



## Rule of Two (Safe Sport) Policy

### Statement of Commitment

ICSF Columbus FC is committed to the health, safety, and well-being of all participants, with particular emphasis on the protection of minors. The Club believes that all individuals have the right to participate in soccer in a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment, free from abuse, harassment, and discrimination, and to enjoy the sport at all levels of participation.

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to all staff, coaches, and volunteers regarding the Rule of Two, ensuring that all interactions with athletes, coaches, and referees prioritize safety, transparency, and accountability.

### Definitions

- **Minor:** Any individual under the age of 19, in accordance with the laws of British Columbia.
- **Person in Authority:** Any individual in a position of trust or authority within ICSF Columbus FC, including but not limited to coaches, managers, trainers, staff, and volunteers.

### Standards – Rule of Two

ICSF Columbus FC adopts the Rule of Two, which requires that all interactions and communications between Persons in Authority and athletes:

- Be open, observable, and justifiable
- Involve two screened and responsible adults, where possible
- Avoid situations where a Person in Authority is alone with a minor

### General Guidelines

- In-person interactions with a minor must occur within view and earshot of others
- Virtual and in-person interactions should include at least one additional adult, except in emergency circumstances
- All communications must be transparent and accountable

## Communication Standards

- Email communication must include the parent/guardian and at least one additional adult when communicating with a minor
- If communicating directly with a minor, the parent/guardian and another adult must be copied
- Phone calls and text messaging with a minor should be limited and avoided where possible, and must include transparency (e.g., parent awareness)
- Virtual meetings must include at least one additional adult, and preferably a parent/guardian

## Operational Guidelines

### Gender Consideration

ICSF Columbus FC will consider gender identity when assigning Persons in Authority:

- Where possible, a Person in Authority of the same gender identity as the athletes should be present
- For mixed-gender teams, representation of multiple gender identities is encouraged
- Where this is not possible, a designated parent/guardian or volunteer may be assigned

### Travel

- A Person in Authority must not be alone in a vehicle with a minor unless they are the minor's parent/guardian
- A Person in Authority must not share a room with a minor unless they are the parent/guardian
- Room checks during overnight stays must be conducted by **two Persons in Authority**

### Locker Room / Changing Areas

- A Person in Authority must not be alone with a minor in any private setting (e.g., locker room, washroom, meeting room)
- Two Persons in Authority should be present when supervision is required
- If not present, Persons in Authority must remain immediately accessible outside the area
- Supervision should, where possible, be by individuals of the same gender identity as participants

### Training and Competition Environment

- A Person in Authority must not be alone with a minor before or after activities
- Parents/guardians should remain present until supervision is in place
- Athletes should not be left alone with a single Person in Authority at any time
- Individual instruction must occur within view and earshot of another adult

## **Exceptions**

Exceptions to the Rule of Two may occur in emergency situations, where the safety or well-being of a participant is at risk. In such cases, actions taken must be reasonable and justifiable.

## **Reporting and Compliance**

Any concerns regarding violations of this policy must be reported to the Executive Director at [ed@icsf.ca](mailto:ed@icsf.ca) or a designated Club Official.

All reports will be:

- Taken seriously
- Documented
- Addressed in a timely, fair, and confidential manner

## **BC Soccer Alignment**

All ICSF Columbus FC policies align with the bylaws, rules, and Safe Sport requirements of BC Soccer and Canada Soccer.