



EDMONTON SOUTHWEST UNITED

soccer club | established 1982

POLICY ADM-25-02 | RULE OF TWO

Approved July 6, 2025
Review on July 6, 2026 or before, as required

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate Edmonton Southwest United SC's ("SWU") commitment to providing a safe, ethical, and accountable coaching environment for all participants, particularly youth athletes.

This policy incorporates the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) Rule of Two, which is designed to protect athletes by ensuring that all interactions and communications between adults and minors occur in open, observable, and justifiable settings. The Rule of Two significantly reduces the risk of misconduct and protects both athletes and adults from potentially vulnerable or inappropriate situations.

Examples of vulnerable situations include, but are not limited to:

- Closed-door meetings
- One-on-one training sessions
- Travel to games or tournaments
- Locker room or change room settings

SWU will implement this policy through sustainable, measurable procedures that limit the occurrence of situations where an athlete and an adult are alone without proper oversight.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to all SWU:

- Coaches,
- Technical Trainers,
- Team Managers, and
- Any other adults acting in a position of trust with athletes

Policy Statement

SWU adheres to the CCES Rule of Two, which requires:

- A minimum of two NCCP-trained or certified, and screened, adults to be present with an athlete during any potentially vulnerable situation.
- One of the adults should be of the same gender identity as the athlete, where possible.
- In circumstances where two NCCP-trained coaches are not available, a screened adult such as a team manager, volunteer, or parent may fulfill the second adult role.
- Exceptions to this rule apply only in emergency medical situations.

The Rule of Two protects both athletes and adults, fosters transparency, and contributes to a positive, safe sporting environment.



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Policy Procedures and Requirements

To meet the requirements of the Rule of Two, the following practices must be followed:

- Team Approach
 - Coaches must ensure that another screened coach, team manager, parent, or approved adult is present during interactions with athletes.
 - One-on-one conversations or instruction must occur in the presence or within the sight and earshot of a second adult.
- Open and Observable Environments
 - All interactions should take place in settings that are open, observable, and accessible to others.
 - Private meetings or closed-door sessions with an athlete are prohibited unless conducted with another adult present and doors left open or the setting is fully visible to others.
- Transparent Communication
 - Electronic communications, including text messages, emails, or direct messaging platforms, must include parents/guardians or occur in group chats.
 - One-on-one private messaging between coaches and athletes is strictly prohibited.
- Travel and Transportation
 - When traveling to games, practices, tournaments, or other events, at least two screened adults must be present with athletes.
 - Refer to SWU's Best Practices for Tournaments and Travel for detailed travel safety protocols.
- Consideration of Gender Balance
 - Where possible, team staff should be selected to ensure gender representation aligns with the gender composition of the team.
 - This is especially important for overnight travel, locker room supervision, and other potentially sensitive situations.

Commitment to Athlete Safety

SWU is committed to upholding the Rule of Two in all club activities to foster a culture of safety, respect, and accountability. Any violations of this policy will be addressed in accordance with SWU's Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures.