

Preventing Blowouts



SAY East Cincinnati Soccer Association

www.SAYEast.org

A guiding principle of SAY Soccer is for kids to have fun. We have rules for creating teams using blind draws, equalized playing time and we do not turn away any child if they can be reasonably accommodated. Even though we only keep scores and standings for the Strikers Divisions and above in the fall, all the players, parents and coaches are aware of the score on the field. In addition to discouraging aggressive and unsportsmanlike behavior on the part of coaches, players, and parents, we believe it is in the best interests of SAY East to limit scores to a 5-point spread. Therefore, we require coaches to adhere to our No Blowout Policy.

This policy is designed to help the kids have fun and enjoy the sport and their team experience. While one team will always lose the game, it is important that the losing team is not humiliated. All players, coaches and parents must always show respect and good sportsmanship towards each other and the referees.

One of the ways to ensure good sportsmanship, is to avoid running up the score in a game. Coaches must make parents and players aware of this policy and avoid a blow-out of more than 5 goals. As there are no timeouts in soccer, coaches and their players should have a plan before the game to avoid a blowout. Here are some suggestions to avoid a blowout:

- Start managing the score once the goal differential reaches 3 or 4. Do not wait until you are up by 5 to pull back.
- Put your best players on defense and do not allow them to cross the midfield line. This will allow your less experienced players more playing time in offensive positions.
- Require any shots on goal to be from outside the penalty box and aimed at the goalie.
- Require all players to shoot only with their non-dominant foot.
- Require all players to touch the ball before a shot on goal.
- Play down a player or two.
- Change your formation to put more players on defense.

Coaches should implement their no blowout plan in a respectful and discreet manner to avoid humiliating the opposition. Teams in the Strikers Divisions and above that violate the Blowout Policy will be penalized in the Standings.