

TIPS FOR CREATING A POSITIVE TEAM ENVIRONMENT



Use these tips to help you create a positive environment in which athletes can perform at their full potential and where abuse and misconduct are not tolerated.

- ❑ **Set behavioral expectations with athletes** (and parents/guardians of minor athletes) up front. Be sure your expectations are age and developmentally appropriate. In addition to addressing types of misconduct and inappropriate behaviors, give examples of positive behaviors you would like to see.
- ❑ **Model appropriate and respectful behavior** with athletes, parents, officials, and other coaches. Do not use slurs or other demeaning language when talking to or about others.
- ❑ **Call people by the name they want to be called.** Learn how to pronounce names that you find difficult. Call transgender and nonbinary athletes by the name and pronouns they use.
- ❑ **Be aware of athletes' age and developmental level** when talking to them.
- ❑ Recognize that **athletes from marginalized groups are at high risk** for being abused, bullied, and harassed. Pay particular attention to the safety needs of athletes with disabilities, LGBTQ+ athletes, and athletes of color.
- ❑ Reinforce to athletes that while winning matters, their **growth and well-being are more important.**
- ❑ **Keep lines of communication open** with athletes and their parents/guardians. Ask proactively for feedback on your communication and coaching style and offer multiple ways for athletes to share concerns.
- ❑ **Be consistent** in communicating and holding people accountable to core values, expectations, and policies.
- ❑ **Respond to misconduct** immediately and consistently.
- ❑ **Talk to athletes about the importance of positive bystander intervention.** Model bystander intervention by saying or doing something when you see abusive behaviors.