Preparation of Future National Coaches: National Coaching Scholarship Program

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Sports Coach and Official Section

• National Coach Accreditation Scheme
• National Officiating Accreditation Scheme
• Community officiating and coaching
• High performance officiating and coaching
National Coaching Scholarship Program

- Commenced in 1992
- >200 HP coaches through the program
- ~90% still coaching; ~95% employed in sport
National Coaching Scholarship Program

- Aim is preparation for a HP coaching career
- Components:
  - Living allowance
  - Tertiary study
  - Program of professional development
  - Mentoring & practical experience
Kym & Chris – caricatures

• Cohort
  – 10 SCs & 10 MCs
  – 4 ♀ & 16 ♂
  – 9 different sports
    (6 individual & 3 team)
• Caricature considerations:
  – Setting up the scholarship
  – The type of people
  – Operationalisation of the program
Setting up the scholarship: Future pathway

Kym

1 “here’s me just being dropped off the cliff and [my sport] saying ‘good luck, I hope you land on your feet’”

2 “there is not a clear job for Kym” MC

Chris

3 “I’ve sort of got a, you know, a letter of intent from [my sport] saying that they will, you know, their intentions are for the next four years [to employ me]

4 “everyone that has left our program has stepped into, well within 6 months, a full-time coaching position” MC
Setting up the scholarship:
Site / physical location

Kym

5 “there’s not one person that I’m with all the time”

6 “Kym’s immediate superior boss [i.e. designated MC], or his immediate hierarchical coach is based overseas”

MC

Chris

7 “I can’t even think how often we talk. It’s at least, least, a minimum of once a day but more often than not we’re, you know, 4 or 5 times a day”

8 “[a] source of learning for me is definitely the support services here”
Type of people:
SC previous background (coaching)

Kym

9 “Sometimes [those with elite athletic backgrounds] develop this, I don’t know if you want to call it a prima donna attitude or whatever, an elitist attitude, just, it’s not, it’s not good, it’s not healthy” MC

Chris

10 “Chris was coaching in clubs before he came in here so he, he understood coaching” MC

11 “With Chris’ background coming into the program made it a lot less ah, difficult to, or, a lot less difficult to integrate the program or him into the program” MC
Type of people: MC understanding of the program

Kym

12 “It’s understanding how the whole scholarship works, I think is still not clearly understood”

13 “[I’d] probably like to see more interest from the head coach regarding what’s going on”

Chris

14 “I do take pride from the moment when, when I, when I got the ah, the coach, because at the end of the day I look after that coach’s dream as well” MC

15 “I want to give Chris a piece of everything” MC
Type of people: MC identification of SC needs

Kym

16 “I don’t, I certainly don’t sit down and try to assess where he’s weak and strong at this stage” MC

17 “to a certain level it is like ‘what does the program need? What do the athletes need?’” MC

Chris

18 “Well first of all, I made an assessment when she came in of where here [sport] knowledge was at and what her experiences were” MC

19 “it comes from him a lot of what he feels he’s a bit, you know, inadequate in” MC
Type of people: MC assessment and feedback to SC

Kym

20 “There’s nothing really … at all”

Chris

21 “[my performance is] assessed oh virtually daily by my mentor coach”

22 “[the feedback] was structured but it was structured around where Chris is as, what he’s doing, who’s involved, how is the impact” MC
Type of people: MC accessibility

Kym

23 “The head coach is pretty busy so um, yeah, that role [MC] has been fairly difficult”

24 “I think some coaches who are, who are brilliant at, at coaching um don’t like to give it all away”

Chris

25 “his door is always open”

26 “I’ve always been one to share” MC
Program operation: Access to others

Kym

27 “if you think about coaching, there really isn’t anybody that I really speak about coaching to”

Chris

28 “[I interact with] other coaches from other sports”
29 “that’s important I think in, in Chris’ role if, you’re not just stuck with the, the mentor coach” MC
30 “Spending time with the support services. Um the environment here … I’ve just found exceptionally accommodating to helping my development”
Program operation: Tasks of the SC

Kym

31 “I have no say to do anything, I’ve always got to get permission”

32 “you don’t get the opportunity…as a scholarship coach to be hands on or be um, take a leading role in sessions”

Chris

33 “My mentor has always been pretty good in giving me a lot of responsibility”

34 “[I conduct] the training sessions with the 14-16 group, under 19 group and also the Olympic athletes”
Kym and Chris: Summarising the lessons learned

• Setting up the scholarship
  – Where does the SC go?
  – SC in AIA programs – athletes, other coaches, sport science, S&C etc

• The type of people
  – Consider SCs from a variety of backgrounds
  – MCs based on willingness & accessibility

• Operationalisation of the program
  – Ensure experiences from hands-on to abstract
Questions?

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