

Perry Hall/White Marsh Soccer Association

Sportsmanship Guidelines

Teams with a Reduced Number of Players

Teams will be held to the minimum number of players necessary to play in their respective divisions. In the event that a team must start a game with fewer than the maximum number of players allowed on the field for their age group, the Coach of the opposing team is encouraged to match the number of players on the field that the opponent team has in the interest of good sportsmanship. It is acceptable to increase the number of players in the event that the team who arrived with fewer players appears to dominate the game.

Goal Differentials

The application of these guidelines is to improve the overall experience of the game for everyone involved. Coaches should attempt to prevent the goal differential in any game (U-8 and above) from exceeding a 5 goal differential. In the event that a score-line is a 5 goal differential, coaches should look for options to keep additional scoring under control. Examples for the winning team include but are not limited to:

- Swapping Defensive and Offensive players
- Subbing out the primary goal scorer
- Adding the challenge of completing 10, 15, 20 passes before shots are allowed to be taken.
- Having players taking shots only from outside of the 18 yard line or penalty area.
- Telling players that everyone has to touch the ball before anyone can shoot.
- Challenge players to keep all passes below shoulder height and "work" the ball.
- Reduce the number of players by one (1) for the winning team (unless doing so would lower the number of players on the field below the minimum requirement to play a game for their respective age group).

In divisions playing with less than 11 players a side, the team that is down by 5 goals may add one (1) additional player to the field until such time that the goal differential becomes less than 5. For divisions playing 11-a-side (U14 & HS) players cannot be added to the field beyond 11-a-side.

Coaches who take the initiative and make an obvious attempt to keep the score-line under control will not be counseled, even if additional goals inevitably wind up being scored. In the event that no attempts are made by the winning team to respect the fundamentals of the guidelines regarding goal differentials, coaches will be counseled for their first offense and additional offenses will cause the Program Director to evaluate their continued involvement with PHWM Soccer.