



Policy Name: Rule of Two Policy Date:

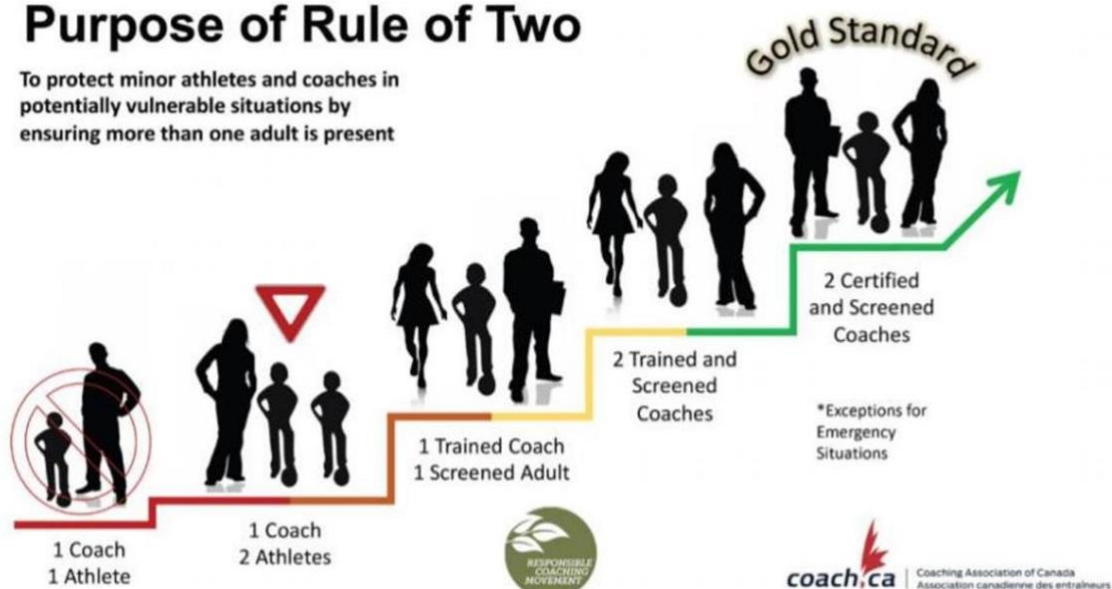
January 1, 2024

Reference: [Rule of Two Guidelines Canada Soccer](#)

As New Frontier Soccer's primary focus is on delivering soccer programs to children, all staff members must be attentive and ensure that the environment is safe and supportive to their needs. As such, New Frontier Soccer expects all those directly involved with children in soccer, to always present a positive and ethical representation of themselves and New Frontier Soccer, and to always consider the children's safety. As such, and on behalf of New Frontier Soccer the following child protection policy must always be adhered to. A Coach/Coordinator/Staff must not: 1. Engage directly with children through social media channels such as: Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and any other social media outlets. Club and team-based group communication sites such as TeamSnap are to be utilized whenever possible; 2. Participate in any direct meeting with an individual player that is not done in the presence of another adult such as the team manager, assistant coach and/or the player's parent or guardian. Direct feedback before, during or post games/practice scenarios are encouraged but must always be done at the training ground or similar venues within in a visible setting;

Purpose of Rule of Two

To protect minor athletes and coaches in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring more than one adult is present



3. Be alone with a child in a non-visible place and/or enclosed space, such as a car, change room, office or similar at any time.
4. Enter the locker room, change room, dressing room without knocking to let the players know you are about to enter. Please have a gender specific team official check to provide clearance that you can enter the dressing room.
5. Force/coerced/feel obligated to participate beyond their capability in sport activity when injured, suffering from an illness or rehabilitation from an injury.
6. Treat injured players out of sight of others. Please use a “two persons” supervision system when dealing with injured players. We encourage female team officials to treat female players and male team officials to treat male players.
7. Provide transportation to and from practices, tournaments, festivals and games to children unless accompanied by the player’s guardian and/or parent, or unless written permission is provided from the parent or guardian.
8. Leave children alone after a game or practice if their parent/guardian has not arrived to pick them up. In such cases the Coach and or Team Manager must remain with the child in a visible place until the player is picked up.
9. Conduct practices alone with a children’s team. Make sure you are in a visible place and that there are parents/guardians and or other adults present in the direct vicinity.
10. Use profanity, swearing, ridicule or violence towards a child. Given your important role at New Frontier Soccer and your interaction with NFS players, parents and families, your attention to the above is required and is appreciated.

If at any time you are faced with a “grey” situation, take the side of caution or seek guidance from the club technical staff, as even the most innocent type of situations can lead to unwanted challenges and misunderstandings. The core of this framework is to put the child’s safety and wellbeing first and never put yourself in a situation where you are alone with a child whether in a physical space or via direct communication channels. As a coach / team official, you must also be aware and keep all requirements as part of Alberta Soccer up to date.

Policy Communication

New Frontier holds preseason staff workshops every Indoor and Outdoor Season (twice per year), that cover the NF Child Protection Policy, Rule of Two, the clubs Code of Conduct along with important information to keep players, staff, and spectators safe. At the beginning of each

season, New Frontier members are directed to our website to review our policies. We also routinely remind families to review our policies in our monthly newsletters. Lastly, we have a 'Parent Meeting Agenda' template that Coaches and Team Managers are given prior to the start of a new season. Covering these policies is part of the agenda.

Applying the Rule of Two in a Virtual Setting

The Rule of Two continues to apply to all minor athletes in virtual environments (additionally, for those athletes under age 16, a parent or guardian should be present during the session where possible). The Rule of Two will also be applied to non-minor athletes, as well, in the current circumstances.

The following are guidelines for the implementation of the Rule of Two in a virtual setting:

- For every session, the Rule of Two requires two adult coaches be present, or one coach and one adult (parent, guardian, volunteer, club administrator) – one-on-one sessions should be prohibited.
- A clear statement of professional standards expected of the coach during calls should be communicated – (i.e., sessions are not social engagements, and should be focused on training/coaching).
- Encourage parents/guardians to debrief with U-16 athletes about virtual training on a weekly basis.
- Parents/guardians should be fully informed beforehand about the activities undertaken during the sessions, as well as the process of the virtual session.
- It is recommended to record sessions where that capacity exists.
- Communication during each session should be in an open and observable environment (i.e., avoid bedrooms) in the athlete's home (athlete's parents'/guardians' home), and the coach must initiate the session from an appropriate location (i.e., avoid bedrooms or "overly personal"/unprofessional settings).
- Parents/guardians should be required to consent to virtual sessions prior to each session, if irregularly scheduled, or prior to the first session if there is a series of regularly scheduled sessions.
- Prohibit one-on-one texting, emailing or online contact between coach and athlete – any texting, emailing or online contact should be limited to group text/email that includes at least 2 adults (2 coaches or 1 coach and 1 adult (parent, guardian, volunteer, club administrator), and limited to coaching (non-social) matters, and parents of minor athletes should be provided the opportunity to receive these texts/emails
 - Social media contact by coach to athlete should be prohibited (including the sharing of memes, non-training video, etc.)