

# Competition Safeguarding

Keep it fun for everyone

## What is Competition Safeguarding?

- Techniques and tools used to adjust an inappropriate matchup in a game.

## Why should Competition Safeguarding be used?

- The dominating team can lack intensity and competitiveness, lose discipline, and disengage from the game.
- The losing team can get frustrated, lack intensity and competitiveness, lose discipline, and disengage from the game.
- Unbalanced competition impedes development, is not fun and leads to players quitting the game!

## When should it be used?

- When one team is leading by 4 goals, consider using the Competition Safeguarding Steps. If a team is leading by 6 or more goals, the Competition Safeguarding Steps must be used.

## What are some sample Safeguarding Steps?

- Move the buildout line back to midfield or appropriate location.
- Add a buildout line for 9v9 game.
- Add a player to the team that is behind (instead of taking a player off from the team in the lead - we do not want to take away playing time).
- Move players around so the more dominant players get opportunities in positions outside of the spine (central positions) of the team.
- Encourage or challenge the winning team with a specific task or challenge--not a restriction. (Ex: Pass back to the goalkeeper when you win the ball or try to score off of a cross).

## Who should utilize these tools & techniques?

Coaches and referees are the only people tasked with implementing these techniques.

## How should they be implemented?

Coaches should connect with each other prior to the game's start and agree to utilize Competition Safeguarding in the event the score gets out of hand. They should include the referee in this conversation and remind the parents that these things may occur in an effort to create a better development environment for the kids.