

Noralta Skating Club

Noralta “Figure Skating Only” Dressing Room Policy

Effective Date: July 2026

Latest Review: July 2026

General Information

The safety, privacy, and protection of our participants are fundamental to the mission of the Noralta Skating Club. Noralta strictly adheres to Skate Canada’s National Safe Sport Program, the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS), and the rules set out by Sport Integrity Canada.

We recognize that athletes are uniquely vulnerable in dressing rooms and changing environments. To prevent maltreatment, abuse, bullying, harassment, and discrimination, Noralta has adopted this Dressing Room Policy. It balances personal privacy with safety, maintaining an environment that is open, observable, and justifiable.

Lockers & Fees: Skaters wishing to rent a designated locker within the Noralta room can make arrangements with the Club Director. All skaters utilizing the room will be subject to a nominal maintenance/cleaning fee, as the space is professionally sanitized weekly.

1. Dressing Room Usage & Supervision

- **Authorized Access:** Dressing rooms are designated participant spaces. Parents/guardians, spectators, and non-skating individuals are not permitted to enter unless explicitly authorized under the exceptions outlined in Section 2.
- **Co-Ed & Shared Spaces:** Noralta's dressing rooms function as shared, co-ed spaces. They are strictly provided for:
 - o A secure location for storing skates and gear bags.
 - o A place to put on, tie, and remove skates.
- **Minimum Attire / Base Layer Requirement:** To respect the privacy of all members in a shared environment, all skaters must wear a minimum base layer (e.g., a t-shirt and shorts, leggings, or gym clothes) at all times while in the common area of the dressing room.
- **Private Changing:** Full changing into or out of clothing past the base layer is strictly prohibited in the common area of the dressing room. Skaters requiring a full change must utilize private washroom stalls or designated private changing spaces within the arena facility.
- **Leisure Ban:** Noralta strongly discourages using the dressing rooms as a general rest or leisure-time area.
- **Food and Beverages:** To maintain a clean and hygienic environment, outside food and beverages (except for personal water bottles) are strictly prohibited inside the dressing rooms. Public spaces within MacDonald Island Park are to be used for eating.

2. Parent & Guardian Boundaries

- Parent, Guardian, and Spectator - General Restriction: Parents and Guardians should not enter the dressing room without an identified need, fostering athlete independence and protecting privacy.
- Authority Figures - The "Rule of Two": To safeguard both minor athletes and adults, the Rule of Two mandates that all interactions with minor athletes occur in an open, observable, and justifiable setting. A Person in Authority (coaches, board members, or adult volunteers) must never be alone with a minor athlete in a dressing room. If an interaction must occur inside the room, it must take place in the presence of two screened adults, or with the dressing room door propped fully open.
- Assistance for Young Skaters: It is recognized that our youngest age groups require assistance getting ready. Parents are asked to have skaters retrieve their gear from their lockers and utilize public benches or facility-assigned changing areas to tie skates and prepare.
- Exceptions & Emergencies: In the event of a medical emergency, a severe injury, uniform failure, or if an athlete's physical or cognitive disability warrants direct parental assistance, a parent may enter. Prior to entry, the parent must alert the Club Director or a coach, ensure the Rule of Two is maintained, and audibly announce their entry into the room to protect the privacy of others inside.

3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- **Gender Identity & Expression:** In strict alignment with Skate Canada and Canadian Human Rights frameworks, all registrants and members have the right to utilize the dressing room, changing environment, or restroom facility that aligns with their consistently asserted chosen gender identity or gender expression.
- **Accommodation of Individual Needs:** Noralta is committed to providing an inclusive environment. If any participant requests an altered or private space due to religious beliefs, body image considerations, gender identity, or other highly personal reasons, the club will work alongside facility management to accommodate those needs to the maximum extent possible.

4. Electronic Devices & Digital Recording Prohibitions

- **Recording Ban:** To ensure absolute privacy and prevent digital misconduct, the use of cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, or any other mobile devices with recording capabilities (including photo, video, and voice recording) is strictly prohibited inside all dressing rooms and changing areas.
- **Permitted Device Use:** If a participant must send a text message or make a voice call, they must step entirely outside of the dressing room/changing environment to use their device.
- **Violations:** Any violation of this digital privacy policy will be treated as a severe safety infraction and may result in immediate disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from the club.

5. Prohibited Conduct, Enforcement, and Reporting

- **Zero Tolerance:** Noralta maintains a zero-tolerance policy for all forms of maltreatment, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, verbal bullying, cyberbullying, hazing, threats, discrimination, or harassment as defined by Skate Canada and the UCCMS.
- **Scope of Policy:** This policy applies uniformly to all interactions within the club environment: Including minor-to-minor, minor-to-adult, adult-to-minor, and adult-to-adult interactions.
- **Disciplinary Consequences:** Any participant, coach, parent, guardian, or volunteer found in violation of these guidelines or engaging in conduct incompatible with Safe Sport standards will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include verbal/written warnings, facility restrictions, or membership revocation.
- **Duty to Report:** Any individual who witnesses, suspects, or experiences misconduct or a breach of safety within the dressing room environment is required to report the incident immediately. Serious incidents involving immediate safety risks or suspected illegal conduct will be reported directly to the Wood Buffalo Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) and relevant child protection authorities.

Safe Sport Contact Information

For independent, third-party intake and confidential reporting of safe sport complaints or misconduct, contact:

Online Portal: www.skate-safe.ca

Toll-Free Telephone: +1-833-723-3758

Skate Canada National Contact:

safesport@skatecanada.ca | 1-888-747-2372 (Ext. 703)