



Whisper Weekend Reminder



Good Afternoon,

Week **FOUR** is now in the books, so this is the fourth of eight *Whisper Weekend Reminders* you will be receiving. The reminder is a way to update you on the progress of the program and keep the program fresh in your mind. This way over the next few days, it will be easier to remember and remind one another to Whisper their frustration rather than vocalizing it and creating a negative environment.

The Whisper Campaign information below is collected and tabulated as game sheets come in and email or voice complaints are received. As you can see, game sheets don't always make it to us very quickly. Currently, we have only received about **74%** of the game sheets from games played. Therefore, the information we are providing below is only a snapshot.

Statistics

Week # 4

Games Played: 100 Game sheets received by WMYSA: 65 Whisper sheets received: 65

Overall

Games Played: 368 Game sheets received by WMYSA: 275 Whisper sheets received: 270

Coach Referee Evaluations Received: 0

[Click here to see **Whisper Respect Ratings** for Club Coaches, Parents and Players](#)

Week #4 Low's & High's		
Category	Low	High
Players	3	5
Coaches	3	5
Parents	3	5

Fall Season Low's & High's		
Category	Low	High
Players	3	5
Coaches	1	5
Parents	1	5



Commentary:

Recently I had a parent come up to me at a game. He then said he wanted to let me know he has heard some of the parents making fun of your Whisper Campaign. It was bothering him they didn't take it seriously. When I laughed he asked why that didn't bother me? This is how I responded.

I fully expect many parents and coaches to make fun of the campaign. It's human nature to discuss topics which reflect on social interactions. We fully expected some will make light of it and some will want to discuss other actions in relation to it. The Whisper Campaign is a topic we have given them to generate conversation.

What's funny is the number of people who don't realize we have heard them talk about it. We have been out to a lot of games this season, far more than ever before. I couldn't tell you how many times we have been standing or sitting alongside parents at a game listening to them "discuss" the Whisper Campaign. We are not upset by this, just the opposite as we are pleased it's being discussed since that's the intent of the program. If people are talking about it then this means it's on their mind and it's more likely they will refrain from behavior the program is intended to prevent.

One club recently expressed concern over our posting scores for clubs. They felt youth officials shouldn't be evaluating for this program as they are not experienced enough. We feel if an official is given the responsibility to run the game then we should have confidence in them rating it. It should be noted our field observations have matched the officials rating scores on every game we have observed. They also felt some officials score differently than others, so it can make a team look bad. While it's true some officials score more strictly than others, we have lots of officials and the same teams doesn't always have the same official. So, we feel it's a fairly well-balanced system. Finally, they didn't like the weekly reminders we are sending out. The reason we send weekly reminders is to keep the conversation and concept current. This is the only way we can continue to address this topic and try to create positive habits from parents, coaches and players. This rating concept was the recommendation brought to the board at our AGM by the club Presidents who attended. It's the same program (Respect Campaign) which has been used nationwide successfully for the past few years, including leagues like GVSA.

I can honestly tell you the program is working. In my five years as President, this is the first time we have been half way through the season without receiving a single complaint from the referee association. That is huge! However, we also realize there is a lot of work still to do.

The issues we have been dealing with have resulted from coaches addressing parents of another teams. Likewise, parents confronting coaches of the other team. To avoid being investigated and risking sanctions, here are some simple tips:

1. Don't engage, walk away whenever possible.
2. Refrain from engaging or responding to opposing team parents, coaches and players.
3. Let the officials know what's going on, don't deal with it yourself.
4. Understand your message isn't communicated by your words. 58% of communication comes from your body language, 35% comes from the tone of your voice. Only 7% comes from the actual words used to communicate. So, when you speak when frustrated, often you are conveying a message which is not what your trying to communicate. Because they here your tone and body language rather than all the words.





Reported on Whisper Sheets by Officials

“One coach was a screamer at his own players”

“Very positive coaching”

“Good things from both sides”

“Coach kept trying to make calls for me”

“Both team parents were well balanced.”

“Parents were yelling at AR over multiple calls”

“Parents enthusiastically encouraging.”

“The coach disagreed with Ars call and spoke disrespectfully to him. I had him move back as I felt he was too aggressive. The AR is 15 years old.”

“Argued at the end of the game over corner rules”

“No issues with parents, players or coach.”.

“No real issues. Some parents saying inappropriate things.”

“One player from.. had an attitude. The rest of the team was great

“Great attitude! Much appreciated 😊 “

“Coach didn’t observe “Technical Area” parents fromadmitted to not signing any whisper campaign paper”

WMYSA checked team file for the team and the sheet was signed and uploaded. However, we do have a handful of teams that have not uploaded. We will reach out to each this weekend for explanation.

