



Information for Clubs

What is Silent Saturday?

Oftentimes we tend to get caught up in the moment while we are coaching, watching, and cheering during our children's soccer matches. At times, our comments can become loud, harsh, or downright nasty as they are directed toward players, coaches, referees, and our opponents.

Silent Saturday is one way to draw the attention back to the youth players, and their love of the game. It gives them an opportunity to think for themselves without the verbal "encouragement" from coaches and spectators.

It is also a great reminder for spectators as a majority of those comments are directed at the officials on the field. Some of these officials may be a few years older than the children playing on the field, however they still deserve the respect and courtesy of the adults on the sidelines.

Colorado Soccer Association has pulled together a few resources for clubs to participate in the statewide Silent **Saturday, October 22, 2016.**

- Stickers: Attached to this email is a document for you to use to create stickers for your event. The template is there for you to insert your club's logo and print them out on standard Avery round labels: 2 inch diameter 6 per page.
 - Additional sticker templates are available for you to insert your club logo, your own message with hashtags for your club, etc. Please email Michelle Tripp for more information.
- Silent Saturday with CSA!
 - During the day, please post photos and comments to social media with the hashtag #silentsaturday, and tag us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram with @wearecosoccer and @COSoccerReferee
 - Is your club going the extra mile and hosting special events or its own spin on Silent Saturday? Email Michelle Tripp at mtripp@coloradosoccer.org to help spread the word.

The following information can be shared with parents, coaches, referees and spectators at your matches, on your website and social media channels.

Touchline Behavior Article

Please find the link to the article written by Neal Fausset, Colorado's State Referee Administrator regarding [Touchline Behavior and Young Referees](#). It is a good reminder for everyone involved in youth soccer and the training of our young referees. Please share this link with your parents and coaches when referring to Silent Saturday.



Objectives of Silent Soccer Saturday

- To give players a 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 foster leadership skills among the individual players as they have the unique opportunity of giving instruction on the field.
- To foster 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, and players that PRACTICE is the time to 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.
- To support our referees and game facilitators.

Guidelines for Spectators, Coaches, Referees, and Players

- **Spectators** – Please no verbal comments or directed comments to the players, coaches or referees. We encourage parents to clap for players from both teams to promote a positive environment for both teams.
- **Coaches of U7 and older teams** – We ask that coaches refrain from coaching players that are on the field. You may coach players on the bench and give feedback after they leave the field or before they re-enter the field. You can also coach your players before the game or during halftime. Keep your coaching feedback brief, positive and specific.
- **U5 and U6 Coaches** - Coaches are allowed to coach during the game. Try to keep coaching to a minimum and only give direction when needed. We understand that there are some players who are playing in their first or second season of soccer and that those players will need more encouragement and direction.
- **Players** – Players are encouraged to speak to each other on the field as normal. Players are free to support each other and provide direction to each other when on the field. Substitute players on the bench may cheer for their teammates but are not to provide coaching instruction from the bench.



- **Referees / Game Facilitators** – For this special day, referees are being asked to remind the spectators and coaches about these guidelines. Continue to verbalize often during the game as you normally would. You are there to help the players have a safe, fair and fun experience.