



A WEEKEND OF FOOTBALL THAT'LL LEAVE YOU SPEECHLESS



The silent support football weekend



There's nothing better than watching Youth Football played in the right way.

Sometimes we need a reminder to make sure we put the players first. This weekend actions speak louder than words. In our first Silent Support Weekend to promote Respect in Youth Football, and we want you to play an important part.

We're encouraging spectators and coaches to show their support during the match through applause only. This will reduce pressure and confusion and give players a better opportunity to find their own voice and develop their game.

Play your part on Silent Support Weekend 5th and 6th November 2022.

And we want to hear what you thought about it. To understand the impact of the Silent Weekend, and to make improvements for the future, we will share a research form post the event so you can tell us your experience of it and share with people involved including parents, coaches and players (who, if under 16, have parental permission to participate).

There will also be research teams going out to some leagues and clubs to capture the feedback.

This will all help feed into our second Silent Support weekend later in the season.

Please can you:

- Spread the word and encourage everyone to take part – you can use the assets in your marketing pack to do this, the guidance has some ideas you can follow.
- Contact your local press, pledging your support
- Share the attached codes of conduct with all your members, clubs, coaches, referees and contacts

How should we all behave during the Silent Support Weekend?

- Allow players to make mistakes
- Allow players to make their own decisions
- Applaud good play from either team

What are the benefits of the Silent Support Weekend?

- Players can concentrate on the game and not be distracted by the touchline
- Players develop independent learning and decision-making
- Coaches can assess the teams communication skills

Coaching hint

Stand back and watch your players play. Adopting a less direct and vocal role can help you see your players in a new light and make your feedback more specific to help them improve individually and within the team.



Respect marks FA Full-Time/ Matchday app

For those Leagues that currently use Full-Time and Matchday to manage your fixture admin, you'll be aware that one of the requirements for your clubs/teams post-match is to complete the on and off pitch behaviour scores.

The two questions read as below:

- A. How would you describe the behaviour shown **on the pitch** today? Think about players from **both teams** towards each other and match officials.
- B. How would you describe the behaviour shown **around the pitch** today? Please consider **all coaches and spectators**.

For clarity, the scoring works as follows, with three options to choose from when marking the match overall:

1. Behaviour was **positive and consistent** with Respect guidelines throughout
2. There were **occasional incidents** of poor behaviour
3. There were **regular incidents** of poor behaviour

We use the Respect marks to continually monitor on-pitch and off-pitch behaviour, across all age groups and genders in both Adult and Youth football, and use them to focus on the areas of the game where behaviour is worst.

Please can you remind your clubs/teams that they are scoring the overall environment and not the opposition.

FAQs



What is a Silent Support Weekend?

A Silent Support Weekend aims to create a fun, safe and developmental experience for all youth players by allowing them to make their own decisions. This enables them to play the game with freedom, without pressure and without over-emphasis on winning at all costs.

What are the coaches supposed to do if they can't communicate?

Coaches are encouraged to give clear instructions to players before the game starts, take notes during the game and use half time or quarters to communicate to players positively. Coaches can also communicate with players through the captain or substitutes during suitable breaks in play.

What happens if we are playing a team that haven't signed up to the Silent Support Weekend?

You could share this document and the Code of Conduct with all spectators, encouraging them to support the Silent Weekend.

What will happen if spectators don't follow the Code of Conduct?

If they're not following the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct, they may be asked to leave the venue, meet with the Club's Committee and/or Welfare Officer, or asked not to attend future games.

Can we use this as a fundraising opportunity?

Absolutely! You can tie your Silent Weekend in with a local charity or with a national charity.



Reporting Process

Here are the reporting processes for Clubs and Referees if they feel any of the Code of Conducts have been breached:

For Clubs (U7-11)

- Coaches & Parents/Spectators to report any concerns to the Respect Steward
- Respect Steward reports any concerns to the Club Secretary
- Club Secretary reports any concerns to the League Secretary

For Clubs (U12-18)

- Coaches & Parents/Spectators report any concerns to the Club Secretary
- Club Secretary reports any concerns to the League Secretary

For Referees

- Referees report any concerns to the League Secretary