



October 1st Silent Saturday



"**Silent Saturday**" is October 1st. This is ONE DAY out of the schedule in which parents, coaches and spectators are asked to refrain from yelling and giving direction onto the playing field during the game. All teams in the entire River City Youth Soccer League will participate. The core idea of Silent Soccer is to encourage everyone to simply watch and let the kids enjoy the game of soccer. The program has been met with huge success all over the country. Oftentimes the kids express the most positive feedback of Silent Saturday.

We expect to have some parents who do not like this, and we are certain many parents will struggle to contain themselves. Just Remember - kids go out on the playground every day and play soccer, baseball and basketball without help or direction from spectators.

GOALS OF SILENT SATURDAY

- 1) Give players a chance to trust their skills and instincts under the pressure of the game. Develop our players' thinking and creative ability to make decisions on the field without constant coach or spectator intervention.
- 2) Remind coaches and parents that youth soccer games are kids playing and having fun. The time for corrective learning is at practice.
- 3) Improve the players' ability to communicate with each other on the field by reducing the overall noise level. This will foster a sense of true teamwork as the players learn to rely on each other and communicate accordingly, especially the younger players!
- 4) Support our referees by giving them an opportunity to work in a positive environment.

EXPECTATIONS:

- 1) Spectators are asked to be quiet, talking only in normal tones to the people around them. Comments that can be heard by players, referees, or opponents shall be avoided.
- 2) **Clapping and words of encouragement for the entire team are encouraged.** Please refrain from shouting directions to players (e.g. "Kick it!" "Pass to Johnnie!" "Play Defense!").
- 3) Coaches shall remain silent and "let them play," giving only normal coaching instruction before the game, at the half/quarters, after the game, and to players off the field before or after substitutions. Coaches are permitted to call out to Referee for substitutions.
- 4) Parents are encouraged to make posters, signs, or banners showing their child's name and/or jersey number. Parents are also encouraged to bring pompoms, cow bells, clappers, or other noise makers (**no whistles**) to let the children hear their support.
- 5) Provide positive encouragement to those in need.
- 6) When the game is over ask the players if they liked Silent Soccer, and explain to them the positive aspects that such an event can have.