



Managing the Game Day Experience

MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER – COACH EDUCATION WEEK

UPDATED: AUGUST 2025

How much detail do you consider in your current planning

How do you incorporate your training session objectives in your game plan?

When do you create your game plan and line-up?

What is your process for determining your formation?

Do you collect data during training and games?



Week Prior to Game

Do you have access or information about your next opponent?

If no, during the week prior Game Day are you working on specific goals and objectives that you're planning to implement on Game Day?



Game Day -1

Check the weather forecast & field conditions prior to Game Day

Final confirm of location and time of game

Message players with any final details and uniform reminders

Check player availability



Game Day Prep



Check communication portals for any last-minute changes



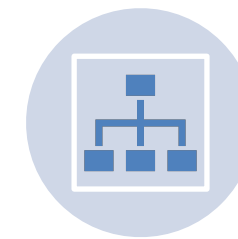
Check your equipment bag 1 final time



Confirm your paperwork and credentials needed for game



Leave home or location with ample time to arrive before the players



Along with your roster, have you considered your substitution patterns



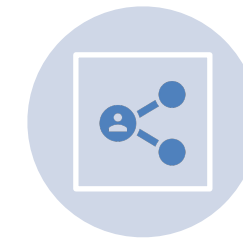
Pre-Game Readiness



How is your Game Day Prep routine?



How and When do you communicate your Game Strategy to your players?



When and how do you communicate your starting line-up to your players?



What is your warm-up routine?



When do players arrive on Game Day before kick off?



Do you talk to individual players about their specific roles and tasks in the game?



Who speaks to the players?



Check for Understanding

First Half – Best Practices

What is your structure?

Do you observe and analyze the first 5 minutes before coaching during the flow of the game?

What do you have to see that will suggest the players need more information

How does this influence player behavior and decision making

Are your comments/coaching points data driven or opinion based?

How will you manage your subs based on your pre-game planning? Will they be tactical subs or simply subs to ensure 50% playing time?



Half-Time

What is your half-time routine?

When do the players have time to recharge and connect with one another?

Is your half-time process more coaches or player centered?

Do you vary half-time routine based on the age group you're coaching?

What is different between the ages?

Do you give players autonomy to share their impressions about the 1st half performance?

Check for Understanding?



Second Half – Best Practices

Did you make and substitutes?
Were they tactical or based on Play time?

Re-assess your team based on half-time discussion

How will you influence player behavior and decision making

Are your comments/coaching points positive?

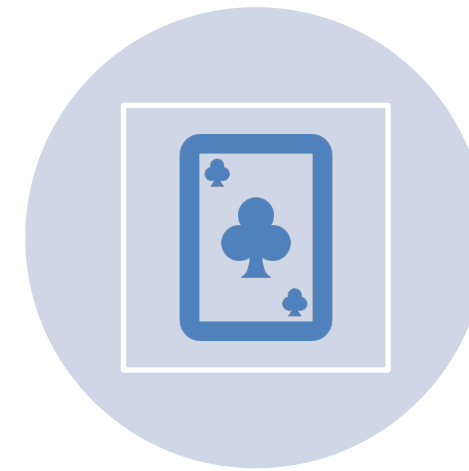
What is your plan to keep your emotions in check?



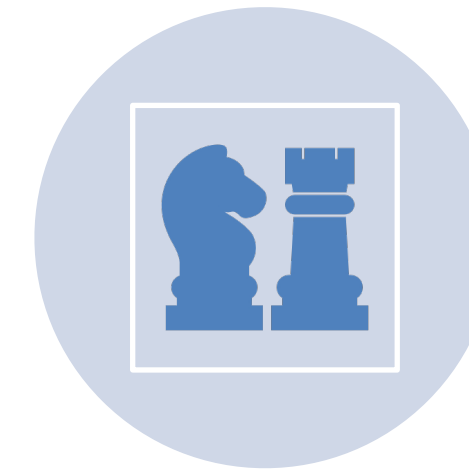
Post-Game



DO YOU MANAGE PLAYERS
EMOTIONS(DISAPPOINTMENT, OR
JOY) AFTER A GAME?



DO YOU CHECK ON PLAYERS
HEALTH(PHYSICAL OR MENTAL)
AFTER A GAME?



DO YOU CHECK IF PLAYERS KNOW
THEIR UPCOMING GAME/
TRAINING SCHEDULES AFTER A
GAME?

What message do the players really need after the game?

Everything we do and say should be with the inter child's best interest and development in mind...child first approach!



Self-Reflection

Coach Training

Coach Game

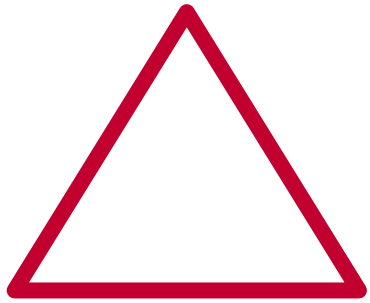
Process to Apply Steps

Reflect on Behaviors

Growth Minded Action Steps



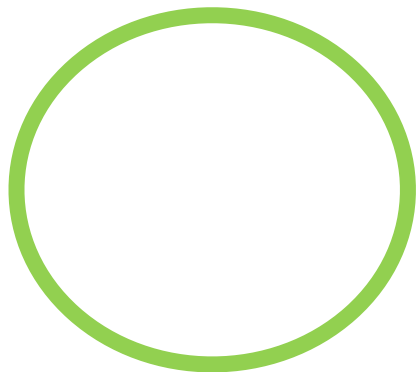
Questions



What stuck out to you?



What squared with you or made sense?



What is still swirling/you have questions?

