



Hamilton Serbians Youth Soccer Club

RULE OF TWO POLICY

1. Introduction

The Hamilton Serbians Soccer Club is committed to ensuring a safe and respectful environment for all players, coaches, officials, and volunteers. The **Rule of Two** is a key policy that protects athletes from potential risks by ensuring that no coach or staff member is ever alone with a minor athlete. This policy aligns with **Canada Soccer's Rule of Two Guidelines**.

Hamilton Serbians Soccer Club has also taken the Responsible Coaching Pledge with the Coaching Association of Canada, which ensure all our coaches have been trained and completed the three pillars of Responsible Coaching Movement: Background Screening, Ethics Training and Rule of Two.



2. What is the Rule of Two?

The Rule of Two ensures that at least two responsible adults (e.g., coaches, team managers, volunteers) are always present when interacting with an athlete. The goal is to create an open and observable environment that prioritizes safety and accountability.

Key principles:

- A coach or staff member must never be alone with a minor athlete.
- All interactions should take place in open and observable environments.
- If a one-on-one situation is necessary (e.g., medical emergency), it must be conducted in an open area or with another screened adult present.
- Travel and overnight accommodations must follow Rule of Two guidelines to ensure proper supervision.

3. Application of the Rule of Two

The Rule of Two applies to:

- Training sessions
- Team meetings
- Electronic communications (emails, text messages, social media interactions)
- Transportation to and from games or events
- Overnight trips and team accommodations

4. Exceptions & Emergency Situations

While the Rule of Two must always be followed, there may be rare emergency situations where a coach or official must act alone (e.g., medical emergencies). In such cases, efforts should be made to notify another responsible adult as soon as possible.



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5. Compliance & Training

- All coaches, volunteers, and club officials must complete training on the **Rule of Two** and child protection policies.
- Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or removal from club activities.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to be aware of this policy and support its implementation.

Standards

The following standards have been developed for the Rule of Two.



Canada Soccer expects that all organizations will work toward the safest possible environment by having two screened and 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).

Image from - The Rule of Two Guidelines (Canada Soccer)