

IPSHA Football 'Mercy' Strategies

IPSHA Core Values include: **Participation, Progression** of core skills/ tactical strategies and, above all, **Enjoyment** of the game. We should praise players and encourage good sportsmanship.

Whilst teams will not always be evenly matched, we endeavour to keep games meaningful for both schools participating in the contest.

Should a game be one-sided, i.e. denoted by highly uneven possession, territory or score (5 plus goal margin), then strategies need to be implemented to 'even up' the contest.

These strategies should not be obvious or demeaning but subtle techniques designed to increase the difficulty for the dominant team, particularly when they are attacking and hopefully give the opposition a share of possession and territory.

Coach initiated attacking strategies for the dominant team

- All shots at goal from outside the box.
- No follow up from strikers after the shot is made, nor pressure on the keeper when the ball is near them.
- Slow down offensive movement, particularly when the opposition lose the ball, looking to pass back or centrally rather than forward.
- 6 passes prior to shooting or each member of the team touches the ball prior to shooting.
- Less time on the field for dominant players (still need enough game time to justify their position).

Coach initiated defensive strategies for the dominant team

- Defensive team must allow the attacking team to pass halfway, marking up still but not closing in to make the challenge.
- Wherever possible, mark up but allow the opposition to make the first play at the ball.

Coach to Coach strategies for both teams

- Swap 2-3 players between the teams to even up the contest.
- Start the second half at 0-0. Could also implement strategies such as the opposition receiving all throw-ins and no corners for the dominant team.