

Spring 2019

Week # 1



Whisper Weekend[©] Reminder

About the Program

This Whisper Weekend[©] Campaign began in the Fall 2018 in order to address ongoing issues of inappropriate behavior by Coaches, Players, Parents & Officials. The program was developed to be centered around three principles of **Respect, Recognition and Restraint**.

Respect should always be given to the officials, players and spectators. WMYSA now utilizes the [National Respect Campaign](#) for Officials to rate each team's coaches, players and spectators on a scale of 1-5 at each game based on sportsmanship. Club averages are posted on the website and clubs will be provided team breakdowns weekly.

Recognize when you or others begin to show frustration. WMYSA utilizes Field Monitors to observe and report behaviors, both good and bad to the board. In addition to updating the website and social media each week, every Friday evening emails will be sent to all clubs, coaches and families. This information will include reminders to WHISPER frustration rather than vocalizing them where players and officials can hear them. It will also include weekly rating scores, comments from officials and an overview of any incidents being investigated.

Restraint for yourself and to help others do the same when frustration sets in by whispering. No matter the frustration, we need to remember we are around children and need and should be setting a good example for them to follow. WMYSA takes very seriously all negative interactions between parents, players, coaches, spectators and officials. All violations will be investigated and dealt with



**Working together to teach the children the importance of
Respect, Recognition and Restraint.**

Message From The WMYSA President

Tomorrow kicks off our second season of the Whisper Weekend[®] Campaign. This past fall it was introduced and extremely successful. In my five years as President this was the first season I did not receive any complaints from the referee association! This was also the first season I was not told of young referees quitting midseason due to being abused.

The initial success of this program is due to each and everyone of you: the Club Boards, Coaches, Players, Parents, Fans and Officials. Keeping the concept alive and continuing to be discussed is what it is all about. When people talk, whether they are in favor or opposed to the program it provides a constant reminder. One weekend at a time; that's the point of the Whisper Weekend[®] Reminders.

Let's start of the season the right way, Spread the word and remember we are here for the kids so remember to Whisper. See you at the fields!

Testimonials Received Fall 2018

I just want you to know that I appreciate what is being done with the Whisper Campaign. I think you are right on point with the awareness that this is raising among the league players, officials and parents and how this is a GREAT thing whether they are talking negative or positive, they are talking about it. I think there is great accountability that goes with this and those that don't like the results have 2 choices...either fix their behavior or complain about how unfair it is for any particular reason other than their own behavior. I for one, wish for more transparency. Thank you for the weekly reports and the focus on this program. Referee numbers are significantly down across all sports and these are the types of programs that will help future numbers and retain young talent coming in to try their hand at being a referee.

I love what we are trying to accomplish here. I'm not always keyed into parent comments while coaching a game, though some stand out more than others. Is there a way for us to know how we were rated specifically? I'd be very interested in this visibility. I think it would also be handy in understanding the specific team one faces, if this was visible to all. Either way, great work!

Bravo! I could t agree more. I make it clear at the start of every season that negative comments to players or refs are absolutely not acceptable. These are kids. I also stress that refs are like our kids. They make mistakes on the field. If I see this type of behavior of my parents or opponents I will literally run on the field and stop the game. Our kids look up to us and we have a responsibility to set the right example. Thanks for taking a proactive approach to stop that nonsense.

Nice letter. Thank you for reminding us all of proper, respectful, adult behavior. Your work and efforts are appreciated!



**Working together to teach the children the importance of
Respect, Recognition and Restraint.**