



Edmonton West Zone Soccer Association

Policy: Rule of Two

POLICY STATEMENT

Edmonton West Zone Soccer Association (EMSA West) is committed to the safety of our players, coaches, volunteers, and members:

Principles and Practices

What is the Rule of Two?

The Rule of Two requires that there will always be two screened and NCCP trained or certified coaches with an athlete, especially a minor athlete, when in a potentially vulnerable situation. This means that any one-on-one interaction between a coach and an athlete must take place within earshot and view of the second person of authority, except for medical emergencies. Should there be a circumstance where a second screened and NCCP trained or certified coach is not available, a screened volunteer, parent, or adult can be recruited.

GUIDELINES

- Any interaction between a team official and an athlete, regardless of time or location, must include a minimum of two screened team officials present, one of whom must be the same gender of the athlete. The exception to this would be for medical emergencies.
- A “screened” team official means a team official that has completed and submitted a Criminal Record check and is valid as per the EMSA West PIC Policy.
- The screened team officials must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- A same gender team official must always be present during practices and within ear shot of the players and other team officials.

Travel – The following guidelines will apply during travel with athletes:

- A Person in Authority may not be alone in a car with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete’s parent or guardian.
- A Person in Authority may not share a room or be alone in a hotel room with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete’s parent or guardian.
- Room or bed checks during overnight stays must be done by two Persons in Authority, whom one is of the same gender of the players.

Locker Room/Changing Area/Meeting Room – The following guidelines will apply for locker rooms, changing areas, and meeting rooms:

- Interactions between a Person in Authority and an individual athlete should not occur in any room where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy such as the locker room, meeting room, washroom, or changing area. A second Person in Authority should be present for all necessary interactions in any such room.
- If Persons in Authority are not present in the locker room or changing area, or if they are not permitted to be present, they should still be available outside the locker room, or changing area and be able to enter the room or area if required.

Training/Competition Environment – The following guidelines will apply for the training and competition environment (including before, during, and after practices and games):

- A Person in Authority should never be alone with an athlete prior to or following a game or practice unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian. If the athlete is the first one to arrive, the athlete's parent should remain until another athlete or Person in Authority arrives.
- Similarly, if an athlete would potentially be alone with a Person in Authority following a game or practice, the Person in Authority should ask another Person in Authority (or a parent or guardian of another athlete) to stay until all the athletes have been picked up. If an adult is not available, then another athlete should be present to avoid the Person in Authority being alone with a single athlete.
- Persons in Authority giving instructions, demonstrating skills, or facilitating drills or lessons to an individual athlete should always be doing so within earshot and eyesight of another Person in Authority.

Gender Identity – A Person in Authority who is interacting with athletes should be of the same gender identity as the athletes. The following guidelines will apply:

- For teams consisting of athletes of just one gender identity: a Person in Authority of the same gender identity should be available to participate or attend every interaction.
- For teams consisting of athletes of more than one gender identity (e.g., co-ed teams): a Person in Authority of each gender identity should be available.