

# COACH EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

NIAAA COACH EDUCATION

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Well over 6 MILLION COURSES DELIVERED

## “Why Coach Education”

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When I first started my career in teaching and coaching I had never heard of Coach Education. I took some coaching classes, even minored in coaching in college, however those classes dealt mainly with the X's and O's of different sports. When I started coaching I used my high school and college coaches' behavior and approach as a guide. At first my coaching style seemed to include the things that I had experienced which I thought might work and NOT include the things that I thought would be detrimental to my students.

As I continued my coaching career I would observe the style of other coaches. I tried to incorporate their coaching style into my approach with my student/athletes, fellow coaches, officials and parents. Somehow, I was able to develop and survive using this informal form of "coach education". I now cringe at the type of relationships I had with my students the officials and the coaches from other schools early in my career. **Over time I learn** how to improve those relationships and to work with people for the greater good of **all students in both** programs.

Since my training was in Education, I was able to incorporate my teaching style to my coaching style. Developing sound lesson plans helped me to develop sound practice plans. Although it took some time, I realized the positive teaching style I enjoyed in the classroom can be transferred to the athletic arenas. In hindsight, I only wish that I had been exposed to Coach Education courses, I believe I would have been an even more effective coach during the early stages of my career.

It wasn't until I became a veteran athletic administration that I heard about ACEP. This was the first program that was directed solely to Coach Education. Today the NFHSlearn.org Coach Education program offers a comprehensive list of courses that is not only directed to coaches but also to students, parents and officials. Although it took some convincing on my part **I was fortunate to work with a superintendent who also believed in the benefits of Coach Education.** Our district now requires ALL of our paid coaches to take the Principles of Coaching course before they are permitted to begin with our students. As an added incentive, our district pays for the CE courses. **Initially,** there was push back, especially from our older and more veteran coaches. Once the coaches completed courses however, they ALL realized that no matter how long they had been in the profession, there is always something new they can learn. As a result, the coaches had a better understanding of what it takes to be a successful on and off the field or court.

I truly believe that Coaches Education has become a vital part of our school district today. It provides all of our stakeholders i.e. coaches and students, parents and fans with current and relevant information that helps to create a safer and more rewarding athletic experience for all.