

# York USA Spring Season 2017 Silent Weekend Procedure

## Purpose:

- (1) To develop player on-field decision-making abilities and skills
- (2) To promote player-to-player on-field communications
- (3) To preserve the retention of referees, especially the younger and less experienced, often intimidated by negative remarks and verbal abuse from coaches and spectators
- (4) To create a more relaxed, sporting and fun experience for the players

**NOTE:** The Procedure is not intended to deny any individual their constitutional right to free speech. Conscientious individuals would not consider it appropriate to shout out distracting and disruptive verbal communication in a myriad of public events and the intent applies here, as well, to achieve the desired purposes above.

## Dates:

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## Rules:

- (1) **Coaches** are **only** permitted to provide instruction to players before the match, during halftime, after the match and to substitutes during the match in the technical areas only. Coaches are also permitted to verbally request substitutions from the referees.
- (2) **Coaches** are responsible for implementing the Procedure; controlling, managing and disciplining their spectators, if and when required and necessary. Offending spectators will be given one (1) verbal warning by the coach or referee and, upon the second infraction, will be ordered to leave the immediate area of the field by the coach.
- (3) **Spectators** are permitted to talk to other spectators on their respective touch lines and to applaud, positively and enthusiastically, in appreciation for excellent play by either team during the match.
- (4) **Players** on the field are permitted to talk and communicate to each other as much and as loud as they wish in a positive and constructive manner.
- (5) **Substitutes** are not permitted to provide verbal communication to players on the field. Substitutes are defined as rostered team members located in the technical areas. A player and a substitute exchange designations during the substitution process. Conniving coaches may believe that they discovered a loophole in the Procedure by using substitutes to convey instructions to players on the field. Please do not attempt.
- (6) **Coaches** and **Spectators** are permitted to use hand and arm motions, as long as motions are not accompanied by words or sounds, to convey instruction on positioning to players on the field.
- (7) **Coaches** and **Spectators** are not permitted to “cough” instructions to players on the field.
- (8) One **Exemption** to the rules pertains to players with special needs (Autistic, ADD, ADHD, etc.). **Coaches** are permitted to provide verbal instruction to these players only. **Coaches** will notify the referee crew prior to the match and provide the jersey number(s) for the applicable player(s).
- (9) Noisemakers, cow bells, horns and instruments of any kind are not permitted.

## Referees:

- (1) Will use the “Ask, Tell, Remove” method for controlling, managing and disciplining coaches, if and when required and necessary.
- (2) Will be required, even more than normal, to communicate appropriate and relevant elements of the Laws of the Game on the field, in order to eliminate confusion on the part of players, especially at the younger age levels, in restart situations (i.e., goal kicks, corner kicks, throw-ins).