



Chatham Youth Soccer Association: Rule of Two Policy

Purpose: The Rule of Two policy is designed to ensure the safety and well-being of all players, particularly minors, involved in the sport. By adhering to the Rule of Two, the policy seeks to create an environment where the risk of abuse, misconduct, and inappropriate behaviour is minimized. This policy applies to all players, parents, coaches and team personnel involved in the Chatham Youth Soccer Association (CYSA).

1. The Rule of Two Overview

The Rule of Two requires that when interacting with a minor player (under 18 years of age), there must always be at least two (2) adults present. This is to prevent situations where a coach or team official is alone with a player, reducing the risk of misconduct or misunderstandings.

2. Scope and Application

- **Players:** All minors participating in CYSA programs and activities.
 - **Parents/Guardians:** Responsible for understanding and enforcing this policy with their children and supporting a safe environment.
 - **Coaches:** Responsible for ensuring that practices and games adhere to the Rule of Two. They must ensure that no one-on-one interactions with a minor player occur without the presence of a second adult.
 - **Team Personnel:** All volunteers, managers, assistants, and any other adult involved with the team or club activities must follow this policy.
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3. Key Principles

A. In-person Interaction

- **During Training and Games:** Coaches and team personnel should ensure there are always at least two (2) adults present when engaging with players during practice, games, or any other soccer-related activity.

- o Example: A coach and an assistant coach should be present during a practice or a game, with no coach or team personnel being alone with a single player in private spaces like locker rooms, vehicles, or secluded areas.



B. One-on-one Communication

- **Communication Methods:** Any one-on-one communication between coaches/team personnel and minor players (e.g., phone calls, texts, social media) should be transparent. Communication should include the player's parent or guardian where possible and be limited to team-related matters only.

C. Transportation

- **Traveling to and from Events:** If coaches or team personnel are required to transport minor players, they must do so with the knowledge and consent of the player's parent or guardian, and preferably with another adult present in the vehicle.

D. Changing Rooms and Restrooms

- **Supervision in Changing Areas:** No coach or team personnel should be alone in the changing room with any player. A minimum of two adults should always be present, with one ensuring the players are safe while the other supervises from a distance.

E. Confidentiality

- **Respect for Privacy:** Personal information or concerns about a minor player must be kept confidential. Coaches and team personnel must only discuss issues concerning players in an appropriate, professional, and respectful manner.

4. Enforcement and Compliance

A. Coaches' Responsibility

- Coaches are responsible for implementing and enforcing the Rule of Two policy during all team activities. Any coach found in violation of this policy will face disciplinary action, which may include suspension or removal from coaching duties.

B. Team Personnel's Responsibility

- Team personnel must report any violations of the Rule of Two policy to the association's governing body. They are also responsible for adhering to the rule in all interactions with players.

C. Parental Involvement

- Parents should be informed of the Rule of Two policy and encouraged to participate in ensuring its enforcement. If a parent or guardian notices violations or has concerns, they should promptly report them to the association.

D. Reporting Violations

- If any individual, player, coach, or parent becomes aware of a situation that violates the Rule of Two, they are encouraged to report it immediately to the CYSA through the proper channels, ensuring that all reports are taken seriously and investigated.

5. Education and Awareness

A. Training for Coaches, Team Personnel, and Parents



- CYSA will provide mandatory training for all coaches, team personnel, and parents regarding the Rule of Two policy, including scenarios where this rule applies and the steps to follow if violations occur.

B. Player Education

- Players will be educated about the Rule of Two in an age-appropriate way. They will be encouraged to communicate openly with trusted adults if they feel uncomfortable in any situation.

6. Exceptions

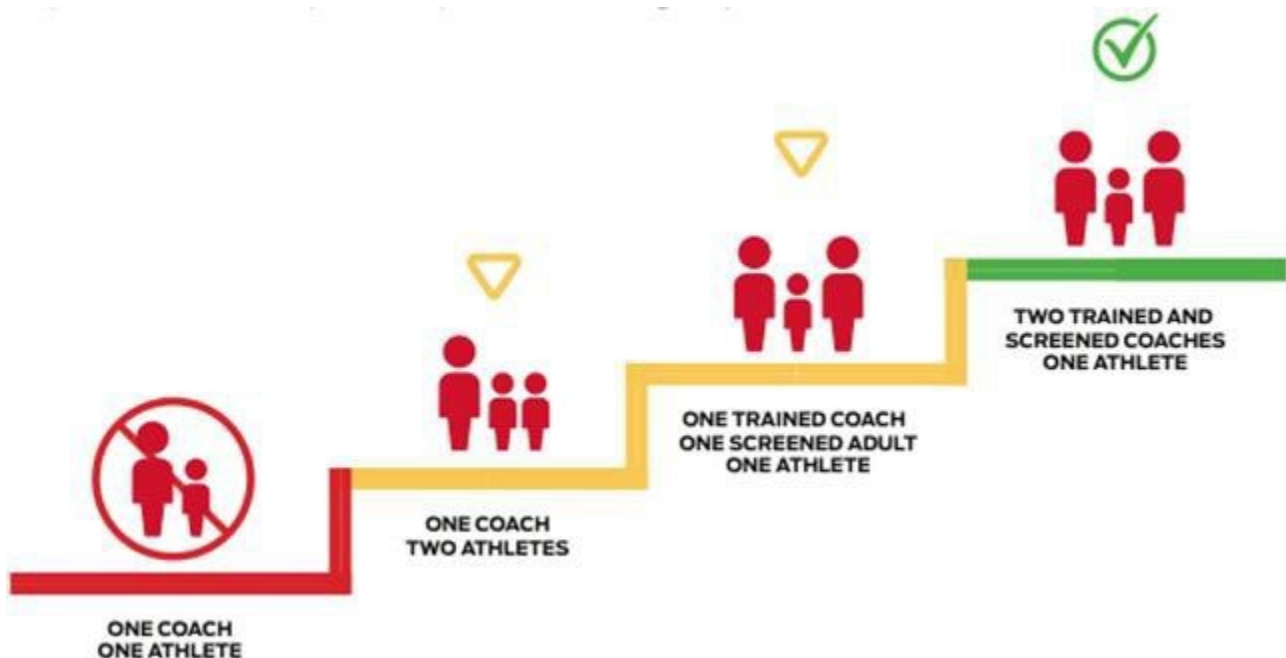
- In some rare circumstances (such as emergencies), the Rule of Two may be temporarily relaxed, but only with the informed consent of a parent/guardian and with proper reporting to the association after the fact.

7. Acknowledgment

- All members of the CYSA, including players, coaches, parents, and team personnel, must acknowledge understanding and compliance with the Rule of Two policy annually.

By adhering to the Rule of Two, we foster a safe, supportive, and transparent environment where minor players can participate in soccer activities with confidence, knowing that their well-being is the highest priority.

Signed: Chatham Youth Soccer Association February 14, 2025





NCCP-trained or certified coaches always present with an athlete. If NCCP-trained or certified coaches are not available, a screened “Person in Authority” (such as managers, support personnel, chaperones, or director of the club or organization) should be present instead. If a screened Person in Authority or other volunteer is not available, another adult (such as a parent/guardian of another athlete in a youth environment or another athlete in a senior environment), should be asked to temporarily substitute. If another adult is not available, there should always be more than one athlete with the coach (this is the lowest standard and is not recommended).