You must have a clear cut idea of what you want to achieve as a coach. This need is basically your personal philosophy of coaching. You must decide what’s important and then use your attributes to achieve these goals. Consider ideas like:

1. Winning vs. Losing
2. Teaching the skills, even though you are likely to lose games to teams that rely on playing physically. The skilled players will be better in the long run.
3. Total development vs. single position improvement
4. Relation of parents and spectators to players, referees and opponents.
5. Playing Soccer vs. “Kick and Run”.
6. Development of all players on your team.

These ideas and many more will be part of your personal philosophy. As you form these ideas you must have the ability to communicate them to everyone involved with your team (players and parents alike).

Any coaching action you take is preceded by a certain decision. Any decision you make is based on your philosophy. A person’s philosophy encompasses your personal beliefs, motivation, experiences and methods.

To develop your own personal coaching philosophy complete the questions within this framework. It will provide you a philosophical foundation as well as act as a sounding board before, during and after the season.

Coaching is a profession and an ongoing process. This is the beginning of that process which will carry through a successful coaching career.
US Youth Soccer

Questionnaire

1. Beliefs
   a. Why do you want to be a youth coach?
   b. Why do we have youth soccer?
   c. What are your responsibilities? To each player, to the team, to yourself and to the community?
   d. Define a successful season?

2. Motivation
   a. I am interested in coaching because...
   b. What do you enjoy most about coaching?
   c. What do you like least about coaching?

3. Experiences
   a. PAST – what were your personal childhood experiences in soccer? Was it enriching or inhibiting?
   b. PRESENT: Self Evaluation – What are you doing now?
   c. FUTURE – What experiences will I seek to improve my coaching?

4. Methods
   a. What is my coaching style?
   b. At what point will I involve the players in the decision making process? Pre-, During, Post-Practice?

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