

**COMMUNITY PARTNER DESCRIPTION:**

Halifax City Soccer Club is a sport organization supporting and servicing the communities in and around the Halifax peninsula. The club was established in 2006 as the result of the merger between Halifax City Wanderers & Halifax Celtic Soccer Clubs. The club's vision is to support its members to be the best version of themselves with a mission of creating a community for individuals that gives them a sense of belonging whilst offering environments that are safe, inclusive, accessible and developmentally appropriate.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Volunteer recruitment and coach development is an important consideration in the ongoing operation of Halifax City Soccer Club as well as other youth sport organizations in the region. It is a continual challenge to recruit and retain coaches with the pedagogical approach and values that align with our club's overall vision and mission. We have had some success recruiting current and former players to return to the club. The proposed project would explore how we could further leverage our current adolescent players and provide a soccer experience that instills leadership qualities and the desire to give back to the sporting community as coaches. This project would gather important data regarding the experiences and motives of our current coaches and develop a stronger sense of how we can deliver a soccer experience that would encourage and prepare greater numbers of adolescent players to consider coaching.

**PROJECTED BENEFITS:**

The proposed project could provide tangible benefits to both Halifax City Soccer Club, as well as other youth sport organizations across Nova Scotia. The recruitment of motivated, skilled coaches is a common concern across all sports, so the proposed project could provide a blueprint for how youth sport organizations could internally develop and recruit their own coaches. Within our club, the proposed project will enable us to optimize the experiences of our current and future coaches by creating a safe and inclusive environment where they feel valued and have opportunities to access the skills and education needed to become effective coaches. Further, we will learn more from our current adolescent players in terms of their interest and preparedness for a potential career in coaching. Altogether, this project will enable us to refine the soccer experience that we provide our players to ensure that they are reaching their potential on the pitch, while also developing key leadership and coaching skills that would enable them to seamlessly transition into coaching roles.

NB: These are excerpts from the Community Partner's original proposal from 2021.