



Excessive Scores

35 Point Differential

Overview:

Junior rugby in New Zealand is a development programme and not a competition. If everyone upholds the ***spirit of the game***, then it will be a positive and enjoyable experience for all. Any team good enough to win should be allowed to do so, however little is to be achieved for anyone if the game is an uneven contest.

Humiliation is felt strongly by children and serves only to make it more difficult for a coach to motivate their players. As a positive coach you should consider the advantages (and enjoyment) that come when children are involved in a fair and even contest. Children learn much more about coping with a loss when they lose in a tight game than they do from humiliation.

Guideline:

When at half time the difference in score between the two teams is 35 points or more, the coach of the team that is winning **MUST** work with the opposition coach to ensure the game is evened up.

Both coaches must take steps to even-up the remainder of the game to ensure it is a fair and even contest.

The following are suggested steps that the coaches may agree to take:

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| Swap players: | The notion that children will not swap teams is an adult one. There may be a few selected players (test your own team to see how they cope with playing against some of their own
OR
Swap forward packs or backlines with the other team. |
| Change positions: | Move some selected players to see how well they cope with playing in another position. |
| Subbing: | Sub-off some key players. |
| Wind advantage: | Be willing to give away any wind-advantage that may exist. |
| Kick-offs: | The weaker team restarts play with a tap and pass rather than the usual kick.
OR
the scoring team kicks-off to the weaker team. |
| Depower: | Depower scrums, non-contested - non-contested lineouts |
| Conversions: | No conversions or change your kicker to an untried player. |

Penalties

Penalties up to and inclusive of suspension from the draw may be applied to Coaches or Teams that fail to abide by this policy.