



FOOTBALL
QUEENSLAND

**CHANGING ROOM
ETIQUETTE GUIDELINES
FOR MATCH OFFICIALS**



This policy sets out the state-wide standard for all Match Officials when mixed genders and/or ages are required to use the same changing room. The purpose of the policy is to protect the dignity and avoid embarrassment as well as to outline safeguarding behaviour for all match officials when using changing rooms.

Football Queensland acknowledges that all persons have the right to respect and privacy regardless of gender, race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, nationality or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Persons These Guidelines Apply To

These guidelines apply to **all** match officials who utilise changing rooms at the same time irrespective of whether match officials are officiating on the same game or not.

The term Match Officials includes:

- Referees
- Assistant Referees
- Fourth Officials
- Match Day Coaches
- Mentors
- Administrators or Football Queensland Staff Member
- Ground Official

Please also note that no member of the public, regardless if they are registered with Football Queensland or not, is permitted in or around the changing rooms of match officials. The **only exceptions** to this are:

- If a Junior Match Official is in distress and a parent is required.
- If a Senior Match Official is in distress and a partner or spouse is required.
- If Security personnel such as Queensland Police Service are required.

If any of these conditions are breached a member of the match day team must report the incident to Football Queensland due to the serious nature of the breach:

FQ INCIDENT REPORT FORM

If any of the above conditions are breached, then the incident may be escalated to the FQ Disciplinary and Integrity Units in the interest of safeguarding all Match Officials.

Application of this policy

All Match Officials reserve the right to use the changing rooms, not the toilet or the shower cubicle, to get changed (shorts, trousers and shirts) in preparation for officiating and feeling comfortable in the execution of their duties. To ensure this is the case, other Match Officials should vacate the changing room and rotate until all officials are dressed and ready.

It is considered acceptable for same age and gender groups to change at the same time, provided everyone is comfortable to do so.

After all Match Officials have changed into appropriate clothing, all officials can utilise the changing room to finalise getting ready – putting on footwear, preparing equipment such as electronic communication devices and receiving pre-match briefings from the Referee.

The same procedure applies should warm up shirts be used at your game.

Order of use

Changing Rooms should be used as per this policy in the following order:

1. Under 18 Non-Binary Match Official(s)
2. Under 18 Female Match Official(s)
3. Under 18 Male Match Official(s)
4. Non-Binary Match Official(s)
5. Female Match Official(s)
6. Male Match Official(s)

Football Queensland acknowledges that every Match Official has the right to a safe space to get changed in and to operate out of during their official duties without interruption from persons unknown to them, without fear of embarrassment and to withdraw to for privacy if required.

If at any time this is not upheld, a safeguarding issue of Match Officials arises.

If you need any clarification on the above guidelines please email
mailto:referees@footballqueensland.com.au

Subject: FQ Changing Room Etiquette Guidelines for Match Officials

Then someone from the Referees Department will get back to you as soon as possible.