# RULE OF TWO

## 1. Purpose

Squamish United Football Club (SQUFC) is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and positive environment for all participants.

The Rule of Two ensures that interactions between players, particularly minors, and individuals in positions of authority are open, observable and justifiable. It protects both participants and adults by reducing situations where individuals may be vulnerable.

The policy applies to all SQUFC activities, including training, games, travel, meetings, changing areas and virtual communication.

**The fundamental principle is that no coach, manager or volunteer should be alone with an individual minor player in a private or unobservable setting.**

## 2. General requirements

- Two screened adults should be present whenever possible, ideally two NCCP-trained or certified coaches.
- Coaches and volunteers must not be alone or out of sight with an individual minor player.
- If a second coach is unavailable, another screened adult, team manager or parent/guardian may be present.
- Training and team environments must remain open to observation.
- Individual meetings with minor players must take place in observable settings with another appropriate adult present.
- Emergency situations may require temporary exceptions. Parents/guardians and club leadership should be informed as soon as reasonably possible.

## 3. Training and games

The Rule of Two applies before, during and after all training sessions and games.

- Coaches must not be alone with a single player before or after activities.
- Parents/guardians must remain with players who arrive before supervision is available or stay after activities until appropriate supervision is in place.
- Individual instruction or additional training must take place within sight and earshot of another screened adult wherever possible.

- Parents/guardians must have reasonable access to observe training and games.

**4. Transportation and travel**

- Coaches, managers and volunteers must not transport an individual minor player alone unless they are the player's parent or legal guardian.
- Carpool arrangements involving minor players must be agreed to in advance by parents/guardians.
- Organized team travel must include appropriate supervision and parent/guardian communication.
- Coaches and team officials must not share hotel rooms or sleeping accommodations with minor players unless they are the player's parent or legal guardian.
- Overnight room checks must be completed by two screened adults.

**5. Changing areas**

- Coaches and team officials should respect players' privacy and avoid entering changing areas while players are changing.
- Where supervision is required, two screened adults should be present whenever possible.
- If adults cannot enter the changing area, they should remain accessible outside.
- Private meetings with individual players must not take place in changing rooms, washrooms or other private spaces.
- Photography and video recording are prohibited in changing areas and washrooms.

**6. Communication and social media**

All communication between SQUFC representatives and minor players must be appropriate, transparent and soccer-related.

- Coaches must not privately message minor players through personal social media accounts.
- Parents/guardians should be included in team communications and individual player-related discussions.
- Approved team communication platforms should be used wherever possible.
- Disappearing messages and secretive communication with minor players are prohibited.

- Players aged 16 and older may participate in direct soccer-related communication with coaches where written parent/guardian permission has been provided.
- Coaches must maintain appropriate professional boundaries at all times.

**7. Virtual communication**

The Rule of Two also applies to virtual meetings and online training.

- Two screened adults should be present whenever possible.
- One-on-one virtual sessions between a coach and a minor player are prohibited.
- Parents/guardians must be informed of the purpose and timing of virtual sessions in advance.
- For players under 16, a parent/guardian should be present wherever possible.
- Sessions must take place in appropriate, observable areas, avoiding bedrooms and private spaces.
- Virtual meetings must be soccer-related, use appropriate security settings and be recorded where appropriate and with required consent.

**8. Gender identity and privacy**

SQUFC is committed to respecting the identity, dignity and privacy of every participant.

- Where possible, a screened adult of the same gender identity as the participant should be available for sensitive interactions.
- Participants must be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of gender identity or expression.
- Individual needs and reasonable accommodations should be discussed respectfully with the participant and, where appropriate, their parent/guardian.

**9. Canada Soccer standards**

SQUFC supports Canada Soccer and the Coaching Association of Canada's Rule of Two guidelines and strives to achieve the Gold Standard:

1. Two NCCP-trained or certified coaches.
2. One NCCP-trained or certified coach and one screened club volunteer or team official.
3. One coach and one parent/guardian or other screened adult.
4. Where no other adult is available, another player may be present as a temporary minimum safeguard.

The presence of another player is the lowest standard and should be avoided wherever possible.

## 10. Responsibilities and reporting

### Coaches and team officials

- Understand and follow this policy.
- Plan activities to ensure appropriate supervision.
- Maintain professional boundaries.
- Raise and address situations where the Rule of Two cannot be maintained.

### Parents and guardians

- Support the policy and agreed supervision arrangements.
- Ensure players are supervised before and after activities.
- Report any concerns to the club.

### Players

- Respect the boundaries established by this policy.
- Raise concerns with a parent/guardian, coach or club representative.

### SQUFC leadership

- Ensure coaches, managers and volunteers understand the policy.
- Maintain appropriate screening and supervision standards.
- Address reported concerns in accordance with club Safe Sport procedures.

All SQUFC coaches, managers, staff and volunteers are expected to comply. Failure to follow this policy may result in further action in accordance with club procedures.

## 11. Policy review

SQUFC will review this policy periodically to ensure alignment with current Canada Soccer, BC Soccer and Safe Sport requirements.

**Squamish United Football Club is committed to providing a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for every participant.**

Updated: November 12, 2026