

Responsible Coaching

Introduction

The Responsible Coaching Movement (RCM) recognizes the right of participants in sports to a safe and positive environment and assists coaches in ensuring a safe (open and observable), healthy, and fun sport environment.

Triathlon NL has taken the RCM pledge and is implementing the Three Steps to Responsible Coaching. The Three Steps consist of:

1. The Rule of Two
2. Background Screening
3. Respect and Ethics Training

Triathlon Coaches

In order to coach in any Triathlon NL sanctioned or approved setting (club, provincial team, event, etc) a coach must be registered in Triathlon Canada's coaching system on an annual basis. Any such coach must, at a minimum, have completed Basic Registration, which includes a background check and Respect in Sport training.

Code of Conduct

The Triathlon NL Code of Conduct and Ethics applies to coaches and all participants in training and coaching activities. The Code of Conduct describes the standards of behaviour expected of members of Triathlon NL during activities and lists prohibited harassing, abusive, and related behaviours.

As members of Triathlon NL are also members of Triathlon Canada, the Triathlon Canada Code of Conduct also applies.

The Rule of Two

The goal of the Rule of Two is to ensure all interactions and communications are open, observable, and justifiable. Its purpose is to protect participants (especially minors) and coaches in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring more than one adult is present. There may be exceptions in emergency situations.

Good Practices:

- A coach should never be alone and out of sight with a participant without another screened coach or screened adult (parent or volunteer) present.
- The training environment should be open to observation.
- A participant can ride in a coach's vehicle only with another adult present.
- Selecting the screened coaches and volunteers to be present should be sensitive to the gender of the participant(s).
- There should be no one-to-one electronic messaging. All communications should be sent to the group and/or include parents where applicable.
- The Rule of Two is also applicable in the virtual environment, including:
 - Participants should be located in appropriate, observable (by parents/guardians) household locations for virtual sessions

- Sessions should be recorded if possible
- Sessions are not social engagements and should be focused on training/coaching.



Background Screening

Basic Registration with Triathlon Canada for all coaches involved in triathlon at either the Community or Competitive level includes a background check. The system requires that the background check be completed every two years.

Respect and Ethics Training

Basic registration with Triathlon Canada for all coaches involved in triathlon at either the Community or Competitive level includes the Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders training program. The system requires that the program be repeated every four years.

All NCCP-based training programs require completion of the multi-sport module “Making Ethical Decisions”.

Reporting Abuse and Inappropriate Behaviour

Individuals who observe, are the subject of, or are the parent/guardian of a minor who has been subjected to, abuse or inappropriate behaviour should follow the reporting processes laid out by Triathlon Canada here: <https://www.triathloncanada.com/safe-sport/>.

Alternatively, the Canadian Sports Helpline is an anonymous, confidential, and independent service that can receive reports and assist in further action.