

Unsolicited Coaching on the Court and Bench

Dec. 3, 2011 our official club rules regarding coaching during regular court time were changed by vote of the membership. Originally, the coaching rule adopted when our badminton club was formed stated: "There will be no coaching on the court." (Members felt coaching on the court delayed games and added additional waiting time for members sitting on the bench.) The membership voted to expand the coaching rule which now reads: "There will be no unsolicited coaching on the court or on the bench."

Why was the original coaching rule changed?

Our new orientation program was presented to our members during a luncheon meeting on Sept. 27, 2011. The program emphasizes the importance of coaching consistency. Our teachers present information strictly "by the book" to our potential new members during each of the three orientation sessions.

During the orientation introduction meeting presented to the membership, it was brought to light that a number of well meaning members had been offering conflicting coaching advice which confused members and conflicted with the building blocks of the new orientation program – coaching consistency and "by the book" instruction. Another fact brought forward was; a number of members attending badminton for fun and exercise did not want to receive coaching advice.

How did our club address the need to provide consistent coaching advice to long standing members and members who have recently finished orientation?

During the luncheon meeting, a member from the floor offered a proposal that was subsequently passed by vote of the membership. It was proposed that two members of the Club, Gus Noble and Patty Malone, be named to privately approach other members with coaching suggestions.

What should you do if you notice another member needs coaching help?

Since members are asked not to initiate coaching advice, you are encouraged to mention to Gus and/or Patty the need you have identified.

Members are free to solicit coaching advice from anyone of their choosing.

Members should not be discouraged from soliciting coaching help from any member of their choosing. However, it is expected that **the member requesting help will be the one to initiate the conversation and the coaching advice will take place as a personal conversation between the two individuals.**