



Two-Deep Leadership

Predators look for ways to be alone with a child athlete. The corresponding prevention method is to minimize one-on-one interactions between a child athlete and an adult by providing two-deep leadership, i.e., at least two adults are present with an individual athlete. For example, it could be two adult coaches or an adult coach and the parent of the athlete. This two-deep leadership strategy makes it more difficult to isolate an athlete and avoid detection.

Five common ways predators isolate a child athlete:

- #1 - Unsupervised interactions outside of sport, usually at a personal residence
- #2 - Locker rooms, changing areas and other on-site private spaces
- #3 - Social events involving alcohol
- #4 - Vehicles during local travel
- #5 - Vehicles or hotels during overnight travel

Unfortunately, there are always additional ways for a predator to find time alone with a child athlete. Consider the other times and places a predator might be able to get an athlete alone based on your sport, club, and physical facilities. For example, does your facility have any long, dark hallways closed off by doors?

Following policies and procedures intended to minimize one-on-one interactions protect not only your athletes, but also your coaches and staff members from false accusation.