



# Respect

## Silent Saturday

## Silent Sunday



"Silent Saturday" has been used overseas with a great deal of success. Its main purpose is to just let the kids play and have fun without having to worry about how their performance is affecting the adults on the sidelines.

It's aimed at the Under 5 to Under 17 age groups.

The objectives of holding a "Silent Saturday" or "Silent Sunday" are:

- To reemphasise that the game is about letting the kids play and have fun.
- To give the players a chance to play totally on their own.
- To eliminate the verbal questioning of the referees' decisions.
- To help the few parents and coaches who feel they must provide constant direction, and to understand that the kids can play very well on their own with limited instruction.

Kids have the right to play without having to hear:

"Wake up! Don't just stand there!"      "You have GOT to be kidding me!"  
"Why do I waste my time coming?"      "Watch the game ref you might enjoy it."  
"Kick it ! Kick it !"

### **How does it work?**

The day is conducted on either Saturday or Sunday when local junior matches are played and is in force for all age groups from Under 8 to Youth. The day will be conducted during Grassroots Football month.

A promotional A4-flyer will be provided in Microsoft Word format that Associations can tailor to their own requirements (date, etc) for use by the Association and their Clubs. Alternatively Associations can advise FFA by 28 February of the appropriate date and nominated charity/charities and FFA will arrange for flyers to be printed (multiples of 100 up to 500 in total per Association).

### **Associations**

Each Association needs to select one junior match day during the Grassroots Football month on which the day will be conducted.

The Association can select one or more charities to benefit from donations gathered from teams during the course of the day. The level of 'donation' can be determined by each Association.

Promotion of the day can be conducted through local media, website presence and email distribution (as appropriate).

### **Clubs**

Clubs should have 'roaming ambassadors' with silver cards that they can show to parents, coaches or managers who don't follow the day's objectives. The ambassador can request that the team make a donation to the Association's specified charity/charities.

### **Spectators**

Please be advised that you may not make any verbal comments on the game or direct any comments to the players, referees or coaches - on or off the field.

Clapping IS allowed! Be creative in how you choose to cheer your child's team - make signs to hold up, bring a scarf in the team's colour and wave it wildly, there are lots of ways to cheer other than verbally.

## **Coaches and Managers**

You may not provide any direction - verbal or non-verbal - to players who are on the field.

You may speak quietly to any players that are on the bench, but DO NOT give those players instructions to yell out to their teammates!

Coaches may address the players in a normal tone before and after the game, during water breaks and during halftime.

## **Players**

Players are encouraged to speak to each other on the field and are free to support and provide direction to each other.

Players on the bench may cheer in a positive manner, but may not provide direction to those on the field.

## **Referees**

Referees have been instructed that if spectators and coaches are not following the rules the referees are to request that the team manager talk to the spectators or coach.

At the end of the match the referee can inform the home Club whether the spectators and coaches from both teams followed the day's objectives. Give them a score out of 5 – where '1' is low and '5' is really good.