



SOCCER NOVA SCOTIA

Concussion Substitution Policy

A concussion is a brain injury. All concussions should be regarded as potentially serious. This policy outlines the procedures and regulations for concussion substitutions in Soccer Nova Scotia operated competitions to promote player safety and the responsible management of suspected concussions and head injuries.

This policy applies to Soccer Nova Scotia operated competitions including the Nova Scotia Soccer League, Soccer NS Provincial Championships, Soccer NS AAA Cup, Atlantic Championships and any other competitions directly overseen by Soccer Nova Scotia. Leagues and competitions in Nova Scotia are encouraged to adopt the policy.

Concussion Substitution Allowance:

In divisions and competitions where substitutions are limited and substitution slips are used, a team is entitled to one (1) additional substitution if a player exits the game with a suspected concussion. This substitution does not count against the team's standard substitution limit and may be made regardless of the number of substitutes already used.

Using a Concussion Substitution:

The team must clearly identify the use of the concussion substitution by submitting a designated Concussion Substitution Slip* to the match official**. Failure to properly declare the concussion substitution may result in the forfeiture of the additional substitution.

When a 'concussion substitute' is used, the opposing team then has the option to use one (1) 'additional substitute' for any reason.

**Competition-provided substitution slips shall now include a clearly identified substitution slip for the purpose of concussion substitutions*

***Match officials are not part of a team's decision-making process as to whether a player should be substituted or not, nor whether a player should be replaced by a 'normal substitute' or a 'concussion substitute'*



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Reporting Requirements:

When a concussion substitution is used the match official must submit a Special Incident Report to Soccer NS, indicating that a concussion substitution was used and identifying the player who was removed.

For divisions and competitions that do not require substitution slips, a match official shall complete a special incident report for any player who is removed from a match with a suspected concussion or apparent serious injury.

Return to Play Procedure:

A player removed from the game using a concussion substitution may not re-enter the game under any circumstances.

A player removed from a game using a concussion substitution is prohibited from participating in any Soccer Nova Scotia sanctioned competition until they have been cleared by a medical professional. The player must submit a completed **Return to Play Form**, signed by a medical professional to Soccer Nova Scotia before they can resume participation in competition.

Canada Soccer Concussion Policy:

A concussion is a brain injury. All concussions should be regarded as potentially serious. Players, coaches, teams, and clubs should refer to the Canada Soccer Concussion Policy on how to properly manage cases of suspected concussions.

Canada Soccer Concussion Policy can be found [HERE](#).



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RETURN TO PLAY FORM

COMPETITION:			
LOCATION & DATE:			
PLAYER NAME:			
TEAM NAME:			
CIRCUMSTANCES:	<input type="checkbox"/> Injured During Play	<input type="checkbox"/> Concussion Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Any Other Reason

This release certifies that the player _____ has been examined and:

_____ is unable to play until further notice

_____ is unable to play until a specified date of _____

_____ may return to play

Doctor:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____