

POLICY – HIGH GOAL DIFFERENTIAL

Purpose

To reduce the potential negative effect of substantial goal differentials by providing guidelines to assist coaches and players to deal with a game that is obviously out of reach for one of the teams. Following these guidelines is intended not only to balance the game, but also enhance the game experience for all the players and coaches alike.

Background

Winning a soccer game by a large goal differential does not impact league standings but winning a game by an excessive number of goals may have negative psychological effects on players from either team. Further, a win by an excessive margin contradicts a high standard of good sportsmanship that all BGSC coaches should demonstrate.

This is a BGSC policy only and cannot be enforced on opposing teams whether they are in the lead or behind by an excessive margin. It should, however, serve as a constructive suggestion to an opposing coach in such situations and will provide BGSC coaches with clear direction on behaviour expected of them.

Procedures

When a BGSC team is ahead in a game by 5 or more goals the BGSC coach will try to lessen the possible negative effects on players of an excessive goal differential by following the procedures itemized below.

If at half time the goal differential is 5 or greater, the coach will consult with the opposing coach, and if agreeable, the two coaches will request of the referee that the game be declared complete at the soonest opportunity and the current score be recorded as the final result. As an alternative, if the respective coaches wish to continue playing the following ideas can be discussed between the coaches to lessen the possible negative effects of an excessive goal differential:

- rotate offensive and defensive players,
- encourage multiple passing between players,
- switch goalkeeper with another player,
- remove one or two players,
- continue play without modification.

If the game is declared complete, play may continue if both teams are agreeable on a friendly basis. If the referee offers, he/she may stay and officiate the friendly match. Otherwise, the teams will provide a referee for the friendly match. Coaches may consider mixing teams for the friendly, to even the field of play.

VERSION CONTROL		
Version	Date	Comments
R0	August 13, 2010	Draft - Issued for Committee Review and Comment
R1	August 18, 2010	Draft – Issued for BGSC Executive Review
R2	October 21, 2010	Published – Adopted by BGSC Executive