

## Guidelines for Addressing Name-Calling in Athletics

An important part of establishing safe and respectful athletic climates is the elimination of name-calling. Name-calling creates a hostile and disrespectful climate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) athletes, coaches, parents and fans as well as their friends and family members. Athletes and coaches cannot perform their best, either athletically or academically, in a school climate that is hostile and disrespectful. Athletic leaders, administrators, coaches and team captains have an important role to play in eliminating name-calling in athletics.

1. Athletic directors should make sure that all coaches understand that name-calling of any kind by coaches, athletes or fans will not be tolerated.
2. Athletic directors should arrange for workshops or other education on name-calling, its effects and how to stop it for all coaches.
3. Coaches should set good examples for athletes by avoiding name-calling as a joke or motivational device.
4. Coaches should speak up to stop name-calling among athletes or by fans at competitions.
5. Team captains should take leadership with their teammates to eliminate name-calling on their teams.
6. You don't need to be lesbian, gay or bisexual to find name-calling offensive. Straight allies speaking up is a powerful way to change team climate and eliminate name-calling.
7. Parents talking to coaches about the importance of eliminating name-calling in athletics can be an effective way to make team climates safe and respectful.
8. School leaders can remind fans about expected behavior at athletic contests and the importance of treating all athletes with respect from the stands.
9. Silence in response to name-calling implies consent or support for it. It is important to speak up when we hear name-calling in athletics.
10. Remember, it takes a team to make athletics safe and respectful for all.

