



Ten Point Basketball Coach's Growth Plan

Here are some ideas to help coaches develop a specific self improvement plan.

1. Develop a specific written summer workout plan for each of your players. A coach is only as good as his or her players. List the drills they need to do and how they can measure those drills in made shots, repetitions for ball handling drills, and times they need to meet in their workouts.
2. Choose a specific theme that is critical to the on court success of your team or a specific coach to study for the summer. If your theme is improving your motion offense, make a list of every resource, books, DVDs, websites, coaches who run motion that you have access to, and then schedule a time to read and watch those materials.
3. Hold your own mini-clinic by arranging a meeting with former players who are now coaching, coaches you have worked with, or any coach you feel you could learn from and who would also benefit from your talking to you. Arrange a day, or two, or three where you can get together and share ideas with each other. Have a specific agenda for the time you will meet and ask everyone to bring their best ideas for those agenda items.
4. List 10 ways that you can help your players to become better leaders. As John Maxwell says, leaders who grow followers add to their influence, leaders who grow leaders multiply their influence. If you are a head coach, make a list of 10 ways that you can utilize your assistants more productively than you did last year.
5. Find someone who you would consider to be at a higher level than you on the coaching ladder who would be willing to spend a couple of hours talking to you in person. It might be a state champion coach in your state, a college coach, or a coach that you heard at a clinic that you would like to have a chance to learn more from. If you are an assistant coach, it could be any head coach that you look up to and would like to learn from.

6. Take 30-60 minutes once a week to sit where you won't be interrupted and think about improving your program. Things you want to improve on, goals you want to achieve, what steps you will take to achieve those goals, anything that will make your program better. Make sure that you record every idea, goal, and action step that comes to mind on paper or with a voice recorder. You might not use all of the ideas once you flush them out, but it is important to capture them because they might lead to other thoughts that you can use.
7. Spend as much time as you can putting your drills, offensive and defensive schemes, and everything else about your program in writing. Make sure to include the specific teaching points, purpose, and objectives for each. Having your system in writing allows you to share it with assistants and provides better clarity for you.
8. Develop an off-season reading list of books that will help you become a better leader.
9. Spend time watching some of your game films from last year. Look at what teams who successfully defended you did and what types of offensive movements and plays you had trouble guarding. List the steps that you will take to improve in those areas and design the drills that you will use to make those improvements.
10. Set your statistical goals for the upcoming season and make a plan to achieve them. Make sure to have goals for both practices and games and for individual games as well as the entire season.

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