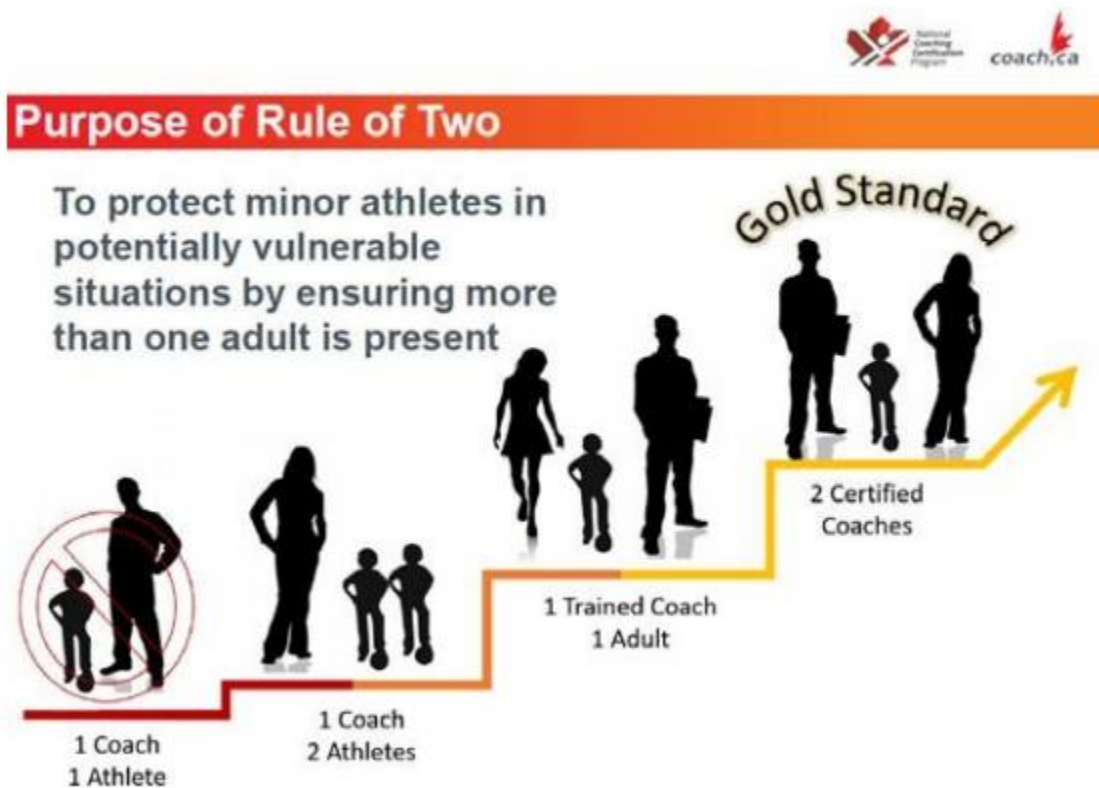


## SYSI Rule of Two Policy

### 1.0 General

- 1.1 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. SYSI Zone Associations are encouraged to create and implement policies and procedures that limit the instances where these situations are possible and can occur.
- 1.2 The Rule of Two states that there will always be two screened and Respect in Sport and NCCP trained or certified coaches with an athlete, especially a minor athlete, when in a potentially vulnerable situation. One-on-one interactions between a coach and an athlete, without another individual present, must be avoided in all circumstances except medical emergencies. SYSI expects that all organizations affiliated with SYSI will work toward attaining the Gold Standard.
- 1.3 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).



- 1.4 As depicted in the diagram above, 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. However, the one-on-one interaction between a coach and an athlete without another individual present, as depicted at the lowest stair in the diagram, is to be avoided in all circumstances.

## **2.0 Situational Guidelines**

2.1 Saskatoon Youth Soccer recommends the following guidelines for organizations to ensure they 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. The organization is meeting the Gold Standard for the Rule of Two if the Person in Authority is always an NCCP-trained or certified coach.

### 2.1.1 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

### 2.1.2 Training / Competition Environment

The following guidelines are strongly recommended for the training and competition environment (including before, during, and after practices and games):

- A Person in Authority should never be alone with an athlete prior to or following a game or practice, unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian. If the athlete is the first athlete to arrive, the athlete's parent should remain until another athlete or Person in Authority arrives. Similarly, if an athlete 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 athlete) to stay until all the athletes have been picked up. If an adult is not available, then another athlete should be present in order 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.

### 2.1.3 Gender Identity

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:

- 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