



OFC 3 v 3 Festival Etiquette

Coaches, Managers, Contacts,

I wanted to send out a separate note on appropriate behavior during the 3 v 3 Festival with regards to game situations.

Problem 1: Team A is extremely aggressive and Team B is taking a beating physically.

Note 1: Coaches you really have to know your team, and the way to handle this situation. It happened to my u10 team last year, when they were playing a u11 premier team. I used it as a learning experience for my girls, and told them that they could learn a lot in the heat of battle. I believe that was the exception as I had a group of girls that could handle the situation. They complained a little and 5 minutes after the game they had forgotten all about it.

Note 2: DANGEROUS play needs to be stopped immediately (by own coach) and the player instructed (by own coach) on proper play and the difference between being aggressive and being reckless.

Solution 1: Coaches that have the aggressive team, please remind your players that the festival is for fun and the emphasis should be on footwork and passing and not pushing the less aggressive/younger teams around.

Solution 2: Coaches that have the less aggressive team, please do not get worked up to the point of "leading the mob", ie. the parents start getting into it. Please understand that you can calmly approach the other coach, explain the situation (it should be obvious), and both of you can come up with a positive solution.

Learning Point: Coaches, are the LEADERS in solving this problem. I expect all coaches to be above the fray and do what's best for BOTH teams on the field.

Problem 2: Teams A's coach is Coaching Too Much and Directing Flow of Game

Note 1: There should be NO coaching during the festival. The Brazilians are fantastic soccer players because they play street soccer (3 v 3), futsal, and such day and night without organized coaching. As much as practices, organized games, fast-footwork, ATP and the like do for the technical and tactical advancement of your player's soccer development, FREE play, with regards to absence of coaching direction, will create a fun, fast paced environment, where your players will learn the game of soccer THROUGH the game. If anyone saw Marta's amazing goal in the World Cup Semi-Finals against the US, they would know that she did not learn this from a coach barking out orders.

Solution 1: Relax, sit on a chair or on a blanket, and revel in the masterful coaching job you have done with your team as your technical and tactical session are being played out in front of you. There is nothing better than seeing your players execute a move, or something they have learned by themselves.



Problem 3: Team A is beating the pants off Team B

Note 1: This is obviously not fun for Team B's players, parents, or coaches. Nor in most instances is Team A learning more about the games, or developing their own skills. Although the first 5 – 10 goals might be a blast, the " Law of Diminishing Return " states that each subsequent one will be less and less appreciated.

Solution 1: I'd suggest that the game be played " as is " through the first half. If Team B is obviously outmatched than at the start of the 2nd, Coaches can get together and do the following:

- 1) Allow Team B to play with an extra player: Makes it more competitive for Team A and gives Team B a better chance to make a game of it
- 2) Mix players up from each team – This way, game will be more competitive.
- 3) Team A puts restriction on scoring – IE all 3 players must touch the ball before scoring, or all shots taken with weaker foot.

In all instances it should be **BOTH COACHES** looking out for **BOTH TEAMS** with regards to fun fast-paced competitive games being played.

Thank You,

Jeff Oksman (OFC 3 v 3 Director)