

Sam Houston State University
A Member of The Texas State University System

Finance and Operations FO-76

Use of Restrooms, Changing Rooms, Shower Rooms, and Locker Rooms

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to create clear and consistent guidelines for the use of restrooms, changing rooms, shower rooms, and locker rooms within Sam Houston State University's (SHSU) Athletic programs in compliance with Texas Government Code Chapter 3002 and HOP 4-1040 (Interim).

2. POLICY

- 2.01 As required by Texas Government Code Chapter 3002 and HOP 4-1040 (Interim), all multi-occupancy restrooms, changing rooms, shower rooms, and locker rooms in any SHSU Athletics facility being used by Intercollegiate Athletics for practice or competition activities will be designated for use only by individuals of one sex. To ensure that individuals of the opposite sex do not enter these designated facilities, Event Operations staff will ensure that home and visiting teams are made aware of such designations and of this policy in the visiting team guides.
- 2.02 State law (Tex. Gov't Code § 3002.053) and HOP 4-1040 (Interim) provide exceptions describing certain situations in which opposite-sex individuals are permitted to enter these designated facilities. Listed exceptions with particular relevance to Intercollegiate Athletics include those allowing opposite-sex entry for:
- a. Custodial, maintenance or inspection purposes, which will include setup and cleanup for games and practices;
 - b. Rendering of medical assistance, which will include medical assistance provided by athletic trainers, team physicians or other medical personnel designated by the institution to provide such services; and
 - c. Purposes of law enforcement and preventing a serious threat to safety, which will include security services for coaches, employees, and student-athletes.
- 2.03 In addition, in conformance with Athletic Department policy requirements, coaches or employees may designate times during which a locker room may not be used as a private space due to the need for opposite-sex coaches to speak with their teams, for athletics development cultivation or prospective student-athlete recruiting purposes, or other instances approved by the Director of Athletics in consultation with Sport Administration and Facilities and Game Management. At those designated times, coaches and/or Athletics Department employees may restrict the use of bathrooms, showers, and changing facilities associated with the locker room in order to ensure compliance with state law.
- 2.04 During periods of time when a locker room is designated as a non-private space as described above, individuals of the opposite sex shall use all reasonable efforts before entering, such as knocking on doors and loudly announcing their identity and their intent to enter the room, to provide notification of entry to the occupants inside the locker room. At all other times, individuals of the opposite sex who meet exceptions within the law to enter such space shall also use all reasonable efforts before entering, such as knocking on doors and loudly announcing their identity and their intent to enter the room, to provide notification of entry to the occupants inside the locker room.

Approved by: President's Cabinet
Date: January 2026

Reviewed by: Amanda Withers, Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President for Operations
Date: January 2026