



**SASKATOON YOUTH
SOCCER INC.**

Memo

To: Zone Members
From: Dan Kelly, Program Coordinator
Date: March 11, 2019
Re: Two Same Gender Rule

Dear Zone Members:

In the past week, there has been a news report and subsequent release by the SSA around the “*Two Same-Gender Rule*” at SSA competitions. Misinformation around the actual rule/policy and reasoning behind its implementation has been making the rounds on social media and through conversations in our community. We would like to do our part in helping to clear the air and provide some clarity surrounding the policy in question. This policy was designed and implemented to provide safeguards for the youth participants in the sport. This was never designed to limit the ability for children to play the sport. Nor is it designed to discriminate coaches based on gender. To reiterate what it states in the SSA rulebook ([Provincial Championship Rulebook](#)):

b) Two members of the Coaching Staff or Team Personnel on the bench must be of the same gender as the players in order to ensure the maintenance of a gender representative on the bench in the event that a player is injured or dismissed and required to leave the playing field

This is not requiring that the gender representatives must be a coach. For all intents and purposes, a gender representative could be a bench parent. This policy is ensuring that if a coach needs to leave the bench the rule of two is still being adhered ([Rule of two definition](#)). Meaning the youth athlete as well as the coach is never put into a situation of vulnerability. I reiterate this is a policy designed to protect and safeguard youth athletes from potentially very harmful and traumatic situations that can have life-long impacts.

The policy aligns with other organizations that have a stake in our beautiful game, such as Canada Soccer and the Coaching Association of Canada, among the other programs the Saskatchewan soccer Association name in their information release.

As a community we need to work together for the protection of the participants, but also for the protection and promotion of our sport. We need to build each other up and work together instead of tearing each other down, because at the end of the day we need to do what is right for the kids playing the sport.

If you wish to read the [SSA Information Release](#), they provide valuable links for information on the commitment to safeguarding Saskatchewan athletes.