

SUFFOLK SOCCER INTERLEAGUE

Five Goal Differential Rule

All SSI games are friendly scrimmages. These are not Competitive Travel games where standings are kept and placement determined by the number of games you win. We are dealing with recreational youth players NOT professionals, who play each week for the FUN of it. Most will agree it is not fun to be on the losing side but more so if there is a lop-sided score.

The *five goal differential rule* is simply a guideline that we strongly recommend all coaches in the Suffolk Soccer Interleague follow.

To keep the scrimmages as friendly as possible we use the 5 goal differential rule so as not to RUN up the score.

As a coach you should know your players strengths and weaknesses. Any time you score three goals in a short time, it is safe to say you're the stronger team at that moment. You do not have to have years of experience to know this.

First, here are some things **NOT** to do in an attempt to control the score.

- Never yell out DO NOT score, or any type of negative statement to your players where the opponent players can hear, they have feelings too.
- Playing keep away (4 Passes) style is NOT always the answer, Sometimes that is worse than scoring goals.

The following are some points to help control any scrimmage that may get out of hand.

After the third goal, start making changes, Don't wait until the score is 5-0

- Switch your stronger players with your non-dominating players.
- Try to ensure that no one player scores more than two goals in a game.
- Put restrictions on your players such as one-touch passing
- Hold your defensive players back; they don't have to push up to or beyond the half-line.
- Play down a player

At all times make sure your intentions are relayed to both the Referee and to the other coach so no misunderstanding of the scrimmage conditions come about.

The final score could be higher than a 5 goal spread differential as long as you did all of the above. (ie. If you had 6 or 7 different scorers and put restrictions.) There should not be a problem.

And most coaches will also acknowledge there are exceptions like:

A slight decline on the field in your advantage for the first half; the opponent has no substitutes or even less players and your players are not as tired as the other team, even though you're playing Match,(even up.)

Remember that the other coach, if not made aware of the conditions you're putting on your players, will put in a complaint. If neither the referee nor losing coach can verify your intentions to control the score, you will be put on notice for a game suspension.