

3/4 & 5/6 Grade Divisions Game Lead Guidelines

When you obtain a lead of ten (10) points or more during a game (*especially* during the second shift of the fourth quarter) you should implement the following guidelines:

1) No Fast Breaks

Slowing down the offense allows your team to set-up a play which slows down the ramping up of the score and gives the opponents an opportunity to play defense.

2) Three (3) Pass Format

Passing is a key component in team sports. This format gets more players involved while practicing their passing and catching skills. Even though passing increase the opportunity to score more baskets this format slows down the ramping up of the score.

3) Move Defense Back to the Top of the Key

Moving the defense back and picking up their player near the top of the key will allow the opponent's players to bring the ball across half court; improving their dribbling skills and increasing their confidence and fun.

4) No Stealing Off the Dribble

This will help the opponent's players improve their dribbling skills and increase their confidence. Have your team practice proper defensive techniques; foot work, body positions – denying and contesting. You may steal off the pass unless the lead margin becomes greater than 15 points.

5) Sub in Players Who Need More Experience

Use this time to give these players the opportunity to improve their skills and scoring opportunities. Use your more experienced players to make plays to these players. This will help increase the depth of your team for the long term.

These simple guidelines will help our players continue to improve their skills and team work while improving their self-esteem.

Inform the opposing coach of your intentions because we all know that children sometimes do not listen to instruction which may lead the coach to think that you're just ramping up the score.

Once the lead becomes less than ten (10) points you should be able to coach your team to maintain the lead and secure a win without demoralizing the opposing players and coach.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Scott Bruno
Commissioner of Rules, Regulations and Ethics

Michael Fauci
President