



GCU Soccer Club- Rule of Two Policy

A safe sport environment ensures all GCU coaches, staff and administrators apply the rule of two.

When following the “Rule of Two” all interactions with participants are in open, observable, and justifiable settings, and two responsible adults- whether a coach, parents or other screened volunteer- are present.

When a GCU Soccer Club Coach, Assistant Coach or Manager is in a potentially vulnerable situation with any child (example- locker room), another GCU Soccer Club Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager or the parent/guardian of the player(s) must be present.

A Person in Authority who is interacting with athletes should be of the same gender identity as the athletes. The following guidelines are strongly recommended:

- a. 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
- b. 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

PURPOSE

The goal of the Rule of Two is to ensure all interactions and communications are open, observable, and justifiable. Its purpose is to protect participants (especially minors) and coaches in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring that a coach is never alone with an athlete. There may be exceptions for emergency situations. The Rule of Two states that there will always be two screened and NCCP-trained or certified coaches with an athlete in situations where the athlete is potentially vulnerable. One-on-one interactions between a coach and an athlete, without another individual present, must be avoided in all circumstances except medical emergencies.

The Rule of Two should continue to apply to all minor athletes in virtual environments. Parents should be included in all virtual settings including texts, messages, video conferencing, etc.

WHY IS THIS POLICY IMPORTANT

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 doors meetings, travel, and training environments.

STANDARDS

In the event where screened and NCCP trained or certified coaches are not available, a screened volunteer, parent, or adult can be recruited. In all instances, one coach/volunteer must reflect the genders of the athletes participating or be of an appropriate identity in relation to the athlete(s).

The following sequential list depicts the “staircase approach” to the Rule of Two. While the Gold Standard is the preferred environment, it is not expected that it will be reached at all times. The alternatives presented, although increasing risk, are acceptable and would be considered to be in alignment with the Rule of Two. The one-on-one interaction between a coach and an athlete without another individual present, as depicted at the lowest rank in the sequential list, is to be avoided in all circumstances.

1. Two certified coaches (Gold Standard)
2. One trained coach & one screened adult
3. One coach & two athletes
4. One coach & one player (Not to happen)

Canada Soccer expects that all organizations will work toward the safest possible environment by having two screened and NCCP-trained or certified coaches always present with an athlete. If NCCP-trained or certified coaches are not available, a screened “Person in Authority” (such as managers, support personnel, chaperones, or director of the club or organization) should be present instead. If a screened Person in Authority or other volunteer is not available, another adult (such as a parent/guardian of another athlete in a youth environment or another athlete in a senior environment), should be asked to temporarily substitute. If another adult is not available, there should always be more than one athlete with the coach (this is the lowest standard and is not recommended).

Coach Education and Document Sharing

The Rule of Two policy will be added to our website where it will be available to all members. The policy will be handed out and reviewed by all GCU Coaching staff prior to the start of each new season at our preseason coaches meeting.