



Dartmouth Youth Soccer Association

DYSA Game Blowout Recommendation for Fall Instructional Soccer

The DYSA Fall Instructional Program is a non-results oriented program. By that we mean, there are no standings and the focus is placed on teaching the game of soccer both for individual instruction and improvement and for learning the dynamics of team play.

At the end of each fall season, coaches are asked to rank their players for the purpose of team formation the following fall. Although this is not an exact science, this rating system is used to balance teams in each age group for the next season. The higher rated players, based on coach's ratings, are spread equally across teams with all other rated players spread similarly, as the goal is to try to balance teams as much as possible.

Even though the DYSA makes every attempt to balance teams in the Fall Instructional Program, there are many instances where relatively stronger teams play weaker teams. What tends to occur are games where score discrepancies are 5 goal or more. Although it is not much fun to lose under any circumstance, it is especially difficult to lose in a lopsided game.

In games that are lopsided, the effects of these types of games are counter productive to the purpose of the fall program. Specifically, the losing team tends to play very defensive minded and often time the losing team, in an attempt to stop the opponent from scoring, is simply kicking ball away from their end of the field without any intent or purpose. Meanwhile, the winning team is passing up learning opportunities and not taking advantage of aspects of the game that need improvement. In both scenarios, players are missing an opportunity on improving their individual playing ability within the framework of playing on a team.

The DYSA appreciates our coaches for your time and commitment to the youth of our program. Your understanding is greatly appreciated in helping the DYSA create a soccer environment conducive to learning this great game. As such, DYSA does not want to force measures on coaches that are on the winning side of a blowout, but we are simply asking for your assistance in preventing these types of wins during our fall program.

What can coaches do to avoid blowouts and minimize the negative effects when they occur?

Following is a list of possible steps to take to reduce the impact of a blowout and make the game more competitive:

- Change positions, including keeper.
- Shoot only with weaker foot.
- Score only after successfully executing give-and-go in the offensive third of the field.
- Make 10 Consecutive passes before attacking the goal.
- No one may score until a designated player scores.
- Enforce two-touch passing in defensive end, one-touch in offensive end.
- Allow only one touch passing.
- Score by heading only.
- Following restarts (including throw-ins), all players must touch the ball before attacking the goal.
- Reduce the number of players on your team.
- Reduce the number of players on your team again.

These are just some examples; however, we ask that coaches be creative in the event of lopsided game. We ask that coaches be aware of the score and once a 5 goal lead is attained try to minimize any additional scoring by employing some of the suggestions above. We understand that in managing a game a coach may lose track of the score, as such referees have been instructed to inform the coach of the score to assist the coach manage the score of the game.

We also ask that coaches please be aware of comments made by players during a lopsided win and ensure negative comments about the losing team aren't made by players on the winning team during or after the game.

As participants in the "Beautiful Game," demonstrating good sportsmanship and fair competition will assist us in fostering the growth of Soccer.