

BAYS – RESPECT



Lopsided Game Management

Use these strategies to help manage your players in games where there is an obvious competitive imbalance

BAYS Lopsided Score Committee Spring 2022

Respect and Sportsmanship are Key!



The philosophy of BAYS is to provide an atmosphere of good sportsmanship to encourage everyone to compete, learn, and enjoy the game of soccer.

- In youth sports, Respect and Sportsmanship alone should be enough of a reason to try to take steps to prevent excessive scoring if the outcome of the game is not in question.
- Plus, it is no **FUN** for either side, and **FUN** is why kids want to play sports!
- It is the COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY to look for creative ways to challenge their players to STOP the scoring but still make the most of these mismatches.

Nothing is gained by either team when running up the score.

The Buck Stops with the Coaches



Coaches - YOU are the adult and are responsible for managing your players and the scoring

- 40 million kids in the U.S. will play a youth sport this season
- 70% will QUIT that sport by the time they are 13!
- The #1 reason kids quit a sport is that they say the sport is “**NOT FUN**”
- Lopsided scores are not fun for either side
- Let’s keep the **FUN** in BAYS games!

Target Limit: Goal Difference < 6!



BAYS expects COACHES to manage games to limit goal differentials(GD) to +5

- BAYS does **NOT** have competitive incentives for large goal differentials
 - Even in the BAYS playoffs, GD is not a meaningful decision criteria
- Excessive scoring **HURTS** team standings

Points awarded GO DOWN as GD goes UP to discourage teams from running up the score

BAYS Team Standings Points Awarded for Wins

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3 points: | goal differential is +7 or less* |
| 2 Points: | goal differential is +8 |
| 1 Point: | goal differential is +9 |
| 0 Points: | goal differential is +10 or greater |

*The +7 is a buffer over the +5 target to allow for unusual circumstances (own goals, etc.)

Club Presidents will continue to receive BAYS Excessive Score notices when margin of victory is > +5

Key Steps BEFORE the Game



Establish Your Team Expectations with Players and Parents

- Preplan with your coaching staff how you can manage a lopsided game situation
- Create a code word or signal so that your players know when to change tactics if necessary
- Practice the plan so your players know what is expected of them
- Communicate with your families at the beginning of the season/game that you may be switching up the game plan so they can support from the sideline
- Review your section standings to anticipate if your upcoming opponents may be struggling so that you can proactively plan during practice

Start EARLY in Games



Implement your control strategy as soon as it is clear your team is much stronger than your opponent

- 3-0 is the time to start altering your game plan, NOT when the score is already 5-0
- Use your signal or code word with the team instead of screaming out instructions
- Talk to players on the sidelines who can share the message when subbed in
- If a player ignores your instructions, sub that player off the field and review the plan
- Communicate with the opposing coach as needed
- As the ADULT on the field, you are responsible for **actively taking steps** to control your players to PREVENT excessive scoring

Modify Tactics - Formations



Reset the Team

- Reassign player positions
 - Give your less skilled players more time at forward
 - Change your formation to have fewer forward players
 - Use your more defensive-minded players on attack
 - Place your more creative finishers in back
 - Put your best goal scorer at Keeper
- Play with one fewer player on the field or even two fewer players if necessary
 - Do not have a player walk off the field during play
 - Send in fewer players at next substitution opportunity
 - FIFA/BAYS rules do not allow for the other team to add players

Modify Tactics - Shooting



Goal is for players to **STOP Scoring**, not **STOP Shooting**

- Eliminate ALL shots from dominant foot
- Allow only shots with weaker foot or direct volleys from thigh or chest
 - Focus on headers where allowed (ONLY in Grade 7/8 and HS)
- Shoot from longer distance (at least outside the penalty area)
- Intentionally shoot WIDE
- For more skilled teams: Shoot OVER the goal
 - High shots may still result in inadvertent goals so use judiciously
- Pick a player who normally has difficulty scoring and direct that this player HAS to be the next to score
 - Target player can be rotated

Modify Tactics – Possession



Require More Passing

- Switch to all non-dominant passing to work on developing skills with weaker foot
- Require 4 or more consecutive passes to be made before any shot that is taken
 - Remember not to make the counting obvious
- If the opponent touches the ball, team needs to reset the pass count and start again
- All players have to touch the ball (including the keeper) before anyone can shoot
- Goalkeepers should roll out balls to an outside defender instead of punting

Modify Tactics – Mix Up the Teams



Change Up Teams to Focus on the **FUN**

- In games where the teams are clearly not evenly matched (GD already +5 at the HALF) coaches may elect to shift the game to a mixed team “scrimmage”
- Consult with your assistants and your opposing coaches and decide to stop the “official” game at half
- Reassign players from both teams to create new, more balanced teams using pinnies
- Referees are instructed to referee the “scrimmage” through full time
- Referees will record the official game as incomplete and submit the game report using the score of the game at half for the game score
- BAYS Division Director must then review game report and will record game as official using the score reported at the half
 - Game will count in team standings

Keep It in Perspective



Coaches on the losing side of lopsided games:

- Do your best to remain upbeat, kids feed off of your frustration
- Continue to encourage your players to experiment with passing / attacking the ball
- Compliment your players for playing well even though the team is losing the game
 - Kids will usually not remember the exact score line, but they will remember a compliment on something special that they did well
- Learn from the game to focus in your next practice on developing specific skills to help avoid future issues
- Report poor sportsmanship to BAYS using your **Game Feedback** form

Respect and Sportsmanship are Key!



Remember this is **YOUTH** Soccer, and you are the **ADULT**

- Coaches have the ability to build the development of young soccer players, and even more importantly, young people
- Running up the score is not acceptable
- As the coach, you must remain in control of your players
- Be prepared to discuss the scoring avoidance strategies you used with your Division Director or Club Official when they ask how the lopsided score happened
 - Club Presidents are notified of all games with GD+5
- If it happens, immediately start planning how to change it up sooner next time