

Albany-Berkeley Soccer Club

4-Goal Rule

Albany-Berkeley Soccer Club recreational teams must adhere to the ABSC 4-Goal Rule and are required to take appropriate steps to minimize scoring when one team has an insurmountable lead over the other. The 4-Goal Rule, as outlined below, is to maximize the fun in a player's early introduction to the game of soccer.

The 4-Goal Rule

Teams are allowed to add players per the matrix below or remove players accordingly.

- 4-goal advantage - No player is added.
- 5-goal advantage - One player is added to losing team.
- 6-goal advantage - A second player is added; the less skilled team now has a 2-player advantage.

- 1.) Players are added and subtracted to maintain the balance of player-to goal disadvantage ratio. If the losing team is short players and cannot add to their team, then the winning team must start removing players and is expected to start by removing those players who have the most impact on the game.
- 2.) Teams playing in Under-12 and older age groups play with no fewer than seven players. Teams in the Under-10 age group play with no fewer than six players.
- 3.) If goals are scored by the losing team after the 4-Goal Rule was applied, the losing team may decrease the number of players on the field at the same rate as they were added. Conversely, if the winning team removed players from the field, they may begin adding them back in at this time with the expectation that they will not add their best player first.
- 4.) The referee is responsible for making sure the 4-goal rule is adhered to by both teams and infractions should be recorded in their game report.
- 5.) It is the responsibility of a registered team official (coach or team manager) to report complaints to the club executive director.
- 6.) Any team with multiple violations will be brought up for review by the club's disciplinary committee.

In so far as ABSC's mission is to produce players who are well rounded, healthy, happy, and play soccer with skill, confidence, and passion, the 4-Goal Rule is enforced to support the players' physical development and social well-being. So in the spirit of good sportpersonship, coaches are asked to apply their solutions to what looks like a run-away game. The winning coach may elect to move his players into different positions, or the coaches from both teams may elect to trade some players to even out both teams. Creatively is welcome within the confines of this club policy.