

Referee Guidance - High Scoring Games

(Revised April 2023)

Problem:

One team has a large scoring lead* on the other team (this is your discretion, but generally 4 or 5 goals more is when to start dealing with it). For example scores of 9-0 or 15-3 are both lopsided and are unacceptable in our league.

*This is NOT to be confused with a high scoring game where BOTH sides are scoring in a competitive fashion. For example a score is 8-7 is of no concern.

Our Rules:

Equal playing time, playing fair, respect and sportsmanship are the fundamental cornerstones of this league, but occasionally participants, coaches and spectators forget to apply these principles. We understand that many coaches are new and that all are volunteers, however we have a strict code of conduct in regardless to fair play and expect coaches to try their best to follow this conduct.

Code of Conduct: *Respect your opponents at all times. Players and teams should always be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Do not run up the score against a weaker opponent.*

Regina Inter-zone Soccer Rules: Law 12: *Coaches and Team Officials may be cautioned and shown the Yellow card, if in the opinion of the referee, they commit the infringement of unsporting behaviour.*

Instructions to Coaches - Respect your opponents at all times: *Players and teams should always be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Coaches and players can display sportsmanship by managing the score. If you find yourself in a position where your team is way ahead in a game, consider how your team would feel if they were being beaten by a large score differential. If you encounter a score differential of approximately four goals, then please use creative coaching to limit your team's score.*

What You Can DO About It:

1) During a stoppage in play, pull the coach of the high scoring team aside and let them know of the situation. Discuss ways their team can still play/have fun, which may reduce the amount of scoring.

(FOR EXAMPLE: Use the left foot to shoot, pass to everyone before shooting, make sure every player has the chance to score (not just the same player), switch player positions, switch keepers, etc.)

GIVE the coach these alternatives and options. It will help to reduce problems and coaches complaining.

2) Watch if the players/coaches are trying to change their team's behaviour through creative coaching or by implementing your suggestions.

3) If the **COACH** is **not** making any effort to control the scoring by using any of your suggestions (or something else) and no particular players can be identified as constantly scoring/showing unsporting behaviour but rather the entire team is engaged in the unsporting behaviour then the coach must be disciplined. i.e. the COACH is showing unsporting behaviour:

- i) At the stoppage of play bring the coach aside and formally warn him. (You might skip this depending on the response/attitude of the coach during the suggestions/talking to them the first time. That may have been their warning)
- ii) Caution the coach (Yellow card) for unsporting behaviour - failing to correct or control the behaviour of their players
- iii) Send off the coach (Red card) for repeated violation of the Laws

4) If a particular **PLAYER is constantly scoring, in spite of the coach **making an effort** to try to avoid their players running up the score then:**

- i) At the stoppage of play bring the coach and player aside and warn the player.
- ii) Caution the player (Yellow card) for unsporting behaviour – acts in a manner that shows a lack of respect for the Game
- iii) Send off the player (Red card) for repeated violation of the Laws

5) If in the same situation, but the **COACH is **not** making an effort:**

- i) At the stoppage in play bring the coach aside and warn him that the actions of his team are unacceptable. Let the coach know it is their responsibility to control their player's behaviour.
- ii) Caution the coach (Yellow card) for unsporting behaviour - failing to correct or control the behaviour of their players
- iii) Caution the player (Yellow card) for unsporting behaviour – acts in a manner that shows a lack of respect for the Game
- iv) Send off the coach (Red card) for repeated violation of the Laws
- v) Send off the player (Red card) for repeated violation of the Laws

6) If there is no coach or anyone to take over after a coach is red carded, then the game is suspended.

7) If **TWO red cards are given, the game is terminated and the offending team forfeits.**

8) The referee will report, in writing, to the appropriate authority, any misconduct by players or coaches. The League Referee Coordinator/Discipline Committee will review all incidences of coach or player misconduct.

Do's:

-GIVE suggestions

-Show you're looking for a compromise that promotes good sportsmanship, growth, and still allows fair play

-Be confident and make your expectations clear. The call is still yours and we have a level of expectations for coaches and players

Don'ts:

-Don't penalize a team if the scores become more equal as the game goes on. For example, a team is up 6-0, you discuss it with the coach team and they change their playing style. Then, the other team scores a lot and it is now 7-6. If the team you talked to is NOT up by a large lead/running the score, they can play like they did at the start if they like (As long as it's still in sporting behaviour)

- Don't Say something like "Next goal, you forfeit". This can create tension and cause the coaches to complain (or just create something unwanted). Do not say that you will no longer be counting goals scored by the team. That does not change the unsporting behaviours.

-Don't let the coach make you feel like your call is wrong or that you are not allowed to call it. Use your discretion to make your calls but you do have a responsibility to encourage all participants to follow the Code of Conduct and the rules.