

## **Lopsided Rule – AYSO Region 63, 2011 Fall Season**

It has long been a requirement of AYSO to not run up the score on a weaker opponent. The Lopsided Rule provides a consistent way for a coach to manage the game in a way that reduces frustration for the trailing team while keeping the players on both teams focused on playing the game.

The Lopsided Rule applies only to the U10, U12, and U14 Divisions where a three-person referee system is used and a game score is kept. It is not applicable to the U5 and U6 Divisions where a game score is not kept. This rule does not apply to the U7 and U8 Divisions; however, running up the score is prohibited and coaches should proactively change strategy to prevent more than a four-goal difference in the score. Play in the U16 and U19 Divisions is governed by Area 2N rules.

### **Implementation:**

- The Lopsided Rule takes effect when there is more than a three-goal difference in the score.
- Remove one player each time an extra goal is scored (e.g. ahead by 4 goals remove 1 player, ahead by 5 goals remove a second player, etc).
- The player removed must be a player that has scored any of the team's goals.
- Add one player back each time the trailing team scores a goal up to the maximum number of players.
- A player added back must be a player that was taken out due to the Lopsided Rule.
- Players sitting out due to the Lopsided Rule can be substituted back in at the quarter break or halftime. However, all substitutions must meet the requirements of the Lopsided Rule; specifically the number of players the leading team is allowed to have on the field and the "goal scorer" requirement of the extra players sitting out.

### **Coach Enforcement Requirements:**

- It is the responsibility of the coach of the leading team to adhere to the Lopsided Rule without prompting by the referee.
- If the leading team is not appropriately removing players per this rule, the referee will remind the coach to follow the rule.
- Coaches are encouraged to do their best to manage their substitutions in order to achieve our minimum playing time requirements. However, the Lopsided Rule takes precedence and must be adhered to even if it means that a player will not play the minimum required time.

### **Referee Enforcement Requirements:**

- The referees should enforce the Lopsided Rule in the same manner as the must-play-three-quarters rule:
  - The referee tracks the information required to enforce the rule.
  - The referee expects the coach to proactively adhere by the rule.
  - As needed, the referee reminds the coach of the rule's requirements.
- The referee tracks the score and goal scorers. Due to the referee's position on the field it is usually easier for him/her to see the jersey number of the player that scored the goal (if in doubt, ask). The referee should make a note on the game card or communicate the player number to the assistant referee (AR) who will make a note on the game card.
- When the Lopsided Rule needs to be enforced due to a goal by the leading team, the referee will delay the kickoff to allow the leading coach to take a player off. The referee or the AR will ensure that the player being removed is a goal scorer and will place an "L" on the game card for that player for the current quarter.
- When the Lopsided Rule needs to be enforced due to a goal by the trailing team the referee will delay the kickoff to allow the leading coach to put a player back on. The referee will ensure that the player being put back on was a player removed due to the Lopsided Rule (e.g. the player should have an "L" on the game card for the current quarter) and will circle the "L" on the game card for that player for the current quarter.
- After a substitution opportunity, the referee or AR will put an "L" on the game card for any player sitting out due to the Lopsided Rule. The referee or the AR will confirm that these players were goal scorers.
- The referee will send a written report to the Regional Referee Coordinator should the coach refuse to adhere by the rule. The Regional Executive Board will determine and administer sanctions.