

Becoming the best soccer coach you can be does require a little effort, however not as much as you might think and I hope these suggestions below might inspire you to take that next step at becoming a better youth soccer coach!

Instructional Media and the Internet

One of the greatest resources today that has positively help impact the coaching community today is the internet. There is an absolute ridiculous amount of material out there today to help coaches become successful regardless of the level they are coaching at. I guarantee you that if you simply poke around even just a little bit, you will find a plethora of material that will amaze you. Article, videos, practice sessions, you name and you can find it! Don't be afraid to explore different websites, especially for specific age appropriate training exercises. There are also other types of media and websites that offer great visual examples for coaches to learn from. One example is a website called INSIDESOCCER.COM. although there is a fee to use the website, you can gain access for a trial period that just might get you hooked after you see the quality of material they have to offer.

Another great way to gain coaching knowledge is to go to your local library or bookstore--you would be surprised how much there is to read on soccer coaching. Some of the big organizations like U.S. Youth Soccer have materials targeted at new coaches. U.S. Youth Soccer <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/> has a section on their website called "Help! I Volunteered to Coach!" specifically for coaches taking on a team for the first time. Check it out!

Watching Soccer Games

Watching soccer is a great way to understand the game better. The Fox Soccer Channel has games on all throughout the day, and games can also be seen on ESPN and Fox Sports throughout the year. The Rhino's and are right in our back yard, all of these opportunities offer soccer fans the opportunity to watch high level of soccer and a lot can be learned by studying what they do and why they do it. Try looking at a game differently, instead of looking at it from a pure entertaining aspect, try to pay attention to how players work with teammates, how set plays like corner kicks are executed, and how teammates at the highest levels communicate with one another. For new coaches, seeing good teams at work is a great way to pick up some great ideas and most importantly, coaching concepts.

I hope these tips offered are helpful and most importantly, I hope the knowledge you pick up will go a long way in making your coaching debut a successful experience for everyone. Good luck!

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