



2025 NWISL Official Supportive Sunday Guidelines

The enclosed guidelines and recommendations are based upon modifications to the SAY SOCCER PLAYING LAWS 2022 4th Edition Revised 11/14/24 and NWISL requirements. These recommendations are subject to change by NWISL.

Guideline 1 – The Spectators

- **No Coaching:** There should be no **TACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS** given by spectators.
 - This goes in accordance with SAY's thought that Players should be allowed to problem solve, on their own, without spectator interference, and simply play out the match.
- **No Negative Comments:** All Spectator comments should be kept to **POSITIVE, NON - DIRECTIONAL CHEERING.**
 - This goes in accordance with SAY's thought that we all need to remember that our words and actions truly matter. This day allows our players to play simply for the love of the game and building their team communication.
- **No Talking to the Referees:** Spectators should refrain from making comments to or about the Referee.
 - This goes in accordance with SAY's thought that this will allow the referees to simply manage the match.

Guideline 2 – The Coaches

- **Soft Directional Coaching:** Coaches at all ages/birth years are encouraged to:
 - Encourage the players to coach themselves, this way you as a coach can observe what the players have learned and are applying through the season.
 - Have your players relay directions for you.
 - If more direction is needed, use positional instructions during substitution times.
 - Sub the player and coach on the sideline; or move their position to the coaches sideline to coach them.
 - For Goalkeepers: Keep your coaching positive and to a minimum. We understand that you can not sub your GK out to coach them on every play.
 - Try to relay messages to your GK through your defenders.
 - This goes in accordance with SAY's thought that this day is a time for Players to work on their team communication skills within their team without the issues of having to scream over parents or coaches.
- **No Negative Comments:** All coaches should keep comments positive and motivational.
 - This goes in accordance with SAY's belief that we should keep the fun in the game, the joy in the spirit of our players, and remain aware that what we say and do matters.

Guideline 3 – The Referees

- Carding can be issued on Regular NWISL Gameplay Rules.
- Referees are encouraged to talk to the coach if Supportive Sunday Rules are not being followed.
- Referees are encouraged to do the following:
 - Keep a calm respectful tone in their voice and mannerisms at all times.
 - Speak with the Coach about any issues involving fans or players regarding Supportive Sunday rule violations; or any other rule violations immediately.
 - Report any inappropriate behavior on your game sheet, in the NWISL Game Evaluation Report Google Form and to the appropriate emails immediately.

A Message From SAY and the NWISL:

Supportive Sunday is a seasonal event for all NWISL teams. The date for Supportive Sunday is determined by NWISL and is posted on our website calendar as well as communicated by NWISL Reps to their club members.

This day is a time for players to work on their communication skills within their team; without the issue of having to scream over parents or coaches. On this day, all parents are requested to remain quiet to players and referees with the exception of nontactical (noninstructional), positive cheering. Coaches at all ages/birth years are requested to refrain from joystick coaching; and instead provide as little guidance as possible to their team, preferably during player substitutions. There is a special, “Supportive Sunday Guidelines” Page in every Coach Folder and listed on our website with our preferred guidelines.

As parents, grandparents, coaches, referees, and fans, we all need to remember that our words and actions truly matter. Supportive Sundays allow our players to problem solve and play simply for the love of the game while allowing referees to simply manage the match. We can quickly forget that the point of youth sports is the “**YOUTH.**” Let’s keep the fun in the game, the joy in the spirit of our players, and remain aware that what we say and do matters.

Regardless of it being a “Supportive Sunday” or any game day – from our recreational program through high school sports – let’s keep the comments positive and the cheering happy. The players will remember what you said and did in terms of how it made them feel for years to come. This also goes for the young referees – remember they are also somebody’s child, please treat them with respect. Thank you for your support in this endeavor!