



# PARITY PLAY

"A fairer way to play"

## The concept

Parity play is designed to bring balance to the game. It creates an opportunity to support a team that has a goal deficit and creates a challenge for the leading team.

Ideally, Parity play will prevent teams winning by large scores & focus on player development.

## Do I have to use this rule?

You should have a good reason not to use this rule however, this rule is optional until the start of the 2019/20 season. The managers/coaches to confirm the rule is being used BEFORE kick off. In addition, the match official needs to be aware of the Parity Play rules.

Managers have the option to apply the rule when the criteria is met. i.e. losing by 4 goals

## What Age Group can use Parity Play?

All age groups from U7 to U17.

## How does it work?

How is parity play triggered? When there is a minimum of a 4 goal deficit.

## What can you do?

The losing team can add an extra player on to the pitch.

## What happens if the score continues to increase?

If the score line continues to increase, add an additional player for each additional 2 goals.  
i.e.

- 4 goal deficit will allow the losing team to play 1 extra player
- 6 goal deficit will allow the losing team to play 2 extra players
- 8 goal deficit will allow the losing team to play 3 extra players

## What happens when the score begins to decrease?

If the score line decreases, remove a player from the pitch in line with the goal deficit.  
i.e.

- 7 goal deficit will allow the losing team to play 2 extra players
- 5 goal deficit will allow the losing team to play 1 extra player
- 3 goal deficit both teams have the same number of players on the pitch

## What happens when a team is losing does not have any more players?

In this situation, the opposition can take the opportunity to create a suitable development challenge for their players. This may develop the players technical ability, skills or tactical understanding of the game.

Please keep the development challenge as realistic as possible.

Possible options:

- Goalkeeper swaps position with outfield player.
- Defenders play in attack. Attackers play in defence.
- Left footed players play on the right hand side.
- Switch Play during the attack.



## IMPORTANT

Please keep a safe number of players relative to the size of the pitch. No more than 3 additional players.

Should a further goal be scored the leading team will be asked to reduce players in line with the examples below.

i.e.

- 5 goal deficit the leading team will reduce by 1 player
- 6 goal deficit the leading team will reduce by a further player (down by 2 players)
- 8 goal deficit the leading team will reduce by a further player (down by 3 players)



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## FROM PARITY TO PARTY

**Remember: There is no I in TEAM. Drop the I from Parity & Party!**

Once the Parity Play rules have been applied & are ineffectual to the competitiveness of the game; then the losing team manager can call the game.

Once the game is called, this is the result needed for full time: Including, player stats such as player of the match & captain etc.

For the remaining time, create a party atmosphere: All girls to leave with a smile on their face.

For example, you can do this by:

- Mix the teams up into 2 equal sides (if possible).
- Swap a few players around.
- Continue the game, just focus on other development needs of the team.
- Have a fun game of football.