



## Mandating the 'E' Certificate Course

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This summer (2007), I wrote a proposal to the Tennessee Soccer Board of Directors, requesting that all coaches must take the 'E' Certificate before entering the 'D' License. I felt the coaches that were waived into the 'D' were not as well prepared as the coaches who took the 'E'. After speaking to a number of coaches who went through the 'E', they said their comfort level was much higher, because they applied the tools learned in the 'E' and gave themselves time to develop as coaches. I also had the opportunity to apprentice the 'C' course. With the changes being made in that course (filtering down to the 'D', too), it was even more apparent candidates needed to be educated, and not move quickly through the material. The key points within the proposal.

- ❑ The 'C' License has made significant revisions within their curriculum. These changes have set the standard higher, and include a stricter grading system. It is essential that State Associations educate the candidates to a point where they will be comfortable at the National level. Simply waiving into the next course diminishes the capability of learning basic methodology necessary for advancing.
- ❑ A 4-year collegiate playing career does not make a coach. The young coaches especially need the 'E' to learn basic methodologies. Does being a player mean they have an idea on how to communicate the game to children?
- ❑ Coaches want to take courses to be educated, promote the game, and develop relationships with other candidates. Why waive a course based on 'x' years of experience
- ❑ Will provide a foundation of more licensed coaches, and quality coaches within our system.

The 'E' Certificate is important in our progression of licenses. Player Development is a marathon, not a sprint; the same can be applied to Coaching Education Development. The ideas on proper technical development, coaching ethics, team management, understanding a proper progression, and constructing a lesson plan are themes introduced in the 'E'. Bypassing these critical elements in the early stages of educational development is ultimately not fair to the players or the coaches themselves. As a college coach, I ran an 'E' course, at the college. Those enrolled received two Physical Education credits. All students, mostly soccer players, couldn't believe the amount of information and preparation involved in the educational field of coaching.

The Board of Directors supported the proposal and has been put into place. ***Every coach must carry the 'E' Certificate a minimum of 6 months before entering the 'D' License. There shall be no waivers into the 'D' License. (Summer, 2007)***