

Lopsided Games

The goal of SAY soccer is for players to have **fun** while developing their **skills**. It's not about winning. Especially "Spring Soccer", there is no Franchise.

We (Monroe) are a very strong soccer community. We have joined other associations/communities because we do not have enough teams to play in-house. It is no fun as a player/coach/parent to get beaten badly. We know it is hard tell the kids not to score, so never just say "Johnny you can't score", just tell them different ways they can score.

Explain during practice why blowouts should be avoided in the interests of good sportsmanship. Teach these steps in practice. Once a game is in progress, it is virtually impossible to introduce these ideas for the first time and expect the players to grasp and remember them.

In order to prevent demoralizing lopsided games, the Monroe Soccer Association has a list of ideas so that no games should end with more than a four goal margin.

Begin using these steps when you are ahead by a four-goal margin since there still could be additional scoring despite these steps which could push the margin to the six-goal limit.

1. Shots can only be taken outside the 18-yard box.
2. Tell your stronger players they must try to set up their teammates and not take a shot.
3. All players can be told to only use their "left" foot to score.
4. Put least strong players in on defense.
5. Put your stronger players on defense and they cannot cross the center line.
6. Put in one of the least strong players in goal.
7. Put in the least strong players in goal and defense and tell sweepers and front line to not come back to help defense.
8. All players can be told to only score off 1 dribble, meaning it has to be passed directly to them and shoot.
9. Reduce number of players during quarter change.
10. Quietly remove players from the field or call them over to sideline to have long conversation during opposing teams drive down the field.
11. Quietly remove goalie or call them over to sideline to have long conversation...

The goal is to take these steps after going over them in practice, so they are not obvious to your opponent. Please don't yell out, "Don't score anymore" or anything

similar that could embarrass the opponent. But **DO** let the other coach know you are taking steps for prevention (they might not realize you are doing so). Losing coaches should not take offense to this step. It makes the game more competitive. Even though you may warn your players that this could happen, the winning team needs to learn to not take advantage of a weaker opponent, an important life lesson.