Are ADs and Coaches Working as a Team?

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Abstract

In the past 37 years the number of interscholastic athletes has risen from 3,455,219 in 1969-1970 to 7,342,910 in 2006-2007. This tremendous increase has resulted in an overwhelming demand for sports coaches. As schools struggle to find coaches to meet this demand, the emphasis on qualified coaches has been replaced with the need to have a person to fill the position regardless of qualifications.

Since NASPE published the National Coaching Standards in 1995 there has been an increased effort to develop training programs for coaches. The National Federation of State High School Associations has made a major effort to have all state interscholastic athletic associations mandate coach education.

This study stems from the conclusions of the National Coaching Report (NCR, 2008) presented at the 2008 National Coaching Educators Conference and a study conducted examining Athletic Director’s and perception on coaching characteristics when hiring and retaining coaches presented at the 2010 National Coaching Educator's Conference.

This study was designed to assess the coaches in the state of Indiana and their perceived coaching education needs and to compare the results to the perceptions of athletic director's of the state of Indiana.

Through the comparing of the AD's perceptions with the coaches' perceptions regarding important characteristics for coaches, the amount of financial support provided for coach development, the level of coach preparation, the workshop topics that would be most valuable and the desired mode of delivery were examined.

Based upon the findings a clearer view of coaching needs in relationship to standards and development for the state of Indiana will be discussed and lead to the overall question "what we, as educators, are willing to do to raise the level of coaching competency in our nation being that the United States does not have a national coaching education strategy?"