

SWYSA Blowout Policy

SWYSA mission is about participation, teaching basic soccer skills, good sportsmanship, and team play. The objective of our league is to provide an atmosphere in which players can play their best game at a level of competition that challenges and encourages growth, without discouraging anyone from the game of soccer.

Blowout games are contrary to the objectives of SWYSA, and coaches shall make all reasonable efforts to avoid blowouts.

1. **DEFINITION:** For the purposes of this rule, a blowout situation shall be deemed to exist in a SWYSA League game at any time and under any circumstances when the goal-differential between the two teams playing reaches 5 or more goals.
2. For U9 and older teams: Anytime a game ends in a blowout scoreline, both coaches must email a recap of the game in an email to the head of the SWYSA Disciplinary Committee, <mailto:timhueer@gmail.com>, who will determine if the game warrants review by the committee and propose appropriate action. Persistent blowouts by individual teams and/or coaches will be dealt with by the Club and SWYSA's Disciplinary Committee.
3. Flights within a division exist to promote competition and good experience for all participants. For any team that (i) requests to be placed in the lowest flight; (ii) is placed in the lowest flight; and (iii) blows out its opponents more than three games in that season; such team and all of its coaches will be prohibited from competing in all but the highest flight in the age group applicable to such team for the next two seasons.
4. **REQUIRED ACTION:** At any time that a blowout situation begins to develop the coach of the dominating team shall actively endeavor to preclude increasing the goal differential. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, the following things.
 - a. Change the line of confrontation back towards the half line.
 - b. Build out from the back and instruct players not to clear the ball, play over the top, or take advantage of speed by endless throw balls; but instead build up through steady passing progressively moving up the field.
 - c. Allow the opposing to team a player (two if the blow out is significant).
 - d. Offering to swap players with the opposing team. Such an offer should include players with an ability to impact and close the talent gap between the teams.
 - e. Together with the other coach, asking to confer with the referee and ask for the game to be called particularly tight. As the dominating team is often more aggressive, this keeps kids from feeling physically beat up, in addition to the lopsided score.

- f. Substitute out the superstar difference makers.

This list is not exhaustive, and SWYSA recognizes that coaches are a creative group focused on teaching kids. Coaches able to take steps to keep games from being blowouts and share such steps with the head of the Discipline Committee when a blowout occurs are providing a service to SWYSA and to the kids who play soccer. As coaches share their knowledge of how to challenge kids in a blowout situation, SWYSA will circulate such information to each member club.

5. SWYSA also recognizes that the coach of the non-dominating team has a role to play in keeping kids engaged when the teams have a significant talent disparity. Some things such coach may consider include the following.
 - a. Coaches with teams that are on the low end of a blowout score can keep their players engaged by making it a game within the game. These coaches can create a hustle chart that tracks things like duels won, balls taken out of the air, successful containment, or any particularly thing that is appropriate to the skills of the kids. Have someone track positive points, set a goal at halftime (or before if you know the challenge you face), and if they meet the hustle point goal, give them a prize that will motivate your particular team.
 - b. Coaches can't control who they play nor whether the talent of their roster will measure up. What coaches can do is teach their kids to be their best selves and play their best soccer no matter who lines up against them. Being positive is the best thing a coach on the end of a blowout.