



ONE SIDED GAME POLICY

A one-sided game is any game that finishes with one team ahead by a 7 goal differential. COYSA's One-Sided Game Policy attempts to help coaches to manage these game situations before they end in this result. At COYSA, we need to recognize that coaches are responsible for all players' well-being on the field at all times - including the players on the opposing team.

If either coach on the field recognizes that a game is becoming one-sided, please approach the other coach and adapt accordingly to change the direction that the game is going. COYSA understands that this is not an easy situation but we need to make adjustments for a more positive result. **A good rule of thumb is if a game gets to a goal differential of 5, then it's time to start changing the tone of the game.**

Suggestions of how to change the game's feel for enjoyment of each team:

- The simplest suggestion to implement is to take your strongest player(s) and have them play different positions on their next substitution (ie defense, goalkeeper).
- Players that have already scored a goal that game can no longer score and must pass to someone who has not scored.
- Have the team who is down in the game add a player to the field. This may help add some defensive help without taking away anyone's playing time.

Please understand that it's very important that both coaches should work together to try their best to not humiliate the losing team and show all the players how good sportsmanship is just as important as playing well. When circumstances are less than ideal, coaches need to work together and, usually, a few words between the coaches can go a long way to avoid misunderstandings. After all, it's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game.

Please note that all game scores are reported to COYSA by the referees and any One-Sided Games reported will be dealt with quickly with little tolerance. The COYSA One-Sided Games Policy is as follows:

- The winning coach will be asked to submit in writing, within 7 days of notice from COYSA's Disciplinary Committee, all steps that were taken to reduce the goal differential.
- The losing coach may also be contacted for insight to the game in question.
- If a coach repeatedly is involved in One-Sided Game situations, their Club will be notified and the coach in question will be asked to appear before the COYSA Disciplinary Committee.

COYSA does not want to police our game and hopefully we can all work together to avoid these types of situations. *As per the principles of Long-Term Player Development (LTPD), the roles of every coach are numerous - teacher, mentor, role model, cheerleader and occasional disciplinarian.*

But, the **most important role is to make sure everyone is enjoying playing soccer and fall in love with the game.** Running up the score does not help anyone love the game - players, coaches, parents or referees do not enjoy it.

