

SAFE SPORT

For Able Sail Programs



In November 2022, Sail Canada became subject to the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) under Abuse-Free Sport, managed by the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC). You may have already heard from your provincial sailing associations about the implementation of a Safe Sport policy package. This package meets certain government requirements but also reflects best practices and provides a structure to ensure Safe Sport practices and tools are embodied across the sport at all levels and locations. Eventually every member of a provincial sailing association will have to adopt a Safe Sport policy package.



The policy package is comprised of several sections:

-  Definitions
-  Code of Conduct
-  Protection Policy
-  Screening Policy
-  Social Media Policy
-  Whistle Blower Policy
-  Discipline and Complaints Policy
-  Appeals Policy
-  Dispute Resolution Policy

The Sail Canada package can be downloaded from the Resources section of the AbleSail Network website.

However, your best reference will be your provincial sailing association's package.



The implementation of a policy package helps ensure that all individuals involved in sailing know and understand a consistent standard of expected behaviour and that there is a comprehensive system to address any matters that may impact the safe environment in an immediate, appropriate and equitable manner.

Although the content of the Safe Sport package may appear to be mostly relevant to situations where minor athletes are interacting with coaches in a competitive sport setting, it contains many elements that are relevant to Able Sail programs.

Going through a formal adoption process may require some time therefore we have drafted the following guidelines and best practices that can already be implemented by Able Sail programs in the short term in order to insure a safe environment for all.



According to the UCCMS, when two people interact and one of them is imparting knowledge to the other there is a power imbalance. The person with the knowledge is considered to be a “Person in Authority”. Therefore, coaches, paid sailing instructors and volunteers who accompany Able Sail program sailors are considered to be Persons in Authority. The UCCMS also stipulates that people with disabilities are at a greater risk of being harmed and should therefore be considered “Vulnerable Individuals”.



**ALL PERSONS IN AUTHORITY WHO ARE IN DIRECT
CONTACT WITH VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS
SHOULD BE SCREENED AND TRAINED.**



Screening

Screening for all paid instructors and volunteers who are in direct contact with program participants:

-  Interview
-  Reference checks
-  Criminal record and vulnerable sector checks

Your provincial sailing association can provide you with resources for record checks specific to your province.



Training

It is highly recommended that all persons (instructors, volunteers, coaches) who interact with program participants take the free “Safe Sport Training Module” and the “Understanding the Rule of Two” emodules. which can be found here: <https://safesport.coach.ca/>

The content of these modules is geared to coach-athlete competitive sport situations. However, the principles and concepts that are presented are equally applicable to recreational Able Sail programs where instructors and volunteers are interacting with vulnerable individuals.

Note: In order to access the training modules one must first create an account in “The Locker”. Although this may appear to be a resource for coaches only, it is in fact accessible to anyone. People who have direct athlete contact should indicate that they are a coach when logging in for the first time in order to access the most relevant content.



