



Rule of Two Policy

Responsible Coaching - A Commitment to Ethical Coaching

Definition:

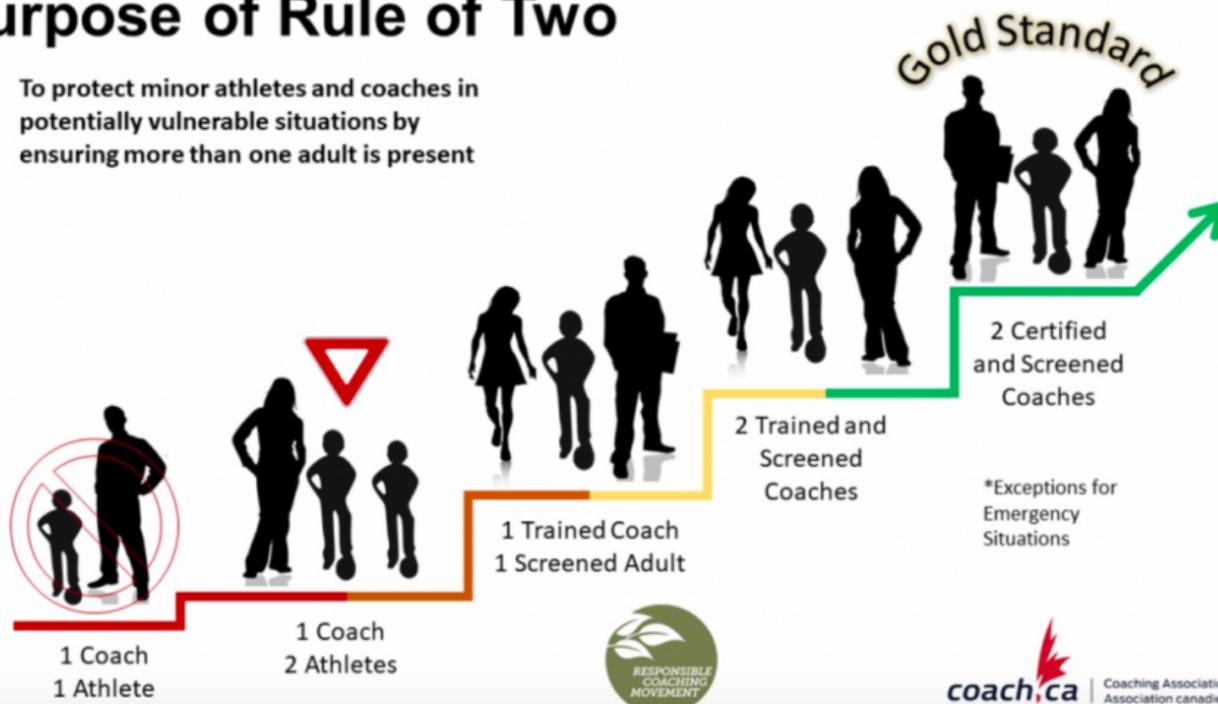
The Rule of Two states that there will always be two screened and NCCP-trained or certified coaches with a player, especially a minor, when in a potentially vulnerable situation. This means that any one-on-one interaction between a coach and a player must take place within earshot and view of the second coach, with the exception of medical emergencies. One of the coaches must also be of the same gender as the player. Should there be a circumstance where a second screened and NCCP-trained or certified coach is not available, a screened volunteer, parent, or adult can be recruited.

This rule serves to protect minor players in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring that more than one adult is present. Vulnerable situations can include closed doors meetings, travel, and training environments amongst others. Abbotsford Soccer Association (ASA) have committed to the Responsible Coaching Movement and have, with the support of the Coaches Association of Canada, Canada Soccer and BC Soccer, created and will implement, policies and procedures, in a sustainable, phased and measurable process, that limit the instances where these situations are possible.

Canada Soccer expects that all organizations will work toward the Gold Standard, ASA commit to achieving this standard.

Purpose of Rule of Two

To protect minor athletes and coaches in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring more than one adult is present



Commitment

ASA will commit to follow the below identified guidelines, to ensure we are following the Rule of Two. In the guidelines below, a 'Person in Authority' is defined as an NCCP-trained or certified coach, a screened volunteer, or other adult.

Travel

ASA adopts the following guidelines developed by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and the Coaching Association of Canada, [Click here](#)

Additional information - [Resource Supplement for Travel Guidelines](#)

Change Room / Changing Area / Meeting Room

ASA will commit to follow the guidelines as they relate to change rooms, changing areas, and meeting rooms:

Interactions between a Person in Authority and an individual player should not occur in any room where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy such as the change room, meeting room, washroom, or changing area. A second Person in Authority should be present for all necessary interactions in any such room.

If Persons in Authority are not present in the change room or changing area, or if they are not permitted to be present, they should still be available outside the change room or changing area and be able to enter the room or area if required.

Training / Competition Environment

ASA will commit to follow the guidelines for training and the competition environment (including before, during, and after practices and games):

A Person in Authority should never be alone with a player prior to or following a game or practice, unless the Person in Authority is the player's parent or guardian. If the player is the first player to arrive, the player's parent should remain until another player or Person in Authority arrives. Similarly, if a player would potentially be alone with a Person in Authority following a game or practice, the Person in Authority should ask another Person in Authority (or a parent or guardian of another player) to stay until all the players have been picked up. If an adult is not available, then another player should be present in order to avoid the Person in Authority being alone with a single player.

Persons in Authority giving instructions, demonstrating skills, or facilitating drills or lessons to an individual player should always be doing so within earshot and eyesight of another Person in Authority.

Gender Identity

A Person in Authority who is interacting with players should be of the same gender identity as the players. The following guidelines will be followed:

For teams consisting of players of just one gender identity, a Person in Authority of the same gender identity should be available to participate or attend every interaction.

For teams consisting of players of more than one gender identity (e.g., coed teams), a Person in Authority of each gender identity should be available to participate or attend every interaction.

Practical Tips

ASA will inform parents and guardians that the club or team is aiming to achieve the Gold Standard for the Rule of Two; that is, that two NCCP-trained or certified coaches should always be present with a player.

To hold the coaches or team accountable, share these guidelines and policy with parents and guardians and ask them to help identify situations, and acknowledge instances, when the coach or team was not following the Rule of Two.

Provide parents with information about the NCCP so that parents can become NCCP-trained or certified coaches (even if they are not actively coaching the team).

Recruit a Parent Liaison or other individual to help find parents and guardians to assist in situations where two NCCP-trained or certified coaches may potentially not be present.

For teams that only have coaches who do not share the same gender identity of some or all the players (i.e., for female teams with male coaches), ask a parent or guardian of the gender identity of the players to serve as a regular volunteer or 'bench parent' with the team.