

40 Point Gap Regulation

Purpose

To assist in the development and enjoyment of our younger players, it has been decided to add the following regulation to our League and Cup Competitions.

Regulation

*If during the course of a game a gap of 40 points between the teams has been reached. Then the League/Cup game has been completed as a contest and the result at that point will stand. This result should then be sent to youthresults@ulsterrugby.com Clubs to transmit **Not the REFEREE**.*

If there is still time available the match should recommence as a friendly for the remainder of time, with coaches ensuring that both teams are of similar strength and that all bench players get game time.

Rationale

In a 'one-sided' game, neither side are developing their rugby skills. If one of the sides are playing with reduced numbers – this can potentially be a Safety Issue, especially with the younger players tiring as the match goes on. We want to ensure everyone has a good rugby experience, and whilst losing is part of the game – we don't want players disillusioned and leaving Rugby. We all need opposition in order to play a game.

Explanation

We are asking coaches to use a bit of common sense. The "40 Point Gap Rule", is not 40-nil it can for example be 20-60. At the point when a 40 Point gap has been achieved the Referee will blow the final whistle and the result will stand. At this point the coaches should engage with each other, Mix and Match/borrow players etc and play out the remaining time as an even sided friendly game. Remember you or the opposition may have travelled some distance, so make your journey worthwhile for the development and enjoyment of young Rugby players.