



RULE-OF-TWO POLICY

Doc. No.	BCSA-POL-014
Rev.	0
Originator:	D. Hawkins
Checker	I. Toellner
Approver:	C. Craig
Status:	Published
Effective:	December 2023

Big Country Soccer Association is committed to fostering a physically and emotionally safe place for our athletes to engage in sport. The **Rule-of-Two** serves to protect minor athletes in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring that more than one adult is present. Vulnerable situations can include closed door meetings, travel, and training environments.

This Policy acts together with our team personnel training requirements, our Protection of Children Policy, our Zero Tolerance Policy, and the requirements of Big Country Soccer Association, available to all parties involved with youth soccer, to provide a variety of mechanisms to provide a safe place for athletes to play.

The **Rule-of-Two** states that there will always be two screened team personnel with a minor athlete when in a potentially vulnerable situation. **One-on-one interactions between an adult and an athlete, without another adult present, must be avoided in all circumstances, except medical emergencies.** One of the screened personnel must also be of the same gender as the athlete. Big Country Soccer Association recognizes that it is not always possible to have two certified coaches in all situations. Should there be a circumstance where a second screened team personnel are not available, a screened volunteer, parent, or adult can be recruited to support this Policy.

Policy Requirements

A 'Person in Authority' is defined as a National Coach Certification Program (NCCP) trained or certified coach, a screened volunteer supporting Big Country Soccer Association and its members, or another adult.

A "screened" team person means a volunteer of Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its members that has completed and submitted a Criminal Record check and is valid as per Member Association requirements, Big Country Soccer Association, in conjunction with Alberta Soccer Association, and Canada Soccer Association.

Travel:

- A Person in Authority may not be alone in a car with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian.
- A Person in Authority may not share a room or be alone in a hotel room with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian.
- Room or bed checks during overnight stays must be done by two Persons in Authority.

Changing Rooms/ Meeting Rooms:

- Interactions between a Person in Authority and an individual athlete should not occur in any room where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy such as the locker 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 locker room or changing area, or if they are not permitted to be present, they should still be available outside the locker room or changing area and be able to enter the room or area if required.



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Training/ Competitive Environment: *(including before, during, and after practices and games):*

- A Person in Authority should never be alone with an athlete in a training/ competition environment unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian. If the athlete is the first to arrive, the athlete's parent should remain until another athlete or Person in Authority arrives. Similarly, after a practice or game, the Person in Authority should ensure another Person in Authority (or a parent or guardian of another athlete) remains until all the athletes have been picked up. If an adult is not available, then another athlete should be present to avoid the Person in Authority being alone with a single athlete.
- Persons in Authority giving instructions, demonstrating skills, or facilitating drills or lessons to an individual athlete should always be doing so within earshot and eyesight of another Person in Authority.

Gender Identity:

- A Person in Authority who is interacting with athletes should be of the same gender identity as the athletes.
- For teams consisting of athletes 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 athletes of more than one gender identity (e.g., co-ed teams), a Person in Authority of each gender identity should be available to participate or attend every interaction.

Virtual Setting:

- One-on-one texting, emailing or online contact between coach and athlete is discouraged – any online contact should be limited to group text/ email that includes at least 2 adults (2 coaches or 1 coach and 1 adult (parent, guardian, volunteer, club administrator), and limited to coaching (non-social) matters, and parents of minor athletes should be provided the opportunity to receive these texts/emails.
- Social media contact by coach to athlete is highly discouraged (including the sharing of memes, non-training video, etc.)

In addition to the above, Big Country Soccer Association supports Canada Soccer Association's recommendation to adhere to and strive to achieve Coaching Association of Canada's Gold standards for the **Rule-of-Two**.

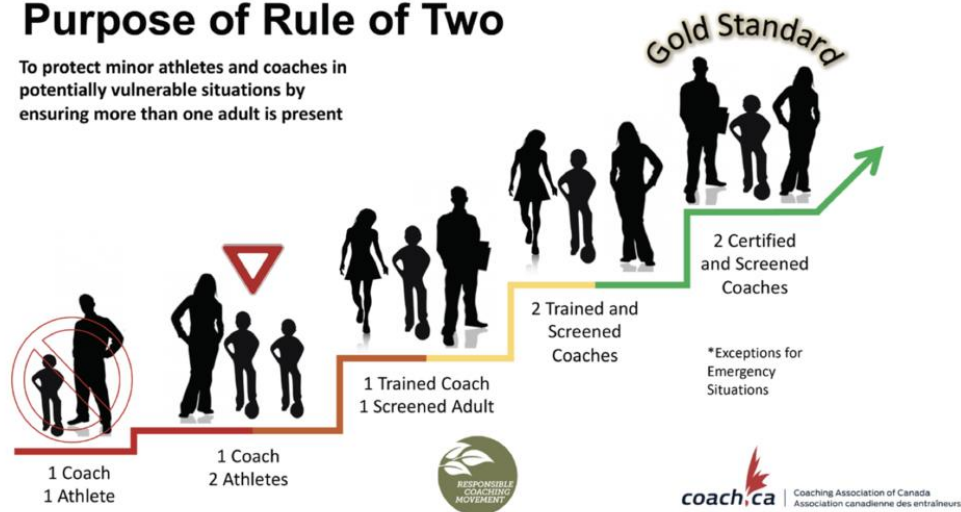


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Purpose of Rule of Two

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



Failure to comply with this Policy can result in a formal review by Big Country Soccer Association with actions pending the outcome of the review.

Reference

Canada Soccer Rule of Two Guidelines

Big Country Soccer Association Coaching Youth in Sport Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-003)

Big Country Soccer Association Coaching Code of Conduct (Ref: BCSA-POL-009)

Big Country Soccer Association Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-011)