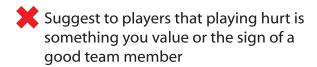
## Creating a Culture of Concussion Safety: Do's And Don'ts for Coaches





- Base decisions on which athletes you pick as starters or get more playing time in part on their toughness or willingness to play hurt
- Criticize an athlete's toughness in front of their teammate
- Penalize players for positive concussion reporting behavior with a loss of starting position or playing time
- Pressure athletes to continue playing with concussion symptoms or create an expectation that they hide symptoms
- Pressure create an expectation that athletes attempt to return to play after injury before they have fully recovered



- Create a climate in which athletes feel safe in reporting concussion symptoms
- Inform athletes of their responsibility to immediately report concussion symptoms
- Establish immediate concussion symptom reporting as a valued team behavior
- Provide emotional and social support for a concussed athlete during their recovery
- Emphasize that players will not be penalized or criticized for reporting concussion symptoms
- Make sure players understand that they will not be letting you down, teammates, parents or fans by reporting

For more information about the Smart-Teams Play Safe™ #TeamUp4ConcussionSafety Program, visit www.Concussions.Smart-Teams.org

