



SWIFT CURRENT SOCCER ASSOCIATION

RULE OF TWO – POLICY – APPROVED NOVEMBER 20, 2023

INTRODUCTION

To support the safety and wellbeing of our athletes at all times, the Swift Current Soccer Association (SCSA) has adopted the 'Rule of Two'. The Rule of Two is a leading practice to ensure a safe sport environment for all.

The Rule of Two protects our athletes by mandating that “there will 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”.

The purpose of the policy is to provide SCSA members and affiliated organizations direction on the Rule of Two to ensure adult interactions with athletes, coaches and referees protect the health, safety and wellness of all participants.

DEFINITIONS

“The goal of the Rule of Two is to ensure all interactions and communications are open, observable, and justifiable”. When following the Rule of Two, two responsible adults (a coach, parent, or screened volunteer) are present with a participant. There may be exceptions in emergency situations. This protection also extends into virtual settings.

Vulnerable situations include:

- Training and practice sessions
- Games and tournaments
- Travel time
- Player meetings, both in-person and virtual
- Player communication, including in-person, texting, emails, or chatting otherwise



For more information about the Rule of Two, please see [The Coaching Association of Canada's infographic guidelines surrounding the Rule of Two.](#)



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EDUCATION AND DOCUMENTATION

All coaches in the competitive league, United, are required to complete the online training, *"Understanding the Rule of Two"* available on coach.ca.

All coaches in the recreation league are also encouraged to complete the online training.

STANDARDS

The Swift Current Soccer Association is committed to implementing the Rule of Two at all times. Therefore, we ask coaches, managers, volunteers, and parents/guardians to abide by the following guidelines. They are to be followed before, during, and after competitions, travel dates, training sessions, and player meetings, as well as any other situation where a player may be in a vulnerable position.

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. Locker Room/Changing Area/Meeting Room

- Interactions between a Person in Authority and an individual athlete should not occur in any room where there is 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.

3. Training / Competition Environment

- 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,



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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.
- For SSA competitions it is a requirement that two members of the team personnel on the bench must be the same gender as the athletes. One of these members must be coaching staff, second member can be support staff.

3. Virtual Settings

- Parental awareness – obtain consent for virtual sessions, plus inform parents of activities that will occur
- Record each session – should be in a professional setting (not a bedroom)
- Weekly debriefing – encourage regular check-ins with parents, coaches, and participants about the virtual training

4. 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