

# ST. CLEMENTS SOCCER CLUB

## Rule of Two Policy

### 1. Purpose

The Rule of Two is designed to ensure all interactions and communications between coaches, team personnel, and athletes are **open, observable, and justifiable**.

Its purpose is to protect:

- Players (especially minors)
- Coaches
- Volunteers
- Team personnel

from being placed in vulnerable situations.

Under the Rule of Two, a **coach must never be alone with a player**, except in limited emergency circumstances.

One-on-one interactions between a coach and a player **must be avoided** in all circumstances except medical emergencies.

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### 2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All St. Clements Soccer Club coaches
  - Assistant coaches
  - Volunteers
  - Referee
  - Parents/guardians
  - Players
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### 3. Policy and Practice Requirements

✓ **A coach is never alone and out of sight with a player.**

There must always be:

- **Two screened coaches**, OR
- **One screened coach + one screened adult** (parent, volunteer, club official), OR
- **If no screened adult is immediately available** — another *adult* must remain present (parent/guardian or adult athlete).
- **If absolutely no adult is available** — there must be **more than one athlete** present with the coach. (This is the lowest standard and **not recommended**.)

✓ **Training environments must be open to observation.**

This can include:

- Parents being within sight
- Coaches leaving doors open
- Using public, visible, or unlocked spaces
- Conducting conversations in group settings

✓ **The club will inform parents/guardians and players that St. Clements Soccer Club aims for:**

**Two screened and NCCP-trained or certified coaches present with an athlete at all times.**

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### 4. Special Guidelines

#### A. Travel (Tournaments, Festivals, Away Games)

Because St. Clements Soccer Club does not operate travel teams, overnight stays, tournaments requiring hotels, or transportation, the following Rule of Two conditions do NOT apply:

- Coaches traveling in vehicles with players

- Hotel room supervision
- Room or bed checks
- Overnight supervision protocols
- Long-distance tournament supervision

These sections are unnecessary for a community-based, non-travel recreational program and are intentionally omitted from this policy.

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## **B. Training & Competition Environments**

These rules apply **before, during, and after** games and practices.

1. A coach or Person in Authority must **never** be alone with an athlete before or after practices or games unless the coach is their parent/guardian.
  2. If a player arrives early, their parent/guardian should stay until:
    - Another athlete arrives, or
    - Another Person in Authority arrives.
  3. If a player would be left alone with a coach after practice or a game, the coach must:
    - Ask another adult to stay until the player is picked up, or
    - Ensure another athlete is present (minimum standard).
  4. Coaches giving one-on-one instruction must do so **within earshot and eyesight** of:
    - Another coach, OR
    - A screened volunteer, OR
    - A parent/guardian
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## **5. Digital Communication & Meetings**

The Rule of Two also applies to:

- Texting
- WhatsApp/Group chats
- Social media
- Online meetings (Zoom, Google Meet)

Rules:

- All communication must be open, group-based, and soccer-related.
  - No private messaging between coach and athlete.
  - Online meetings with minors must include:
    - Another screened adult **OR**
    - The player's parent/guardian
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## 6. Emergency Exceptions

In limited emergency cases (e.g., medical intervention), coaches may temporarily be alone with an athlete **ONLY** when necessary to:

- Address immediate safety
- Prevent harm
- Administer first aid

Afterward, the coach must:

1. Notify the parent/guardian ASAP
  2. Notify the club
  3. Document what occurred
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## 7. Compliance & Enforcement

All coaches, volunteers, parents, and team personnel are expected to:

- Know the Rule of Two
- Follow the Rule of Two

- Report violations or concerns
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## **8. Communication & Education**

St. Clements Soccer Club will educate parents, players, and team personnel through:

- Coach training
- Pre-season coaches meeting
- Registration form
- Email reminders