



SQ Policy: Rule of Two

Accreditations: Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport; Canada Soccer Guide to Safety

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.

Soccer Quest Rule of Two requires that: There will always be two screened and National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) trained or certified coaches with an athlete, especially a minor athlete, when in a potentially vulnerable situation. This means that any one-on-one interaction between a coach and an athlete must take place within earshot and view of the second coach, with the exception of medical emergencies.

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 diagram depicts the “staircase approach” to the Rule of Two. While the Gold Standard is the preferred environment, it is not expected that it will always be reached. 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 stair in the diagram, is to be avoided in all circumstances.

