

## **CWSA SLAUGHTER RULE**

**“Slaughter Rule”**: We are a recreational league with players of varying degrees of athleticism and talent. Sportsmanship and fair play are core principles of our league so that we may provide a positive experience for all players. The purpose of this rule is not to penalize better teams, but to promote sportsmanship and fair play. All coaches must be mindful of the goal differential during the game and must adjust their style of coaching to promote these core principles.

Whenever a team reaches a three-goal advantage over their opponent, the coach **MUST EITHER** substitute goal scorers and higher-skilled players **OR** move these players into defensive positions on the team’s defensive half of the field **until the lead drops to two goals or less**. During any three-goal-or-more advantage, the affected goal scorers and higher-skilled players may not shoot for goal. If so, a free kick (direct or indirect, depending on the age level) will be awarded to the opposing team at the point of the offense. If a player who previously scored a goal or a higher-skilled player propels the ball into the goal in any manner **while the Slaughter Rule is in effect**, no goal will be recorded and play will restart with a goal kick. Players and coaches may be cautioned for Unsporting Behavior (USB) for repeated violations of this rule.

### **FAQs**

***While the Slaughter Rule is in effect, can other players on the team score a goal?***

Yes! Only players who have scored and higher-skilled players may not score or shoot for goal.

***What constitutes a “higher-skilled player”?***

Those players with a skill ranking of “4” or “5”.

***While the Slaughter Rule is in effect, can goal-scorers and higher-skilled players participate in offensive attacks?***

Yes. These players can assist their other teammates (not impacted by the rule) in offensive attacks. They simply cannot shoot on goal or score.

***What if all my players on the field have scored a goal and there is still a three-goal-or-more differential?***

Coaches may: 1.) substitute players; 2.) place an affected player in goal; or 3.) instruct players to play possession only (AKA “keep away”). If a coach needs other suggestions on ways to avoid violations of this rule, please see the CWSA coaching coordinator.

***What occurs once the goal differential drops to below three goals?***

The Slaughter Rule is no longer in effect, and all players can shoot for goal. There are **no** restrictions on the manner of play.