

## **NO MORE BLOWOUTS**

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Every person in our country has choices. Each day we decide what to do with our time. Hopefully we spend more time participating in things we enjoy and less time in things we don't. Most of the around 10, 000 people that decide to spend their Saturdays at Northwest Soccer Park make that choice because it is a fun and worthwhile experience. The Whatcom County Youth Soccer Association prides itself on creating a fun and safe environment for children and adults to grow in the game of soccer. In order to create this environment we need to work together to eliminate lopsided blowouts.

As parents and coaches, we can use our participation in youth soccer, to teach children to be humble winners and lose with dignity. Winning and losing is part of every competition. Players need to lose in order to learn and develop, but being part of a blowout doesn't help anyone involved. The winning team is not challenged so they end up learning bad habits and the losing team is demoralized. Coaches need to work together to prevent blowouts. If you have a weak team warn the opposing coach prior to the game so they can prepare a plan to keep the game close.

### **IF YOUR TEAM IS DOMINATING**

1. Restrict your players to only two-touches each.
2. Challenge your team to get eight passes in a row before they can shoot.
3. Restrict your players to only score with their head or bad foot.
4. Put your strongest players in goal or defense.
5. At halftime invite your opponent to play an extra player or two.
6. Have your team play with fewer players.

Keep trying different things until you get the game even so both teams have possession of the ball and chances to score. Remember to always encourage and help your players be good sports.