

LAKEWOOD SOCCER ASSOCIATION
PROCEDURE DOCUMENTATION FORM

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
#0035	Rec. League Uneven Games
Lead	Rec. Commissioner and Director of Coaching
Review Dates	March, August and as needed
1.	LSA is adopting a formal policy to address Rec. League games that become one sided in favor of a stronger team. The intent of this policy is to provide game balance for all players on both sides of this type of situation. All LSA Rec. league coaches are responsible for implementing these measures for their team if this situation occurs. This policy outlines a list of measures that should be taken progressively to balance the outcome of an uneven soccer game. LSA referees will enforce this policy once a 6 goal deficit is reached in a Rec. Game.
2.	It has been proven in studies that children respond most favorably to a soccer experience when the competitive level is balanced. LSA Rec. teams are formed primarily on the basis of age level verses skill level. When feedback is available, LSA does occasionally consider team skill level when bracketing teams. For the most part, there is not a considerable disparity in skill level for the overwhelming majority of teams in a Rec. league
3.	<p>Lopsided games in youth sports are inevitable and care must be taken to appreciate the sensitivity of young children to such events. The following are actions that should be taken to further challenge the stronger team while reducing the difficulties facing the weaker team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing short-handed, dominating team removes players. • Adding players to the opponent's team, losing team adds players. • 3 goal limit per player. • Playing key players out of position, (back in goal and defense). • Sitting key players for longer periods. • Restrict scoring from close range. • Only scoring from crosses, no break away goals. • All offensive players must touch ball before a shot on goal can be attempted. • At the youngest ages, adult coaches should consider playing in goal to help the losing team gain some measure of stability.
4.	LSA is taking these measures to turn the stronger teams' game into a skill building session while allowing a weaker team to compete on an even level.
5.	This policy is not intended for games where the scoring deficit gradually grows into the later quarters or second half. LSA recognizes some teams have "good" days as well as others have "bad" days.

This procedure approved by the Board.