

Risk Management Policy

2.14 Rule of Two Policy

2.14.1 The Rule of Two serves to protect our athletes in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring that more than one adult is present. Vulnerable situations may include closed door meetings, travel, and training environments

2.14.2 There must always be two screened and Respect in trained or certified coaches with an 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.

2.14.3 VSA recognizes that it is not always possible to have two certified coaches in all situations, however when it is not possible, the following scenarios can be considered viable alternatives, with the most preferred options at the top

- a) 2 certified coaches (minimum one of the same identified gender as the player)
- b) 1 trained coach, 1 screened adult (parent, teacher, manager, volunteer, etc)
- c) 1 trained coach, minimum 2 athletes

2.14.4 Town Associations/Clubs are responsible to ensure that they have a screened volunteer available to meet the rule of two. If there are not two certified coaches meeting the gender requirements on the team, or in the case that a certified coach is absent, an adequate number of certified managers and bench parents must make themselves available.

2.14.5 Travel

- a) A Person in Authority may not be alone in a vehicle with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian, or has explicit permission from the athlete's parent or guardian.
- b) 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.
- c) Room or bed checks during overnight stays must be done by two Persons in Authority.

2.14.6 Training/Competition Environments (including before, during, and after practices and games)

a) A Person in Authority should never be alone with an athlete in a training/competition environment. If the athlete is the first to arrive the athlete's parent should remain until another athlete or Person of Authority arrives. Similarly, after a practice the Person in Authority should ensure another Person in Authority remains until all the athletes have been picked up.

b) 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.

2.14.7 Gender Identity

a) Person(s) of Authority interacting with athletes should be of the same gender identity as the athletes.

b) Teams consisting of athletes of just one gender identity, a Person of Authority of the same gender identity should participate in or attend every interaction.

c) Teams consisting of athletes of more than one gender identity, a Person of Authority of each gender identity should participate in or attend every interaction.

Failure to comply with this policy can result in suspension, cancellation of training times, forfeiture of games, etc. Any member with a concern about implementation of this policy should reach out to the Valley Soccer Association at vsainfo@valleysoccer.ca.