

Major Atom AA,

As I prepare to embark on my 3rd year with this group of young hockey players, 1 year as an Assistant and 1 as the Head Coach, I would like to share with you my Philosophy around coaching.

A coach's philosophy can be central to how the team functions in practices and competitive situations. The coaching philosophy is the foundation of a program. Your Philosophy can guide you, your staff, and the athletes on your team.

As a coach, I am comfortable and confident with the way I make decisions for my team. My coaching philosophy inevitably has been shaped by the experiences I have gained working with different athletes in various situations.

Most young people function from an individual perspective as opposed to a team perspective. This provides a teaching opportunity for the coach. The values that coaches teach may be few or numerous, but they almost always include such concepts as being on time, working as a group, accepting responsibility, and being good young people (male or female).

Individual successes have to be viewed in terms of how they affect the total team performance. For example, you can easily have three or four athletes that are statistically outstanding but still have a losing team result. A hockey coach must base their coaching philosophies on the performance of the athletes functioning as a unit. For example, to be successful, all the players must execute their portion of the play correctly. If one of the athletes fails in his performance, it could directly affect the success of the whole team.

Here are some of my favourite principles:

1. Be yourself.
2. Define your coaching objectives.
3. Establish rules.
4. Build and nurture relationships with athletes.
5. Be organized.
6. Involve your assistant coaches.
7. Help athletes improve themselves both on and off the Ice
8. Focus on the big picture.

At the end of it all we are not trying to create a team of NHL players but rather developing a group of kids to become whatever it is they want in life. A successful team experience at this young age can create an experience that lasts a lifetime.

I welcome all those families whom will be attending try outs for this group and look forward to another leading and challenging the young players to not only developing their athletic and hockey skills but also learning valuable life skills along the way.

Happy Summer to all and see you at the rink in August.