



Region 85 Silent Saturday

Region 85 will once again observe and participate in Silent Saturday. We recognize that most parents just cheer for the kids and the kids love that cheering! However, the loss of cheering for one game is worth it to meet the following criteria:

- Respect for the game, the opponents and each other.
- To emphasize that soccer is a “players” game.
- To support our volunteer referees, both youth and adult, by eliminating sideline interference and comments.
- To give players the chance to trust their skills and instincts without sideline input, and without concern that their mistakes will be corrected from the sidelines in a game environment.
- To encourage leadership skills among the individual players as they have the unique opportunity of give their own instruction on the field.
- To encourage a sense of true teamwork as the players must learn to rely upon one another and communicate with each other accordingly.
- To remind coaches, parents, spectators and players that PRACTICE is the time for instruction. Games are the showcases for learning.
- To remind everyone that youth soccer is primarily for the purpose of kids playing, learning and having fun.

While the vast majority of adult verbal participation is intended to be positive and constructive, the fact of the matter is that the games have become so loud that the players often have difficulty hearing and communicating with each other on the field. Taking one game off from any verbal interference may help adults gain perspective on just how loud it has been in the past. Hopefully, this effect will carry over into games in the weeks that follow.

Silent Saturdays have been tried in communities all over the country. While there have been mixed reviews on Silent Saturdays, it has been successful overall. We ask for your support and patience at this event in hopes that the players will have a unique experience of playing soccer, while allowing their coaches, parents and spectators to sit and enjoy watching their children play soccer.



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Guidelines to help support Silent Saturday:

- Silent Saturday should not apply to 5U, 6U and 8U divisions. However, Coaches, Spectators and Referees should offer a friendly reminder to those whose comments are not Positive, Instructional or Encouraging.
- Coaches and parents/spectators in ALL other divisions 9U – 19U are asked to observe the rules of Silence of the day.
- No one except the referee(s) and the players are allowed to talk during the game.
- Coaches should not provide any direction, verbal or non-verbal, to players who are on the field. Coaches may speak to players who are on the bench.
- Coaches are permitted to speak to their players during substitution breaks, at halftime and before the game. Coaches may quietly speak to their players on the sidelines, giving them instructions to carry out on the field, such as “Joey, I want you to switch positions with Tommy, and make sure Billy gets a chance to do a throw-in, ok?” Nothing more than this type of example. However, giving instruction ACROSS the field is NOT encouraged.
- Coaches are expected to fully understand, cooperate and communicate to every team member and parent the goal, philosophy and expected behavior of Silent Saturday.
- Each team is to self-assign a field monitor parent on their sidelines of their game. However, ultimately it is the responsibility for the coach to control his/her sidelines.
- Parents and spectators are to remain quiet for the duration of the game. They are not to direct any comments to the players or referee(s) – on or off the field. It is suggested, that those found talking, cheering or making any verbal noise should be given a lollipop in jest.
- Parents and players are encouraged to make posters, signs and banners. However, if the poster/sign/banner is in reference to a player, it may show either their name OR jersey #, but not BOTH or it will be in violation of AYSO Safe Haven rules.
- Parents are encouraged to applaud/clap – as this is the ONLY way to cheer during Silent Saturday. Absolutely no horns, whistle or noise-makers.

Let's always encourage and support our players while they are learning and playing the game, but on Silent Saturday – “Mum’s the word!”