



monthly tips from Positive Coaching Alliance

Coaching in Blowout Games

One of your most difficult challenges as coach is to manage a game when you have a huge lead: trying not to embarrass your opponent, while still helping your team improve and learn from the game. Create a new approach to the game, such as practicing specific situations you will face in future, more competitive contests.

For example, instead of scoring quickly, work on plays or tactics that will help you protect a small lead when that situation arises. Or prepare for a scenario when you are tied near the end of a game and you want the last scoring opportunity. Try new combinations of players and positions, getting subs in to play with your starters.

The key is to EXPLAIN this to your players so they understand they are not letting up, but are continuing to work toward season-long goals. These strategies will help your team get better and get some valuable practice, and you Honor the Game by Respecting Your Opponent.

adapted from The Double-Goal Coach by Jim Thompson

