey system due to the elimination of body contact in house league hockey;

AND WHEREAS there has been a significant challenge in providing dressing rooms to meet the needs of the participants;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council adopt the policy of Hockey Canada with respect to co-ed dressing;

AND THAT the dedicated dressing rooms allocated at the Chelmsford and Dr. Edgar Leclair be terminated allowing general user groups access;

AND THAT dedicated dressing rooms be provided to the Midget AAA's and the NOJHL Cubs as per past practice;

AND THAT staff review the need to retrofit existing spaces at local arenas in co-operation with local minor hockey associations to determine inexpensive alternatives to meet the need of the participant.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Ray Mensour
Manager of Arenas
Digitally Signed Feb 15, 12

Division Review

Real Carre
Director of Leisure Services
Digitally Signed Feb 15, 12

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community
Development
Digitally Signed Feb 15, 12

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Doug Nadorozny
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Feb 22, 12

Background

Co-ed hockey teams have dramatically increased this season due to the recent change in minor hockey which no longer permits body contact in the majority of house league games. As a result, more female participants are playing minor hockey on co-ed teams. The increase in co-ed teams has resulted in a need to access four dressing rooms per booking rather than the traditional allocation of two dressing rooms per booking. The arenas were built back in the late 60's, early 70's and included a minimum number of dressing rooms (average of 4-5 dressing rooms). Attached is an inventory of dressing rooms per arena.

The increase in co-ed teams has had a major impact on facility operators throughout Canada. Hockey Canada has recently developed a Co-ed Dressing Room policy. The policy deals with co-ed dressing rooms and provides direction to accommodate both genders. The policy has been attached for Council's

information which provides a clear policy with respect to the Initiation program, Novice and Atom levels (5-10 years of age) along with Peewee (11 years old) level and above. The approval of the policy will assist the department and minor sports associations with an option to address co-ed dressing.

On December 1, 2011, the Hockey Canada policy was forwarded to all Associations requesting their feedback. Only four Associations (Sudbury Speed Skating, High School Hockey, Coniston Minor Hockey and Valley East Minor Hockey) responded.

The Sudbury Speed Skating Club responded that parents, regardless of gender be permitted to assist younger athletes with their dressing needs. This concern is addressed in the Hockey Canada policy which is recommending that participants below 11 years of age arrive in full equipment or wear at a minimum gym short or long underwear.

High School Hockey teams expressed concerns that girls from opposite teams are required to share change rooms which can cause conflicts. Schools have requested that separate rooms be made available. The need for two separate rooms will be addressed in the recommendation of converting tournament rooms into additional change rooms. Furthermore, staff recommend that school's schedule their games at arenas which have a minimum of six dressing rooms.

The Coniston Minor Hockey Association is requesting (see attached letter) the removal of dedicated dressing room space to the Coniston Old-timers. By removing the dedicated user from this room, the Toe Blake Memorial Arena will have an additional dressing room available. The dedicated dressing room to the Coniston Oldtimers has been vacated as of January, 2012. In addition to the Coniston Old-Timers dressing room, there are two additional dedicated dressing rooms at Dr. Edgar Leclair (Nickel City Hockey Association) and the Chelmsford Arena (Nickel City Hockey Association). These 2 groups will also be requested to vacate the dedicated use of the rooms by the end of the hockey season due to the fact that there is not adequate number of dressing room in these respective facilities.

The Valley East Minor Hockey Association is requesting as a long term solution to construct additional change rooms. The cost to construct additional dressing rooms would be substantial. The association has identified options on a short term basis to address the issue. The association has been working with arena staff to convert the existing tournament office at Centennial Arena. In addition, a suitable option was provided at the Capreol Arena.

In regards to dedicated dressing rooms, current practice will continue of providing dedicated dressing rooms to the Midget AAA's and the NOJHL (Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League - Cubs) teams at facilities equipped with additional dressing rooms.

Attached is a summary of co-ed teams and the number of female athletes participating.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the Hockey Canada policy with respect to co-ed dressing rooms be adopted. In addition, it is recommended that dedicated use of dressing rooms at the Chelmsford and Dr. Edgar Leclair arenas be discontinued and further that existing space within the local arenas be reviewed and the cost to retrofit be funded through future year capital envelope. Further staff have identified the shortage of adequate dressing rooms at local arenas as part of the arena renewal initiative.

MUNICIPAL ARENA DRESSING ROOMS

Area	TOTAL	DEDICATED	AVAILABLE	Current COED Room	*TOTAL with COED	COED Room Required
Caribrian	4	0	4	First Aid Room	5	Yes - convert tournament office
Capitol #1	4	0	4		4	Yes - skate sharpening room
Capitol #2	5	0	5		5	
Carmichael	4	0	4	First Aid Room	5	Yes - convert tournament office
Centennial	4	0	4	First Aid Room	5	Yes - convert tournament office
Chelmsford	6	1 - Nickel City (Midget)	5		5	Yes - Nickel City return dedicated room
Countryside #1	8	1 - Nickel Capitals (Midget)	7		7	NO
Countryside #2	8	0	8		8	NO
Dr. Ed Leclair	5	1 - Nickel City (Peewee)	4	Room behind trophy display	5	Yes - Nickel City return dedicated room
Garson	5	0	5		5	Yes - convert ticket booth or coach's room
IJ Coady	6	1 - Nickel City (Bantam)	5		5	Yes - convert tournament office
McClelland	5	1 - Cubs	4	Room across skate sharpener	5	Cubs or Storage Room
Ray Plourde	6	No	6		6	NO
TM Davies	4	No	4	Ref's Small Room	5	Yes - convert tournament office
Toe Blake	5	1 - Coniston Oldtimers	4	First Aid Room	5	Yes - Oldtimers return dedicated room

