

Supervision of Athletes and Participants

This policy describes U.S. Figure Skating's plan for advising the proper supervision of members and participants during all program activities and to minimize one-on-one interactions between a coach, official, director, employee, parent/guardian or volunteer. A plan for proper supervision raises awareness about those activities that pose a high risk for misconduct, as well as ways to minimize one-on-one interactions.

Two-Deep Leadership

Two-deep leadership is a preventative method to minimize one-on-one interactions between minors and adults. Two-deep leadership means that at least two individuals, preferably adults (i.e.- rule of three) are present at all times with individual minors when off the ice. For example, it could be two club volunteers, two coaches, or a coach and parent/guardian of the skater. This two-deep strategy makes it more difficult to isolate a minor and avoid detection. This policy is intended to minimize one-on-one interactions not only for the protection of the minor but also to help protect coaches and volunteers from false accusations.

Appropriate one-on-one interactions with athletes or participants:

Individual meetings at the rink or during events and competitions

An individual meeting may be necessary to address an athlete's concerns, training program, or at an event or competition. Under these circumstances, coaches, staff members and volunteers should observe the following guidelines:

- Any individual meeting should occur when others are present and where interactions can be easily observed.
- Where possible, an individual meeting should take place in a publicly visible and open area, such as the corner of the arena.
- If an individual meeting is to take place in an office or a locker room, the door should remain unlocked and open.
- If a closed-door meeting is necessary at a test session or competition, the coach, staff member and/or volunteer should inform another coach, staff member and/or volunteer and ensure the door remains unlocked.