

Prevention

Responsible Coaching Movement

The [Coaching Association of Canada's, Responsible Coaching Movement](#) includes the [Rule of Two](#), which refers to open and observable environments. Cross Country Alberta is committed to creating such environments for all provincially-sanctioned events, activities and programs and supports member organizations in adopting relevant policies. [CCA's Open and Observable Environments Policy](#) can be found *here*.

Open and Observable Environments Policy

Background:

Open and observable environments are in reference to the Coaching Association of Canada's Rule of Two, which is an element of the Responsible Coaching Movement.

Definitions:

Open environments are free from concealment, seclusion or closed doors, where persons not involved in the interaction are aware of the interaction taking place.

Observable environments are ones in which an interaction is clearly visible to those not involved.

Policy:

Cross Country Alberta is committed to creating open and observable environments for all provincially-sanctioned events, activities and programs and supports member organizations in adopting Open and Observable Environment policies. All interactions between an athlete and an individual who is in a position of trust, whether they are coaches, staff, officials, administrators or volunteers, should, whenever possible, take place in environments or spaces that are both open and observable to others. Individuals in positions of trust or authority should avoid being alone with an athlete.

Procedure:

- CCA representatives, and representatives of member organizations interact with athletes and/or vulnerable persons in open environments that: are not closed or concealed from others; are not behind closed doors or in secluded locations; occur where others are aware the interaction is taking place.
- CCA representatives, and representatives of member organizations interact with athletes and/or vulnerable persons in observable environments where others can see and take note of the interaction.
- CCA representatives and members who interact with athletes and/or vulnerable individuals will take steps to review whether an anticipated interaction is open and observable.



- CCA will educate members and member organizations on the open and observable environments and share resources that support member organizations in implementing relevant policies.

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- free from concealment;
- free from seclusion or closed doors;
- where persons not involved in the interaction are aware of the interaction taking place.

Observable environments are:

- ones in which an interaction is clearly visible to those not involved.

All interactions between an athlete and an individual who is in a position of trust, whether they are coaches, staff, officials, administrators or volunteers, should, whenever possible, take place in environments or spaces that are both open and observable to others. Individuals in positions of trust or authority should avoid being alone with an athlete.

Before engaging with an athlete STOP and ask yourself:

- *Will the interaction be **observable** to others?*
- *Will the interaction be in an **open** environment?*

References:

Thank you Swimming Canada for generously sharing this framework so that other sporting organizations may readily implement Safe Sport practices.

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

<https://www.coach.ca/3-steps-to-responsible-coaching-p161376>