



Rule of Two and Safe Sport Policy

Effective Date: December 22, 2025

PURPOSE

Comox Valley United Soccer Club (CVUSC) is committed to providing a soccer environment that promotes the health, safety, dignity, and well-being of all participants, with particular emphasis on the protection of children and youth. This policy outlines CVUSC's commitment to the Rule of Two and provides clear guidance to all Persons in Authority to ensure interactions with athletes, referees, and participants are safe, inclusive, respectful, transparent, and free from maltreatment, including abuse, harassment, and discrimination.

DEFINITIONS

Person in Authority

A Person in Authority includes, but is not limited to, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, referees, staff, volunteers, chaperones, and any individual who holds a position of trust or authority within CVUSC.

Minor

"British Columbia, Person under 19 years" - Government of Canada Website

STANDARDS (RULE OF TWO)

CVUSC adopts the Rule of Two and requires that:

- All interactions between Persons in Authority and participants are open, observable, and justifiable.
- Interactions, whether in person or virtual, involve a minimum of two Persons in Authority, except in emergency situations.
- One-on-one interactions between a Person in Authority and a minor must take place within sight and hearing of others.
- Written communication with minors must include the parent/guardian and another Person in Authority. If communication is directed to a minor, both the parent/guardian and another Person in Authority must be copied.

- Phone calls, direct messaging, and text messages are discouraged and must not be the primary means of communication with minors.
- Virtual interactions must include at least one other Person in Authority and, whenever reasonably possible, the parent/guardian of the minor.

GENDER CONSIDERATIONS

Consistent with Safe Sport best practices:

- CVUSC will consider the gender identity of participants when assigning Persons in Authority.
- When coaches do not share the same gender identity as some or all participants, CVUSC encourages the involvement of a parent/guardian or another volunteer who reflects the gender identity of the athletes.
- For single-gender teams, a Person in Authority of the same gender identity should be available whenever possible.
- For mixed-gender teams, Persons in Authority of more than one gender identity should be available whenever reasonably possible.

TRAVEL

To reduce risk and uphold Safe Sport standards:

- A Person in Authority must not be alone in a vehicle with an athlete unless they are the athlete's parent or guardian.
- A Person in Authority must not share a hotel room or sleeping space with an athlete unless they are the athlete's parent or guardian.
- Room or bed checks during overnight travel must be conducted by two Persons in Authority.

LOCKER ROOMS, CHANGING AREAS & MEETING ROOMS

- One-on-one interactions between a Person in Authority and an athlete must not occur in spaces where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as locker rooms, washrooms, changing areas, or meeting rooms.
- If entry into these spaces is required, two Persons in Authority must be present.
- Locker rooms and changing areas should be supervised by two Persons in Authority of the same gender identity as the athletes whenever reasonably possible.
- If a second Person in Authority is unavailable, the supervising Person in Authority must never be alone with an individual athlete.

- Where Persons in Authority are not permitted inside these spaces, they must remain available outside and able to respond if needed. This is not considered best practice but may be required in limited circumstances.

TRAINING AND COMPETITION ENVIRONMENTS

(Before, during, and after practices and games)

- A Person in Authority must never be alone with an athlete before or after training sessions or competitions unless they are the athlete's parent or guardian.
- If an athlete arrives early, a parent/guardian should remain until another athlete or Person in Authority is present.
- Athletes who arrive independently should wait in a public, observable area until others arrive.
- If an athlete may be left alone following an activity, the Person in Authority must ensure another adult, parent/guardian, or (in senior environments) another athlete remains present.
- Individual instruction, demonstrations, or feedback must always occur within sight and hearing of another Person in Authority.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually to reflect the evolving needs of the club and the community it serves.

BC SOCCER ALIGNMENT

All Comox Valley United Soccer Club policies must align with BC Soccer's Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, and applicable Policies and procedures.

GUIDING/GOVERNING ORGANIZATIONS AND DOCUMENTS

[BC Soccer Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, and Policies](#)

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