



*“Don’t let anyone tell you that the goalie is not by far the most important player on the team”*

## **HOCKEY ANALYTICS – SPECIAL TEAM MEASURES**

The number of power plays teams get and execute for goals often determines game outcomes at any level, so it is important to create a standard in your league as to what that standard should be for your team and let the players know.

At the Junior A level a 22-25% power play success ratio is excellent and reciprocally a penalty kill ratio of 88-90% successful penalty kills is also excellent. Game stat keepers sometimes make mistakes on game sheet reports on power play goals for and against, so it’s best to check their results every game to ensure accuracy, or simply keep your own records for both.

The Plus/Minus Form previously provided on this site can be used for this. Simply mark all the special team goals + or – with a PP or a PK, or an EN for an empty net goal or an EA for extra attacker goal.

This same form that identifies which players were on the ice for all the goals scored for and against is a very good way of recording who was on the ice for all the power play goals for and the same for the penalty kill goals against. You may use these results over time when the sample gets large enough to adjust your player selections on the PP and the PK units.

In addition, because avoiding giving the other team a power play is so important, it is useful to keep a record of the players who receive penalties that result in the other teams getting a power play. It’s easy to request and even demand that players don’t take silly stick and other penalties particularly a long way from our zone, but many players tend not to adhere to this request/demand, so documenting how this is hurting the team and posting the results for everyone to see is useful when your coaching requests are not followed. Then have the talk again and again.

It is true that sometimes the refereeing is such that even the coaches feel that no penalty was warranted, so if you feel this way sometimes put an \* next to the players penalty results for every one of these. Usually there are not that many when looked at objectively.

When the playoffs come your team should be used to playing disciplined hockey.