



Athlete Protection Policy

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Approved by Board of Governors:	July 20, 2026
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Definitions

1. [Defined terms](#) used in the Athlete Protection Policy include:

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| a) <i>Athlete</i> | d) <i>Social Media</i> |
| b) <i>Organization(s)</i> | e) <i>Vulnerable Participant or
Vulnerable Organizational
Participant</i> |
| c) <i>Person in Authority</i> | |

Purpose

2. This *Athlete Protection Policy* describes how *Persons in Authority* shall maintain a safe sport environment for all *Athletes*.

Interactions between Persons in Authority and Athletes – the ‘Rule of Two’

3. The *Organization(s)* requires that the ‘Rule of Two’ be followed for all *Persons in Authority* who interact with *Athletes*, to the maximum extent possible in the circumstances. The ‘Rule of Two’ is a directive that says that an *Athlete* must never be alone one-on-one with an unrelated *Person in Authority*.
4. The *Organization(s)* recognizes that fully implementing the ‘Rule of Two’ may not always be possible in some instances. Consequently, at a minimum, interactions between *Persons in Authority* and *Athletes* must respect the following:
- a) To the maximum extent possible, the training environment should be visible and accessible so that all interactions between *Persons in Authority* and *Athletes* are observable.

- b) Private and one-on-one situations that are not observable by another adult or *Athlete* should be avoided to the maximum extent possible.
- c) A *Vulnerable Organizational Participant* may not be alone under the supervision of a *Person in Authority* unless prior written permission is obtained from the *Vulnerable Organizational Participant's* parent or guardian.
- d) *Persons in Authority* may not invite or host *Vulnerable Organizational Participants* into their home without the written permission from parents or guardians or without parents or guardians having contemporaneous knowledge of the visit.

Competitions, Training Sessions, and Practices

5. For competitions, training sessions and practices, the *Organization(s)* requires:

- a) A *Person in Authority* should never be alone with a *Vulnerable Organizational Participant* prior to or following a competition or training session unless the *Person in Authority* is the *Vulnerable Organizational Participant's* parent or guardian.
- b) If a *Vulnerable Organizational Participant* is the first *Athlete* to arrive, the *Athlete's* parent(s) and/or guardian(s) should remain until another *Athlete* or *Person in Authority* arrives.
- c) If a *Vulnerable Organizational Participant* would potentially be alone with a *Person in Authority* following a competition or training session, the *Person in Authority* should ask another *Person in Authority* (or a parent or guardian of another *Athlete*) to stay until all the *Athletes* have been picked up. If an adult is unavailable, another *Athlete*, who is preferably not a *Vulnerable Organizational Participant*, should be present to avoid the *Person in Authority* being alone with a *Vulnerable Organizational Participant*.
- d) *Persons in Authority* giving instructions, demonstrating skills, or facilitating drills or lessons to an individual *Athlete* should always do so within earshot and eyesight of another *Person in Authority*.
- e) *Persons in Authority* and *Athletes* should take steps to achieve transparency and accountability in their interactions. For example, a *Person in Authority* and an *Athlete* who know they will be away from other *Organizational Participants* for a lengthy period must inform another *Person in Authority* where they are going and

when they expect to return. *Persons in Authority* should always be reachable by phone or text message.

Communications

6. For communication between *Persons in Authority* and *Athletes*, the *Organization(s)* requires:
 - a) *Persons in Authority* may only send texts, direct messages on *Social Media* or emails to individual *Athletes* when necessary and only for communicating information related to team issues and activities (e.g., non-personal information). Any such texts, messages or emails shall be professional in tone.
 - b) Electronic communication between *Persons in Authority* and *Athletes* that is personal in nature should be avoided. If such personal communication is unavoidable, it must be recorded and available for review by another *Person in Authority* and/or by the *Athlete's* parent/guardian (when the *Athlete* is a *Vulnerable Organizational Participant* or a *Minor*).
 - c) Parents/guardians may request that their child not be contacted by a *Person in Authority* using any form of electronic communication and/or may request that certain information about their child not be distributed in any form of electronic communication.
 - d) All communication between a *Person in Authority* and *Athletes* must occur between the hours of 6:00 am and midnight, unless extenuating circumstances justify otherwise.
 - e) Communication concerning illegal drugs or alcohol use (unless regarding its prohibition) is not permitted.
 - f) No sexually explicit language or imagery or sexually oriented conversation may be communicated in any medium.
 - g) *Persons in Authority* may not ask *Athletes* to keep a personal secret for them.

Travel

7. For travel involving *Persons in Authority* and *Athletes*, Curling Canada requires:

- a) Teams or groups of *Athletes* shall always have at least two *Persons in Authority* with them.
- b) For mixed gender teams or groups of *Athletes*, there should be one *Person in Authority* from each gender.
- c) If two *Persons in Authority* cannot be present, reasonable efforts should be made to supplement supervision with screened parents or other volunteers.
- d) To the maximum extent possible, no *Person in Authority* may drive a vehicle alone with an *Athlete* unless the *Person in Authority* is the *Athlete's* parent or guardian.
- e) A *Person in Authority* may not share a hotel room or be alone with an *Athlete* unless the *Person in Authority* is the *Athlete's* parent/guardian, family member or spouse.
- f) Room or bed checks during overnight stays must be done by two *Persons in Authority*.
- g) For overnight travel when *Athletes* must share a hotel room, roommates must be age-appropriate and of the same gender identity.

Locker Rooms/Changing Areas

- 8. For changing areas and other closed meeting spaces, *the Organization(s)* requires:
 - a) Interactions between *Persons in Authority* and *Athletes* should not occur in any area where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy such as a locker room, washroom or changing area. A second adult should be present for any necessary interaction between an adult and an *Athlete* in any such area.
 - b) If *Persons in Authority* are not present in the locker room or changing area, or if they are not permitted to be present, they should still be available outside the locker room or changing area and be able to enter the room or area if required, for reasons including but not limited to team communications and/or emergencies.

Photography/Video

- 9. For all photography and video of an *Athlete*, the *Organization(s)* requires:

- a) Photographs and video should only be taken in public view. Content must observe generally accepted standards of decency and be both appropriate for, and in the best interest of the *Athlete*.
- b) The use of recording devices in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy is strictly prohibited.
- c) Examples of photos that shall be edited or deleted include:
 - i. images with misplaced apparel or where undergarments are showing;
 - ii. suggestive or provocative poses; and
 - iii. embarrassing images.

Physical Contact

10. Physical contact between *Persons in Authority* and *Athletes* may be necessary for various reasons including, but not limited to, teaching a skill, or tending to an injury. For physical contact, the *Organization(s)* recommends:
 - a) A *Person in Authority* must always request permission to make physical contact from the *Athlete* in advance and clearly explain where and why the physical contact will occur. The *Person in Authority* must make clear that they are requesting to touch the *Athlete* and not requiring physical contact.
 - b) Infrequent, incidental physical contact during training is not a violation of policy.
 - c) Non-essential physical contact may not be initiated by the *Person in Authority*. It is recognized that some *Athletes* may initiate non-essential physical contact such as hugging or other physical contact with a *Person in Authority* for various reasons (e.g., such as celebrating or crying after a poor performance). This physical contact should always occur in an open and observable environment.

Enforcement

11. Any alleged violations of the *Athlete Protection Policy* shall be addressed pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.