



AYSO Region 18

Silent Weekend

**October 24-25, 2009
U5 through U14**

For all U5-U14 games on Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25, Region 18 will have a *Silent Weekend*. This weekend, all spectators and all U7-U14 coaches must refrain from speaking in a publicly audible voice during each game.

WHY A SILENT WEEKEND?

The main purpose of a Silent Weekend is just to let the kids play and have fun without the worry of how their performance is affecting the adults on the touchlines. Silent weekends have been implemented in AYSO regions around the country for years, either as a regular feature of each region's schedule or in response to specific incidents. Silent weekends are an opportunity for the players to have a novel soccer experience in which

- Players can clearly communicate *with each other*, thus encouraging better teamwork.
- Kids can play without the distraction and interruption of instruction and comments from the touchlines.
- Tensions among spectators, coaches, and referees are remarkably reduced, thus providing a far more relaxed atmosphere in which our children may enjoy their game.
- Everyone can enjoy the creativity and skill with which our children play The Beautiful Game.

While the vast majority of adult verbal participation is intended to be positive and constructive, the fact is that some games can, and have, become so loud that players have difficulty hearing each other on the field. Taking one week off from verbal interference may help adults gain perspective on just how loud they've been in the past, and also see how well the children can play the game on their own!

(Over)

PLAYERS are allowed to speak, cheer, clap & make any supportive noise as they see fit, whether on the field or on the touchlines as substitutes, as usual. Substitutes may not provide tactical instructions.

COACHES may not provide players any tactical instructions during the game, but they may speak with their substitutes quietly on the touchlines, and they may discuss the game with their teams at the substitution breaks and halftime. U5 & U6 coaches may speak only to keep their players focused.

SPECTATORS may not speak in a publicly audible voice at all during the game. Applause is strongly encouraged, but artificial noisemakers remain prohibited in accordance with AYSO National Rules & Regulations. Bring a rally towel or appropriate signs if you wish! Bring lollipops & jawbreakers!

REFEREES will use their voices as usual *and will enforce the Silent Weekend with appropriate measures (which could include ejection).*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can't I even cheer for my own child?

A: You can by using your hands to clap, but not your voice.

Q: Can my child play soccer without constant instruction?

A: Yes.

Q: Will my child shoot on goal if I don't shout for him/her to do so?

A: Yes.

Q: Will a referee really enforce these rules?

A: Yes.

Q: Where can I learn more?



http://www.ayso.org/special_programs/kids_zone/articles/silent_saturday_better_players.aspx