

# Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League

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## NVYSL Policy & Procedure Review

**Title: Excessive Scoring**

**Type: Creation of New Policy**

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### A. Objectives:

- 1) Amend existing NVYSL Policies and Procedures to:
  - a) formalize NVYSL's commitment to prevention of excessive scoring as a means of safeguarding sportsmanship and enhancing Player experience
  - b) clarify procedures for response to violations of this policy.
- 2) Define Excessive Goal Differential (EGD), any differential greater than or equal to 7 goals.
- 3) Assign responsibility and authority to Age Directors for:
  - a) receiving and reviewing instances of excessive scoring
  - b) investigating circumstances of excessive scoring incidents
  - c) escalating investigations of excessive scoring to Sportsmanship Director for adjudication.

### B. Background

Orienting Players in a competitively balanced game-like context is one of the most powerful tools available to advance Player development. NVYSL acknowledges that building flights of play to guarantee competitive balance is a complex and elusive process, and achieving true competitive balance in every match is not always possible. However, good competitive balance is a hallmark of any effective youth sports organization, and NVYSL is committed to this ideal in its policies and procedures for Team placement.

Excessive scoring by a dominant opponent during a match can exert powerful negative consequences on both the superior and inferior Teams, and strikes at the heart of good sportsmanship in NVYSL. Procedures and practices in NVYSL for assignment of registered Teams to flights are imperfect and Coaches fulfill a critical role of in-game management to mitigate competitive imbalance and to prevent excessive scoring during a match.

NVYSL assumes that Clubs agree that low score differentials promote a positive game perspective. NVYSL further assumes that Clubs have facilitated education, training, and careful consideration by their Coaches of techniques for controlling scoring during a match. These assumptions had been

reflected by the following text in the 'Items of Note' section in previous versions of the NVYSL Booklet:

**MATCHES WITH A LARGE GOAL DIFFERENTIAL**

Effective with the start of the fall 2010 season, NVYSL has eliminated the rule strictly limiting the goal differential in a match to 6 or less. Although, from an administrative standpoint, this rule has been eliminated, it is because Coaches, in most cases, have discovered ways to maintain a low goal differential while not embarrassing an opponent. The Sportsmanship Review Committee will continue to monitor scores and will investigate any result that has the appearance of being unsporting. Age Directors will continue to investigate large goal differentials and complaints and now have much more flexibility to make changes in division alignments and Team placement.

The above guidance has been discontinued in recent Booklets and inconsistencies have arisen amongst Coaches and administrators in the occurrence and handling of excessive scoring incidents. NVYSL recognizes that one large score differential from a single match does not automatically indicate a sportsmanship issue, but continued excessive scoring across the league degrades the experience of Players, Teams, Parents, Clubs, and NVYSL as a whole. This policy attempts to clarify NVYSL policies and practices with respect to excessive scoring.

**A. Definitions**

**1) Match Goal Differential (MGD)**

- a) difference between number of goals scored by the Winning Team and Losing Team in a given match, calculated as Match Goal Differential = [(Winning team goals) – (Losing team goals)] for that match

**2) Excessive Goal Differential (EGD)**

- a) An Excessive Goal Differential is a Match Goal Differential (MGD) that is greater than or equal to seven ( $\geq 7$ ). That is, the maximum goal differential limit without being considered Excessive is 6.

**B. Existing Policy and Procedure**

<< None >>

**C. Proposed Policy and Procedure Revision**

**2.6.01(h) Excessive and Unreasonable Goal Differentials**

NVYSL values competitive balance between Teams in a flight as a vehicle of its commitment to fostering player development and good sportsmanship. NVYSL further recognizes potent negative consequences that excessive scoring can exert on all parties involved in a match. Therefore, NVYSL relies on Coaches to mitigate competitive imbalances during matches by actively and aggressively pursuing measures to prevent excessive scoring.

An EXCESSIVE Goal Differential (EGD) is defined as the Winning team scoring **greater than or equal to seven (≥7) goals** more than the Losing team. That is, the maximum goal differential limit without being considered Excessive is 6.

Instances of EGD will trigger email notifications to the Age Director, as well as the Coaches and Club Officials of both Teams involved in the match. NVYSL Age Directors will investigate instances of EGD, including but not limited to, requiring written reports from all involved Coaches describing the context of the excessive scoring.

If the NVYSL Age Director determines an EGD match constitutes a sportsmanship violation, the matter will be escalated to the NVYSL Sportsmanship Officer for review and possible action against the Coach, Team, or Club.

If the instance of EGD is a sportsmanship violation and is the second or more EGD match by the team within the season, regardless if the previous instance was determined to be a sportsmanship violation, the Head Coach (or designee, if the Head Coach was absent) of the offending Team will serve a suspension from their next match unless the NVYSL Sportsmanship Officer determines there were extenuating circumstances that warrants other action.

#### F) **Associated League Process**

- 1) Any match with an Excessive Goal Differential (EGD) will trigger email notifications to the NVYSL Age Director, as well as all Coaches and NVYSL Representatives of both Clubs involved in the match.
- 2) At least one Coach or Assistant Coach from each Team will submit a written report to the NVYSL Age Director, providing their perspective on the match and describing circumstances leading to the Excessive Goal Differential.
- 3) NVYSL Age Director will review all Coach reports, and, if necessary, may conduct additional investigation, such as reviewing referee reports, to assess the circumstances of the match.
- 4) Failure of the offending Coaching Staff to participate fully in the EGD review process will result in immediate escalation to their Club Officials and to the NVYSL Sportsmanship Officer.
- 5) NVYSL Age Director will provide a reminder to all involved Coaches and their Club Officials explaining and emphasizing NVYSL guidelines with respect to excessive scoring. Additionally, Age Director will confirm that the offending Coaching Staff and their Club Officials have carefully considered techniques for controlling scoring during a match.
- 6) The NVYSL Age Director will consider all reports and other information from the game to determine if the EGD constitutes a sportsmanship violation.
  - a) If the NVYSL Age Director determines that an EGD does not constitute a sportsmanship violation, the NVYSL Age Director will notify the Coaches and NVYSL Representatives from both Clubs, closing the matter.
  - b) If the NVYSL Age Director determines that an EGD constitutes a sportsmanship violation, the Age Director will notify the Coaches and NVYSL Representatives from both Clubs that the EGD was a sportsmanship violation and escalate the incident to the NVYSL Sportsmanship Officer for further review and action.
- 7) The NVYSL Sportsmanship Officer will review the findings of the Age Director, and if necessary, may conduct additional investigation to assess the circumstances of the match.

- 8) The NVYSL Sportsmanship Officer will provide notification of their findings and whether additional actions are warranted back to the Age Director. If additional actions are necessary, the Sportsmanship Officer will also provide notification to all Coaches and NVYSL Representatives of both Clubs involved in the match.
  - a) If the instance of EGD is the second or more by the team within the season, the Age Director and Sportsmanship Officer will determine if there were extenuating circumstances that would indicate suspension of the Head Coach (or designee if the Head Coach was absent) is not appropriate. If there are no extenuating circumstances, the Club and Head Coach (and/or designee, if the Head Coach was absent) of the offending Team are notified that the Coach must serve a suspension from the Team's next match.