

# SILENT SUPPORT DELIVERY



**You've heard of Silent Support games? Here's the full story for your league, with everything you need to support your clubs in running Silent Support games.**

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## **What is Silent Support?**

Silent Support helps create a more positive space for players, coaches and spectators. The idea is to cut down on unnecessary distraction from the sidelines.

## **How does Silent Support work?**

Instead of confusing shouts and rebukes from spectators, players are encouraged by their applause only. Rather than hearing lots of voices offering conflicting instructions, players might only hear the voice of their coach – or from no-one at all if that's the way you want to play it.

## **When do you run a Silent Support game?**

It's up to your league and your clubs. You can run them at any time you see fit as a helpful tool, or when you feel you need to as an impactful intervention:

**For clubs with spectators who are behaving poorly,** you can run Silent Support games to create a calmer playing environment.

**For younger players who still need a little direction,** you can run Silent Support with the voice of their coach only.

**For youth players who want to make their own decisions,** you can run Silent Support with no voices from the sidelines, with even the coach quiet.

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**Use #SilentSupport when sharing online**

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## Let your clubs know about Silent Support

As a league, you can choose your Silent Support approach for your clubs:

# 1

To run games with the  
*coach voice only.*

or

# 2

To run games that are  
*completely silent.*

We've included lots of promotional resources for you to use. To spread the word about Silent Support, we've created an email, social media pictures and posts that you can edit and share, and which your clubs can then edit and share.

### Silent Support in a nutshell:

1. Players and Match Officials keep talking on the pitch.
2. Coaches support the players as they need to.
3. Spectators support good play through applause only.

### How to make Silent Support a success:

1. Share the promotional pack with your clubs and ask them to send it to their teams, coaches and parents.
1. Spread the word to make sure all your clubs understand Silent Support.
2. Post on social media that your league supports the Silent Support games that are being played.
3. Perhaps share the Respect Code of Conduct with your clubs (link below).

**After your league run a Silent Support game: Fill in and return the survey so we can hear as many opinions as possible about the experience.**

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## Your players will thank you for it

After previous Silent Support events, players told us it helped them talk more as a team, and to make their own decisions. Overall, players found playing more enjoyable.

***“It was good as we got to make our own decisions.”***

- Under 12s player

***“It can get confusing when lots of people are telling you what to do.”***

- Under 14s player

***“It’s giving them space to find their own game.”***

- Under 12s coach

***“They are talking to each other more, playing their own game.”***

- Under 10s coach

## FAQs

**What happens if we’re playing a team that isn’t doing Silent Support?**

Please share this document and the link to the Code of Conduct with all spectators, encouraging them to support the experience.

**What happens 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. There must be a RESPECT steward nominated from each team from U7-11. This is to ensure the Code of Conduct is applied appropriately.

[Respect Code of Conduct](#)

**The FA may periodically run a Silent Support National Event. Leagues will be contacted with further information in such instances.**