Mandating and Providing Standardized National Coach and Volunteer Training and Certification

By Phil Gordon
Maryland State Youth Soccer Assoc.
Technical Director
Background

• Technical Director for MSYSA
  – ODP and Coaching Education
• USSF A License and NSCAA Director of Coaching Diploma
• Played in UK, College, PDL, and USL
• Worked in youth club soccer as a coach and DOC, ODP State and Region 1, College Div.3, and Pro ASL
Why do you take coaching education courses?

- Increase your own knowledge
- For fun
- Networking opportunities
- To gather and pass on information to other coaches
- Increase in pay
- Mandated by Club/State Association
For the Kids

Better Coaches + Better Environment = Better Players

US Soccer Coaching Education Presentation
Being a Top Coach

“To be a top coach at every level with any age group, a coach must have the attitude to become better every day. Therefore every coach must be open to reflect on their experiences and be willing to change behavior in order to become even more effective. The exchange of thoughts and experiences with peers, instructors and mentors in realistic learning environments is key in this journey of self-development.”

— Director of Coaching Education Nico Romeijn.
Standardizing Coaching Education

- **Simple definition of standardize:** to change (things) so that they are similar and consistent and agree with rules about what is proper and acceptable. [Merriam-Webster](http://www.merriam-webster.com)

- Important to create a solid knowledge base for coaches to educate their players

- Which group of players does this help the most?
Rec Vs. Club Vs. Academy

- Should the requirements be different for coaches in these roles?
  - Rec
  - Travel
  - Academy

“Developing a world-class coaching system is fundamental to developing world-class players. Education is a continuous process. As the game of soccer is constantly evolving, it is important that coaches are knowledgeable on current domestic and international trends. U.S. Soccer Coaching Education supports the Development Academy in its initiative to require minimum certification for all technical staff. “

ussoccerda.com
US Olympic Committee Thoughts

“Coaching education is the future success of all our sports. Without quality coaching at all levels, we will limit the success of our athletes and the number of athletes to choose from at the top. Dropout rates by age 13 are at 70% across sports, and coaches control the ability to change that number – so with quality coaching education – you can retain athletes, train athletes and maximize potential of those athletes to push success up the pipeline. A great coaching education program that is followed by coaches is the best retirement plan for administrators in the sport. They will get success year after year if coaches are educated and maximize the outcomes of all players on all teams of their sport.”

-Chris Snyder Director of Coaching Education USOC
Dropout Rates

Positive Coach Alliance:
Major reasons why up to 75% of our children drop out of sports by the age of 12.
1. It’s not fun anymore
2. Pressure to perform
3. Lack of competence in the sport
4. Time demands

Todd Beane- playerdevelopmentproject.com
Parental Expectations

A coach with a coaching qualification regardless of player level
State Associations

The following state associations have some form of compulsory coaching certification:

AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA-S, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, ME, MD, MI, MS, MO, MT, NV, NH, NJ, NC, ND, OH-N, OH-S, OK, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX-N, TX-S, UT and WI.
State Association Role in Coaching Education

• Provide Coaching Education
  – USSF Licenses
  – NSCAA Diplomas

• Set and monitor requirements for coaches
Importance of Coaching Education

- Population of 325,000 people, only 20,000 football players.
- If it was a US city, it would rank 58th in population among US cities with considerably fewer inhabitants than Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Ranked 28th on the FIFA ranking list in Nov. 2014, now 36th.
- 70% of all coaches have UEFA B's.
- 30% of all coaches have UEFA A's.
- Outperforms more than 150 bigger countries on the FIFA ranking list.

thecoachdiary.com
Contact Information

Phil Gordon
Email: doc@msysa.org
Office: (410) 768-5401
References

• Dave Chesler, US Soccer Coaching Education Presentation
• Nico Romeijn, Director of Coaching Education. ussoccer.com/stories
• Definition of standardize. merriam-webster.com
• Chris Snyder Director of Coaching USOC.
• Academy Coaching Requirements. ussoccerda.com
• 3 amazing facts on player development in Icelandic football. Thecoachdiary.com
• Sam Snow- Mandatory Coaching Licenses Presentation. USYS