

Amended rules for Indians intramural soccer

The intramural program is about kids learning the fundamentals of soccer, developing the self-assurance to compete, experiencing wins and losses with dignity and, most of all, having fun. All of this comes under the general heading of sportsmanship.

Unfortunately, there have been several incidents of bad sportsmanship during this fall season. For this reason, the board has instituted several new rules effective immediately.

SWEARING

If a referee hears a player swearing, the player will be removed from the game. The object of the player's anger is irrelevant. He, or she, can be red carded for cursing at the ref, at an opposing player, at member of his own team, his coach, etc.

If a referee swears at anyone, the coach, or player, who witnesses the event should lodge a complaint with any member of the board. We will conduct an investigation, and, if warranted, will punish the referee.

If a coach swears at anyone, the referee may expel him, or her, from the field, or may file a report with any member of the board. If the complainant is a parent or a player, they, too, may lodge a complaint with a board member. The incident will be investigated and, if warranted, the coach will be punished up to and including expulsion from the program.

If a parent swears at anyone, we trust that the coach of that team will counsel the parent.

If it persists, the board reserves the right to bar the parent from the field in the future.

Singling out players for public ridicule

A coach who singles out players for ridicule in front of the rest of the team will be punished, up to, and including, expulsion from the program.

There's a fine line between correcting mistakes and ridiculing children. However, this is an intramural program. Serious criticism of play should be delivered on a one on one basis. It's one thing to say to the team, "You guys have to hustle," or even, "Mary, you really need to go after that ball." It's entirely another to say, "We lost today because Mary didn't go after that ball."

Blowout games

A scoring differential of more than 5 goals is considered a blowout. These are not acceptable in our program.

If a coach finds his, or her, team up by 5 goals, he, or she, can use any or all of these tactics. They are presented in no particular order.

- 1) Play one player down. If this doesn't work, go to two down
- 2) Have your players make three passes before scoring
- 3) Play with only two forwards

- 4) Change your goalie. Give someone who doesn't usually play keeper a chance.
- 5) Move your best players back to defense or let them have a rest.

It's up to the coach to determine when he puts these tactics into effect. He, or she, **MUST** do something when the scoring differential reaches 5 goals, but he, or she, **MAY** put some of these into effect when the scoring differential reaches 4 goals.

Once the other team scores a goal, the coach of the opposing team can go back to playing the way he, or she, was initially. Our purpose isn't to give the losing team a chance to catch up, we just want to avoid a lopsided score.

If a team has two blowout wins in a season (fall or spring) the board will conduct an investigation. If it is determined that the coach of the winning didn't do enough to hold the scoring down, the minimum punishment will be that the team is declared ineligible for the playoffs and the maximum punishment will be expulsion from the program for the coach and his, or her, assistant.

These concerns are in addition to the rules given to you in your coaching packet at the beginning of the season. Coaches are still expected to abide by those rules as well.

This is a wonderful town, full of wonderful people. Fortunately, these problems are the tiny, tiny exception to the overwhelmingly positive rule. Still, we feel compelled to take immediate forceful action to nip these concerns in the bud. Hopefully, this is the last you will ever hear of them.