

1. Introduce the Concept:

- Explain to your team that leadership isn't just about athletic skill or being the loudest voice in the room. It's about serving others, demonstrating empathy, and making a positive impact in and out of sports.
- Share examples of servant leaders in sports and other fields to illustrate the concept.

2. Define the Criteria:

- Collaboratively create a list of qualities that define an "Assist Leader." This might include:
 - Encouraging teammates
 - Showing empathy and support
 - Putting the team's needs first
 - Demonstrating sportsmanship
 - Leading by example with positive behavior
 - Contributing positively to the team culture

3. Implement the Nomination Process:

- Each week (or at another designated interval), have players anonymously nominate a teammate who they believe best exemplified the "Assist Leader" qualities.
- Encourage players to provide specific examples of how their nominee demonstrated these qualities.

4. Recognize and Celebrate:

- Announce the "Assist Leader" of the week and acknowledge their contributions to the team.
- Consider creating a small award or recognition ceremony to highlight their achievement.
- Share the "Assist Leader" stories with parents and the wider community to emphasize the importance of these qualities.

5. Reflect and Reinforce:

- Take time to discuss the impact of the "Assist Leader" program on the team's dynamics and individual growth.
- Encourage players to reflect on how they can embody the qualities of servant leadership in their own lives.
- Continuously reinforce the message that leadership is about service, empathy, and making a positive difference.

Bonus Tip:

- Consider having the "Assist Leader" of the week take on a specific leadership role, such as leading a warm-up, mentoring a younger player, or representing the team at a

community event. This provides them with practical leadership experience and reinforces the value of their contributions.