RULE OF TWO

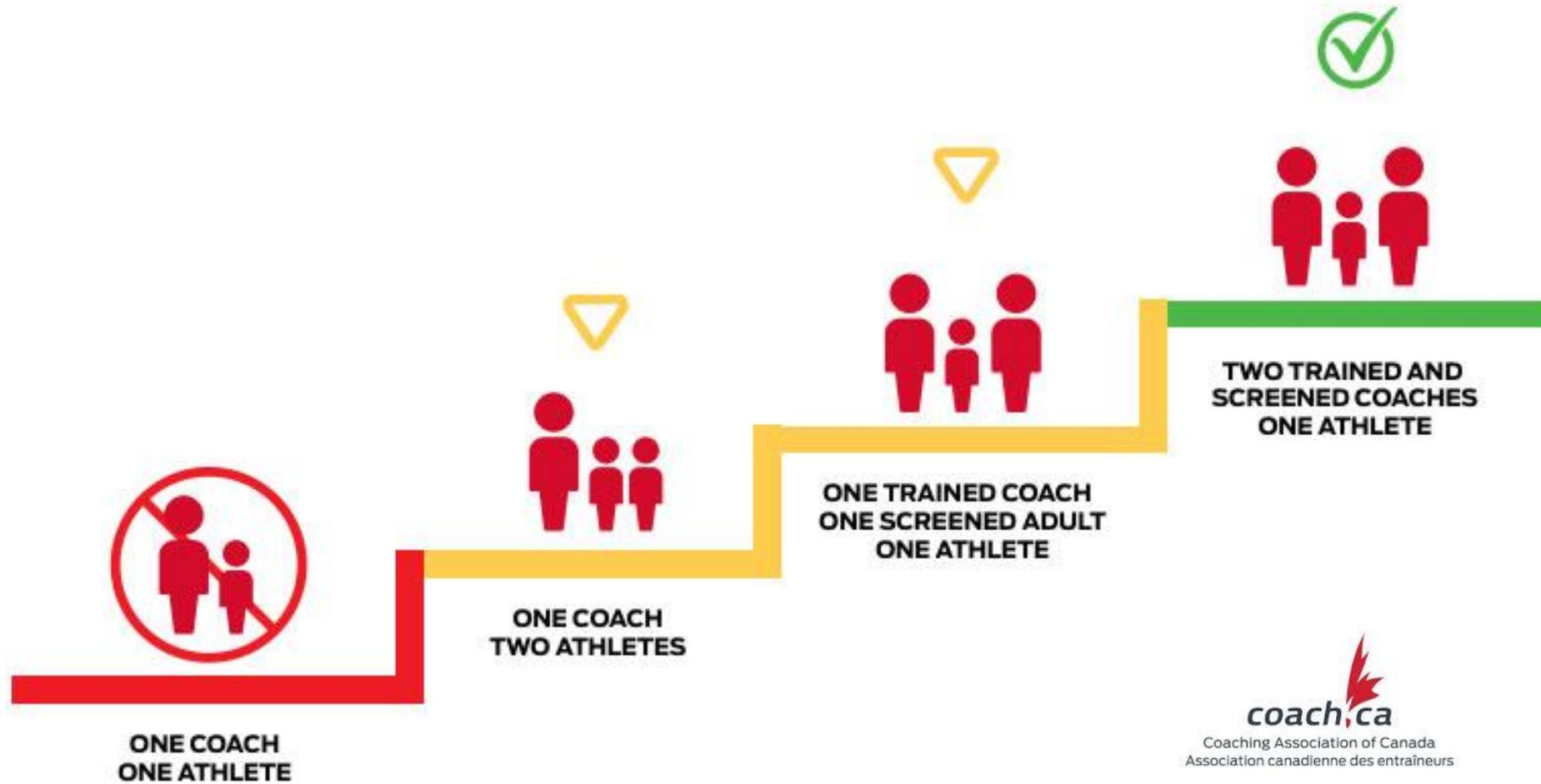
The goal of the Rule of Two is to ensure all interactions and communications are open, observable and justifiable. When following the Rule of Two, two responsible adults (e.g. a certified instructor, screened volunteer or parent/spouse) are present with a participant.

The Rule of Two:

-  Increases the safety and security of all participants
-  Reduces the risk of an incident of abuse
-  Protects everyone, including coaches and volunteers
-  Protects against false accusations
-  Reduces a sport organization's liability
-  Offers additional help if there's an accident or emergency



RULE OF TWO



RULE OF TWO – ABLE SAIL GUIDELINES

Fully implementing the “Rule of Two” in all circumstances may not always be possible. The following guidelines will help to ensure adherence to the Rule to the best of each program’s ability.

-  **Private or one-on-one situations should be avoided whenever possible unless they are open and observable by another adult or to the public.** Therefore, when assisting a sailor to put on a life jacket, or when putting a sling in place, two screened and trained instructors or volunteers should be present if in an enclosed space, or one screened and trained instructor or volunteer and a parent or spouse. If this is not possible the assistance should be given in an open, observable environment.
-  Two screened and trained instructors or volunteers should be present for all transfers of participants in and out of the boats.



RULE OF TWO – ABLE SAIL GUIDELINES

- 🚤 Programs that are operating with larger keel boats such as the Freedom Independence or Sonar should ensure that there are always two screened instructors or volunteers on board, at least one of whom is trained.
- 🚤 Programs that are operating with Martin 16 sailboats, in which it is impossible for two instructors or volunteers to accompany the participant, should have another boat in proximity such that the screened and trained instructor or volunteer on board can observe the participant in the Martin 16. For example, a volunteer, or instructor can follow the sailboat in a safety boat. Or, two Martin 16s can leave the dock together, sail within an observable distance of each other and return to the dock together.



RULE OF TWO – ABLE SAIL GUIDELINES

- 🚣 Program participants should not have one-on-one communication with an instructor or volunteer in personal channels such as text messages, Facebook messages, etc. Communications between persons in authority and program participants should be done through a group chat (e.g. Facebook, Whats App, Instagram) or group email. Alternatively, another instructor or volunteer should be copied on the communication.
- 🚣 When travelling to regattas two screened responsible adults should be present with a participant.
- 🚣 Persons in Authority should not invite, or have, a Vulnerable Individual(s) in their home unless there is a previous relationship from outside the sport of sailing.



QUESTIONS?????



 Contact your provincial sailing association

The AbleSail Network Board of Directors thanks Lisa Roddie, Sail Canada Safe Sport Project Lead, for her guidance in the preparation of this information.

