

Responsible Coaching Movement Q & A's

Please find below responses to the questions that were asked during our Coaches AGM that required clarification from Amy Levac, Skate Canada's Safe Sport Coordinator (answers appear in red):

1. What are the requirements or guidelines for coaches of other sports to come work off-ice with our skaters? If they are certified in their sport, but not a skating coach. Does that have impact on insurance?

These coaches will have to provide the club with proof of insurance confirming that they are covered to train skaters. The activities offered must be directly related to athlete on-ice conditioning. Example: If they are being trained for hockey or other sports, they may not be covered. I always advise the clubs if they are wondering if some activities are covered or not, it's best to contact Roxanne Jobin from BFL Canada at 1-800-465-2842, ext. 1335, rjobin@BFLcanada.ca

2. some clarification and suggestions for maintaining the Rule of Two regarding driving skaters to/from rink, having extra ice mid-day or early morning when there are no others around, or being the caregiver for a friend's child(ren) after "coaching hours" are over?

Organizations (clubs and schools) must create and implement, policies and procedures, in a sustainable, phased and measurable process, that limit the instances where these situations are possible. While there is no formal Skate Canada policy on this it is the recommendation that coaches follow at least one of the following standards: Gold, Silver, or Bronze with the maximum effort to follow the Gold standard.

The Rule of Two:

Gold Standard – Two Certified Coaches

Silver Standard – Certified Coach & another adult (parent, volunteer, etc.)

Bronze Standard – Certified adult & minimum of 2 minors

A coach should never be alone or out of sight with an athlete – especially a minor (example: dressing room, vehicle driving the skater to and from skating) As for the early mid-day extra ice time it might be something that needs to be discussed with the club board where the extra ice time to ensure that the skater is not alone in the building with only one adult coach. I know it can be challenging but maybe extra ice time can be booked in twos so that there are always 2 coaches on ticket ice at all times.

This step is to protect the coach not just the skater

How can I support the Rule of Two?

- When travel is necessary, avoid situations where there is only one coach/volunteer with a single minor athlete.
 - Allow training environments to be open (observation by parents)
 - Avoid private or one-on-one situations unless in an emergency.
 - Self-identify situations during practice and competition that may put you or your athletes in a vulnerable situation and consider ways to avoid or alter the environment.
3. If a coach is in a situation where they are the adult and there are two athletes with them, does the age of the athletes have significance? Meaning, if they were two five year olds, is that considered to be following rule of two?

Since this isn't a policy and I don't see any information about what age the athletes must be if no other adult is around, I would say that it should be to the discretion of the club and/or the coach. Our recommendation is that coaches follow at least one of the following standards: Gold, Silver, or Bronze with the maximum effort to follow the Gold standard.

4. What happens to insurance when a club's coach cannot get to the rink due to weather or illness or emergency and there are no sub coaches available? Many clubs are in a one-coach scenario and coaches drive 100+ km to their rink regularly.

In order to ensure proper insurance coverage and safety of all Skate Canada registrants, a Skate Canada coach is required for all regularly scheduled sessions.

In extenuating circumstances where a Skate Canada coach is unable to physically get to the rink (i.e. snowstorm, car problem, etc.) the club may offer practice ice in lieu of a program session under the supervision of a responsible adult. The responsible adult who ideally should be first aid certified would monitor the practice session from the stands or rink boards and be the primary point of contact should an incident occur.

For more information on the Responsible Coaching Movement please visit

<https://www.coach.ca/responsible-coaching-movement-s17179>