



RULE OF TWO POLICY

Purpose. The Rule of Two helps protect athletes, particularly minor athletes, in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring that interactions with Persons in Authority are observable and interruptible and, wherever possible, that more than one responsible adult is present. Vulnerable situations may include closed-door meetings, travel, training, competition, and individual instruction.

1. General Standard

Forza Soccer Academy applies the Rule of Two across its programs and activities. The preferred or Gold Standard is for two screened coaches who have completed appropriate safe-sport and coaching training to be present with an athlete, particularly a minor athlete, in potentially vulnerable situations.

- One-on-one interactions between a Person in Authority and a minor athlete, without another appropriate individual present or the interaction being observable and interruptible, are to be avoided except in an emergency.
- Where two screened and appropriately trained coaches are not available, a screened volunteer, parent/guardian, or other appropriate adult may assist in maintaining the Rule of Two.
- Where reasonably possible and appropriate to the participants, consideration should be given to gender identity and participant comfort when identifying the adults present.

2. Person in Authority

For the purposes of this policy, a **Person in Authority** includes a coach, team personnel, screened volunteer, staff member, or other adult acting in a position of responsibility in connection with a Forza Soccer Academy activity. The Gold Standard is met when the adults present are screened and appropriately trained coaches.

3. Travel and Overnight Activities

- A Person in Authority must not be alone in a vehicle with a minor athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian.
- A Person in Authority must not share a room or be alone in a hotel room with a minor athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian.
- Room or bed checks during overnight stays should be conducted by two Persons in Authority.

4. Training and Competition

- A Person in Authority should not be alone with a minor athlete before or after a training session, match, tournament, or other Forza activity.
- If an athlete is the first to arrive, a parent/guardian should remain until another athlete or Person in Authority is present whenever reasonably possible.
- If an athlete would otherwise be left alone with a Person in Authority after an activity, another Person in Authority or another athlete's parent/guardian should remain until the athlete is picked up. If no adult is available, another athlete should remain present.
- Individual instruction, demonstrations, or skill work should occur within the eyesight and earshot of another Person in Authority or appropriate adult.

5. Meetings and Communications

- In-person meetings with a minor athlete should occur in an open, observable setting or with another appropriate adult present.

- Electronic communication with minor athletes should use appropriate team or organizational communication channels. Where practical, a parent/guardian or another appropriate adult should be included in direct communications.

6. Education and Communication

Forza Soccer Academy makes this policy available to players, parents and guardians, coaches, staff, volunteers, and team personnel through its public policy resources. Coaches and team personnel are expected to understand and apply the Rule of Two in their work with athletes. The Rule of Two and related safe-sport expectations are communicated to participants and families as part of Forza's ongoing commitment to athlete safety.

7. Concerns and Reporting

Questions or concerns about the application of the Rule of Two may be directed to the Technical Director. Conduct that raises a child-protection, abuse, harassment, discrimination, or potentially illegal behaviour concern must also be addressed under Forza Soccer Academy's applicable safeguarding and reporting policies.

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Approved by Forza Soccer Academy