PRACTICE
Building Character Through Soccer

FC DALLAS

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Accountability: *Willingness to accept responsibility for one's own actions*
Synonyms: responsibility, answerability

Accountability Story

Accountability is a key component in any team's success. Being responsible for your own actions and holding others accountable is cultural and teams that achieve often point to this culture as necessary for high performance.

In early 2016 at the all-star break, the Cleveland Cavaliers of the NBA were leading the Eastern Conference by 3 games but not playing at their desired standard. Head Coach David Blatt was fired and after hearing the news, the team held a players only meeting, their third of the season, to discuss the team's culture. There had been growing tensions inside the locker room due to a "lack of accountability" and the players wanted to focus and be more responsible in the latter half of the season. Players reportedly were "playing by different rules" and "getting away with things" and the team was paying the price on the scoreboard. Coming out of the meeting, Lebron James, Kevin Love, and Kyrie Irving committed to place more emphasis on individual and collective accountability. After Tyronn Lue took over as head coach, and after the players refocused on the season's objectives, the team's performance improved greatly. The Cavaliers swept Detroit and Atlanta in the first two rounds of the playoffs and defeated Toronto 4 games to 2 to advance to the NBA Finals. In June 2016 at the NBA Finals, the Cavs won in seven games vs. the Golden State Warriors to reach the pinnacle of basketball.

If not for the refocused emphasis on accountability midseason, the team might have lost its way; instead, they were champions.

As an athlete, you have a responsibility to:

1. Lead by example
2. Be personally responsible on and off the field
3. Encourage accountability from teammates to achieve common goals

What can you do to hold yourself to the highest standards possible?
What can you do to help create a culture of accountability in your team?

Follow Up Questions:

Why is it important to be accountable for you actions on and off the field?

Write a brief description of a time when you held yourself accountable.
What did you learn from the experience?

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Is it more important for others to hold you accountable or for you to be responsible and answer for your own actions? Why?

Write a brief description of how accountability can aid in building team chemistry and help build team success.