

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. If 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 will play with an equal number of players or loan the opponent additional players from his roster. Field players will be added if additional players show up and loaned players returned.

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 through U12) from exceeding a 5 goal differential. If a score-line is a 5 goal differential, the opposing team may add an additional player in age groups U8 through U12. If the margin grows 8 the winning team must remove a player and play down until margin is returned to 5.

In age groups U14 and above, the winning team must remove 1 player from the field of play until such time that the goal differential is back to 5. Coaches should always 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).

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.

Every effort will be made by Age Group Coordinators to produce equally matched teams to ensure competitive games for all teams in all Age Groups. This includes having player drafts and or managing "Special Requests" by parents.