

Responsible Coaching Movement

Fort William Curling Club has taken the Responsible Coaching Movement (RCM) [PLEDGE](#), an outward declaration of our commitment to providing an environment for participants that is free of abuse, discrimination and harassment. The RCM applies not only to coaches, but also board members, staff, officials, ice technicians, volunteers working with youth at clubs or any adult who may be in a position of authority and have regular interaction with youth or vulnerable athletes.

Coaches play a vital role in ensuring their athletes are safe both on and off the field of play. Reducing and preventing acts of maltreatment is vital to enhancing a safer sporting environment that fosters positive growth and personal development.

What is the Responsible Coaching Movement?

The Responsible Coaching Movement (RCM) is coordinated by the Coaching Association of Canada and the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport that has the potential to affect all sport organizations and coaches. The RCM is a call to action for organizations to implement realistic change based on their individual state of readiness.

Phase 1 of the RCM addresses the gaps identified by stakeholders that indicate there is a lack of uniform policies, a lack of club capacity, a limited communication strategy, a lack of a tracking mechanism for coaches, and a lack of a coordinated approach by sport organizations to address responsible coaching practices have all contributed to permitting instances of unethical behaviour in sport.

The goal is to make sport safer for children and the vulnerable sector. Although advances in athlete protection in the past twenty years have decreased instances of athlete maltreatment in amateur sport, incidents of athlete abuse, harassment by coaches, and risks to athlete safety have continued to occur.

To reduce risk in sport, the Responsible Coaching Movement focuses on three key areas:

- **Rule of Two**
- **Background Screening**
- **Ethics and Respect Training**

Fort William Curling Club has a designated Safe Sport Director – Tricia Sampson – Curling Development Director

Fort William Curling Club Safe Sport Board Approved Policies

- Abuse Policy
- Appeal Policy
- Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy
- Discipline and Complaints Policy
- Dispute Resolution Policy
- Investigations Policy – Discrimination, Harassment and Abuse
- Rule of Two Policy

- Screening Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Whistleblower Policy

Fort William Curling Club is partnered with the Thunder Bay Youth Curling program to ensure all Adults working with minor athletes (17 and under in Ontario) follow the Responsible Coaching Movement. FWCC also supports Special Olympics and other youth programs but understand they have their own policies for screening their volunteers. FWCC will ensure any vulnerable sector and those who are in a Position of Authority are provided the necessary resources when in association through FWCC. All other organizations (University, College, Special Olympics, Rentals not associated with FWCC Coaches etc) are separate organizations but will be provided the same resources to do with what they need as they have their own procedures for responsible coaching separate from Fort William:

- Training is never complete without a signed acknowledgement of their understanding and a willingness to follow. Here is a copy of the Fort William Curling Club Training Form for head coaches: [ENTER TRAINING FORM LINK](#)
- Fort William Curling Club will notify all coaches on record of annual training refreshers to stay up to date on Safe Sport Policies
- Our club should has a board approved screening policy and is making a concerted effort to follow it
- The Rule of Two means that a coach (non-familial adult) is never alone or out of sight with a child.
- Fort William Curling Club's goal is to ensure all coaches (paid or volunteer), staff, board members, parents and persons in authority are aware of the Rule of Two and make every effort to follow it.
- It is intended to be a common sense best practice to protect both the athlete and the adult. It is a best practice which has been followed for many years by organizations such as Boy Scouts/Girl Guides, Special Olympics.

Look for the [RESPONSIBLE COACHING MOVEMENT POSTER](#) throughout the club.