



Lanier Recreational League – Game Conduct and Fair Play Rules

Objective

The Lanier Recreational League exists to create a positive, development-focused environment for youth players of all skill levels. Good sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect are core values we expect from players, coaches, and families.

Fair Play Rule: Managing Lopsided Games

To promote balanced and respectful competition, the following guidelines apply **when a team leads by more than 5 goals**:

1. Score Differential Thresholds

- Once a team leads by **5 goals**, the coach must begin adjusting tactics to reduce pressure and encourage sportsmanship.
- If the goal differential reaches **6 or more**, the **leading team is required to remove one player from the field** until the goal difference drops below 6.

2. Gameplay Adjustments for Leading Team

Coaches should implement one or more of the following adjustments:

- Move top players into less dominant positions (e.g., defense or goalkeeper).
- Require 3–5 passes before any shot on goal.
- Assign less experienced players to offensive roles.

- Only allow shots from non-dominant feet.
- Limit scoring to specific players who have not yet scored.

3. **Player Removal Procedure**

- After a 6-goal lead, the team must play with **one fewer player** on the field (e.g., 6v7).
- This must be done **safely and respectfully**—coaches should use this as a teaching moment rather than a punishment.

4. **Sportsmanship Expectations**

- No excessive celebrating or taunting when leading by a wide margin.
- Coaches should promote humility and encourage players to support their teammates and show respect to opponents.

Why It Matters

These rules ensure that all players—regardless of ability—have a fair and positive experience. Our goal is to create games that are competitive yet respectful, where every child feels included, challenged, and valued.