



# SOCCER NOVA SCOTIA

Power Play Initiative





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## Introduction

This document supports the introduction of the Power Play Initiative, helping coaches, players, parents, game leaders and officials understand its use and ways to help keep games as challenging as possible.

Soccer should always be a fun and challenging experience for all players – unfortunately there will always be occasions where one team is significantly stronger than the opposition. During these games is not no longer fun for either team. One team leaves the field dejected, while the other team leaves the field having not been challenged.

The Power Play Initiative serves to create a more balanced match up during games where one team has a significant lead over another. When implemented the Power Play can help the team that is being beaten but giving them numerical superiority, but also importantly provide an additional challenge to the team that is currently finding the game too easy.



## Power Play Procedure

- The Power Play can be used at any level of soccer up to, and including U12, where scores and standings are not recorded by the league.
- The Power Play permits a team that is trailing by 4 or more goals to place an additional player onto the playing field, ensuring that they have an extra player.
- The Power Play can be used at any time by a team that is trailing by 4 or more goals (4-0, 5-1, 6-2 etc.) and it is the discretion of the coach of the trailing team as to whether they utilize the Power Play.
- If at any point the deficit is reduced to 3 goals, the trailing team must remove a player to ensure that the teams are numerically the same (this does not have to be the same player who entered the field).
- If a team wishes to use the Power Play, they must inform the referee at any stoppage of the game (it does not have to be immediately after a goal is scored). The referee will allow the additional player to enter the field and play will resume.
- Teams may only add one additional player to the game at any point

*Although scores are not recorded for U12 and younger, the referee does take note of goals scored throughout the game - therefore if there is a dispute amongst coaches as to whether a 4 goal differential exists, the referee will have the final say as to whether the Power Play can be utilized*



## Review

The Power Play was originally piloted in the U12 Prospect League in the indoor season of 2017-18 and has been extended to all divisions U12 and younger (Winter 2018-19).

Soccer Nova Scotia understands it will take a while for players, coaches, officials and parents to adapt to something new, especially when it is not something that happens in the 'real game' we all see on TV.

While the definition of 'fun' is different for everybody the Power Play Initiative is about trying to keep grassroots level games fun and competitive.

For more information please contact: [grassroots@soccerns.ca](mailto:grassroots@soccerns.ca)

