

The league expects its coaches to teach proper sportsmanship to players. Coaches of teams leading by a margin of three goals are expected to incorporate changes into the game to better level the playing field. All efforts must be made to keep a margin of victory to less than eight goals.

If any game has a score in which one team is beating another by more than seven goals in the second half, the game will be abandoned. A game reaching half time with more than a seven-goal differential will be abandoned. It is the responsibility of coaches to prevent an abandonment of the game from happening.

Coaches should make every effort to prepare their players for this type of a situation BEFORE it happens. This preparation will allow a team to practice fair play without broadcasting it on the field. A coach can choose a secret word so that players are prepared for the situation or sub in a player who can pass on the instructions to teammates. We are a recreational league and our priorities are fun and skill development for ALL players.

Triggers: You should probably take note that something needs to be changed up when any of these happen

- Score two goals in first five minutes (without response from opposing team)
- You go up 3-0 in first half
- You go up 4-0

First step:

- Sub players who have scored your goals for players on the bench

Second step

- Shoot with weak foot
- Play two-touch
- Complete five passes in a row in your own half before you can attack (usually this is enough)
- Switch positions (FORCE backs to forward or mid, new GK,

Third step:

- Combination of previous restrictions

Play your weaker players more than your stronger players

- Have a code word and decide on it before practice

What NOT to do:

- Play short

- Yell “we can’t score!”
- Tell your players you can’t shoot
- Perform the five passes restriction in other team’s half
- Field a ridiculous formation (nine backs and play long ball)

SUMMARY

We agree as a league that running up the score is NOT positive coaching

Be aware of the possibilities early on. Coaches need to be proactive and be ready to adjust when the game is at 3-0 or 4-0 not when the score is 7-0.

Start the so called stronger players at defender or goal keeper if you know that you are playing a weaker team. This may prevent scores becoming lopsided early.