*TOTAL with COED DRESSING ROOMS SHOULD BE A MINIMUM OF 6



HOCKEY CANADA CO-ED DRESSING ROOM POLICY

The following is the policy of Hockey Canada with respect to co-ed dressing:

Hockey Canada firmly believes in accommodating both genders in our great game. We further believe in balancing this goal with the safety, privacy, modesty and wishes of ALL our members without compromising the aspects of camaraderie, social integration and bonding inherent in a team sport. This policy attempts to meet all these goals while providing a safe and respectful environment for our participants.

1. **Hockey Canada stresses the importance of coaches in ensuring both male and female players have equal access to pre and post team sessions and to all team related activities.**
2. Hockey Canada recognizes the physical limitations of some facilities and encourages our members to work with local facility management to ensure that appropriate changing facilities are available to both genders.
3. Hockey Canada allows co-ed dressing room situations to exist at the Initiation Program, Novice and Atom levels, 5-10 years of age provided participants in a co-ed situation either arrive in full equipment or wear at a minimum gym shorts or long underwear as well as a full t-shirt (no tank tops) all of which must be in good condition and without holes/tears.
4. At the Pee-Wee (11 years old) level and above the following conditions will apply in all co-ed team environments:
 - Females and males will change in separate rooms
 - Both genders shall congregate in one dressing room fully prepared to participate in the game/practice not more than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled ice time unless otherwise indicated (to be there earlier) by the coaching staff.
 - The lesser represented gender shall depart the dressing room not more than 15 minutes after the game/practice unless otherwise indicated (to stay longer) by the coaching staff.
 - The gender in the majority shall not begin changing, helmets, gloves and skates excepted, prior to the departure of the lesser represented gender.

- When necessary, due to facility limitations, dressing and showering shall be done in shifts with the gender in the majority dressing and showering first. Once the room with shower facilities has been fully vacated the lesser represented gender may use the shower facilities.

It is the belief of Hockey Canada that these provisions adequately address issues of team unity/camaraderie and provide for the modesty/privacy of all participants.

Note: Hockey Canada Branches that have mediated Human Rights settlements within their Province/Territory with respect to specific co-ed dressing room parameters are exempted from this policy within their jurisdictions and may continue to adhere to previously mediated settlements.

Monday, December 26th, 2011

Ray Mensour
Manager of Arenas
City of Greater Sudbury
240 Elgin St
Sudbury, Ontario
P3E 3N6

Subject: Girls Dressing Room / Hockey Canada Room Policy

Mr. Mensour,

We have been discussing the issue of girls change rooms for some time now in Coniston. I am aware that several parents, players and coaches have expressed concerns to you in writing as well as in telephone conversations.

When it comes to the city adopting the Hockey Canada policy we do not object. However we do not understand how implementing this policy helps with the problem at hand. Seeing that all local hockey associations are governed by the NOHA, a division of Hockey Canada, we are all aware of this policy. The only exception would be playground hockey.

The policy unfortunately does not address the problem at hand. The problem is not whether or not the girls change with the boys. It is simply that we do not have an adequate room for the girls to change in. We do believe that a fairly easy turn key solution would be to have a designated dressing room for the girls to use. The one that we have now has become too small and does not have proper facilities. A room in the arena is currently being used by a user group that only uses the ice an hour and a half per week. Would it not be beneficial to all groups if this room became accessible to all the young ladies who play at the Toe Blake Arena? A second, more long term solution might be to build a second room in the same area as the old timers' room and make both of these accessible to all groups. The arena would then grow from four rooms to six rooms. Allowing for one team to be at the back of the arena and the other to be in the hall where all the rooms are currently located. It would alleviate any potential problems the hallway could create with two opposing teams.

We look forward to working together in helping rectify this problem and would like to thank you for your attention to this matter.

Pete Thibeault
President
Coniston Minor Hockey

2011-12 CO-ED TEAMS PARTICIPANT LISTING

ASSOCIATION	2011-12 CO-ED TEAMS	2011-12 TOTAL TEAMS
Capreol Minor Hockey	6	7
Coniston Minor Hockey	8	8
Copper Cliff Minor Hockey	20	38
Nickel Centre Minor Hockey	7	17
Nickel City Hockey Association	6	30
Onaping Falls Minor Hockey	3	7
Rayside Balfour Minor Hockey	13	22
Sudbury Girls Hockey	0	44
Sudbury Minor Hockey	22	45
Sudbury Playground	25	36
Sudbury Ringette	1	6
Valley East Minor	37	52
Valley East Ringette	1	11
Walden Minor Hockey	14	20
Walden Ringette Association	0	7
TOTAL	163	350