

総合英語レベル7⑥ We're All Number One

予習課題 次の英文を読んで、内容を理解しなさい。

The Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association has made a big change: All tournament games involving players under 10 will have no winners or losers. The idea here is to have a restful, pressure-free, no-winners or losers. And since there will be no losers, nobody will have to suffer from defeat, and the unpleasant feelings that usually go with it. Of course, this also means that no one will experience the joy of victory, and no one will learn how to lose gracefully.

“This non-results-oriented initiative,” said Dean Conway, head coach of the soccer association, will give kids “more opportunity to develop all-around soccer smartness” and will “enhance natural competition.” How “natural competition” could be enhanced by this program is unclear, because the games don’t seem to matter when victory is not allowed.

One of the purposes here is social equality. As soccer association president Steve Koerper says, “When one team wins, everyone else is a loser.” That’s why everybody—or nobody—gets a trophy, and all teams are equal. This idea goes back to the 1960s, when progressive-minded gym teachers urged children to roll giant balls around a field so that everybody could be on the same team and avoid competition.

In a similar spirit, many schools have attempted to stop the grading system. Grades are undemocratic and difficult to distribute equal, since better students always seem to ruin things by working harder and therefore achieving more than others. The equal-outcome classroom, like the no-win soccer field, certainly prepares youngsters to work in a world where everyone is equally talented and works equally hard. When such a world magically arises, surely young people with this sort of education will be well-prepared not to achieve more or less than anyone else.

But until then, they will have to learn to live in a competitive world in which most people end up on the losing team at one point or another. It is questionable whether protecting children from competition is the best way to prepare them for life in the real world.