

8 Tips for Being a Great Basketball Coach

1. FUN

Why do we put FUN first? Because that is the NUMBER ONE reason kids play sports. Focus during practices and games, but devise a specific strategy for having fun with your players! Make working hard fun, too!

2. COMMUNICATE

Take the time to be organized and communicate with your parents. Introduce yourself, give them any league or team details they need to know, remind them of game times and uniform colors, and even communicate what your goals are for the team. Our most successful coaches are ones who take the time to communicate.

3. ENCOURAGEMENT

Players need 3 encouragements for every one constructive criticism. Great coaches get the BEST out of their players, regardless of skill level.

3. FOCUS ON FUNDAMENTALS

If you teach players fundamental skills and require them to practice them the correct way, you are building a foundation for success! Spend the majority of your time on ball handling, shooting, and defense. It will pay off!

4. KEEP IT SIMPLE

Assess your team and decide what few things you want to teach them to do well. Do NOT focus on teaching plays, rather teach them HOW to play basketball.

5. Start BIG, go SMALL

Once you decide what you want to teach them, break it down and teach each individual skill necessary. Demonstrate what you want them to do and then...

6. REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT!

Make it a goal to create mastery of a few things. Quality over quantity. Don't be afraid to repeat often.

7. EMPHASIZE PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION

Players who are not afraid to make mistakes will play harder and be more willing to take risks. Celebrate hustle, effort, and progress!

8. CREATE A TEAM-FIRST ENVIRONMENT

Create a mentality where your team is supporting and encouraging one another in making progress. Teach your players to work together, look for open passes, and to have as much fun helping a teammate get a good shot as they are taking a shot for themselves.