Rule of Two – Oakridge Soccer Club Policy

The goal of the 'Rule of Two' is to ensure all interactions and communications are open, observable, and justifiable. Following the Rule of Two means two responsible adults (coach, parent, or screened volunteer) are present with a participant.

When interacting with players ask yourself the following questions:

Is the situation open?

- An open environment is where the coach and participant can be seen
- They're in an open and public space
- An open environment is an environment that isn't closed or concealed from others
- Interactions should not take place behind closed doors or in secluded locations
- Others should be aware the interaction is taking place.

Is the situation observable?

An observable environment is a space where others can see or take note of the interaction.

Before interacting with a participant, ask yourself:

- Does the participant (or individual in a position of lesser power) have an easy and accessible exit path?
- Is this interaction observable?
- Is anyone else with you?
- Can anyone see you?
- Can your conversation be heard?

Is the situation justifiable?

A justifiable environment is one that would appear normal for a participant and coach to be seen working together. Examples include:

- in a gymnasium
- on a soccer field

An environment that may not be justifiable is at a coffee shop. While it may be open and observable, it may not be justifiable to meet with a sport participant outside of the sport environment.

If the answer to any of the above questions is no, then you are not following the ‘Rule of Two’ and appropriate steps should be taken to rectify the situation.

The Oakridge Soccer Club Policy is as follows:

- A coach should have another coach or screened adult (parent or volunteer) present when interacting with participants
- Ensure the training environment is open to observation
- Ensure that if a participant rides in a coach's vehicle that another adult or coach is present, or at least 1 other participant is in the vehicle
- Consider the gender of the participant or participants when selecting the screened coaches and volunteers to be present in situations requiring the ‘Rule of Two’ actions
- One-on-one digital communication with a player should be eliminated. Ensure that all communications (email, text or otherwise) are sent to a group (3 or more people), to parents and guardians, or to all of the above
- The ‘Rule of Two’ also applies to all participants in the virtual environment
    - For every virtual session, the ‘Rule of Two’ requires 2 adult coaches be present, or 1 coach and 1 adult (parent, guardian, volunteer, sport organization administrator) with the participants
    - One-on-one sessions are strongly discouraged
- Social media contact by the coach must be related to the sport program, must not contain personal information or references, must not happen in private messages to participants

Applying the ‘Rule of Two’ in sport environments provides many benefits, including:

- Increasing the safety and security of all participants
- Reducing the risk of an incident of abuse
- Protecting everyone, including coaches and volunteers
- Protects against false allegations
- Reducing a sport organization's liability
- Providing additional help if there’s an accident or emergency

For any questions, please contact registrar@oakridgesoccerclub.ca

Version: 23Feb2023