

Soccer Field Communication Terms

We all tell our players to “communicate” or “talk”. What new players don’t ask coaches is “what the heck am I supposed to say”!

Below are some examples of common terms you can teach players to use on the pitch. This is by no means a definitive list as it is provided to give some examples. Use some of these or make up your own. Whatever terms you use ensure the meaning is understood by everyone on your team.

Teach one or two terms each practice as an appropriate addition to a drill. Review often and encourage players to use them.

Help - Support teammate in trouble

Man On - Opponent approaching fast; turn will be under pressure

Time or Settle - Settle down, get the ball under control

Carry - Dribble

Send It - Pass or kick to the open player

Contain - Slow down player with the ball

Spread Out - Spread out using the width and length of the field

Switch - Changing direction with the ball on the field -OR- changing positions with another player up field

Shoot - Take a shot on the goal

Mine - Going for a loose ball

Keeper - Goal keeper command for the ball

Move - Don't get caught flat footed and keep moving

Pull Up or Push up or Out or Step - Defenders are to move up field away from the goal

Wall - Defend free kicks

Square - Pass across to another player

Cross - A kick into the middle

Far Post - Goal post farthest from the ball

Near Post - Goal post nearest to the ball

You're Beat – tells a challenging defender to recover to goal while the supporting defender steps up to challenge a player.

Mark Up - Cover an opponent

Through - A passed ball delivered through the defensive line

Give and Go - A series of passes where one player passes to nearby teammate and then sprints forward to receive pass that's returned.

Out or Step -

Away - Clear the ball out of the area it is in, usually the PA

Stick - Go for the tackle

Stretch Out - Asking forward to go as far forward as the defense allows

Support - Support teammate in trouble (offensively or defensively) <player's name>

Ball - Going for a loose ball; for example, "Gary's ball";

Lock On - Pick up and stay with an opponent, tightly

Lock In - Double team opportunity, normally along the touchline

Close Down or Pressure - Pressure the ball immediately

Line - Deliver the ball to or down the touch line

Drop - Pass backwards

Touch Me - Requesting a quick one-touch or flick pass