

5 Key Communication Tips for Coaches

(<https://blog.teamsnap.com/general-sports/5-key-communication-tips-for-coaches>)

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Coaching is all about improvement. If you want to help your players get better, it's important to always improve your coaching skills, too. That's why we're thrilled to bring you these communication tips from the Hardwood Hustle podcast. Check out some of our favorites:



(<http://blog.teamsnap.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Basketball-Huddle.jpg>) **Tip No. 1:** "It's so easy to stay on the surface level with people, but try to make an effort to go deeper with your communication. Get to someone's background, their goals and passions, because being able to connect on a deep level with someone allows for some of the best communication possible."

Tip No. 2: "Make sure you are always communicating in your audience's language. You may need to get right to the point or even slow down, or dive deeply into the 'why' behind what you are communicating. Take time to understand their language, and you will be better able to communicate your message."

Tip No. 3: "Knowledge and communication go hand in hand. Great leaders are always learning, and the more you know about something the better you are able to communicate effectively in that area."

Tip No. 4: "Take the approach of less is more. Coaches can be guilty of over-communicating in practice, giving our players so many things to work on at once that they have a hard accomplishing any of it. Simplify your communication in practice and try to keep main points to three or less, and see if your players are better able to focus and achieve the main goals for that day's practice."

(http://blog.teamsnap.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Soccer-Coach_web.jpg)

Tip No. 5: "As you prepare to have any difficult conversations with your team, you must approach the situation with a perfect balance of grace and truth. All 'truth' may create some tension and a defensive player. All 'grace' may lead to a player feeling better but without the actual issue being addressed. Before you address the player, think about how you can blend and balance grace and truth to have the most productive conversation possible."



Which of these tips is your favorite? What's your best coaching tip? Let us know in the comments below!

The Hardwood Hustle (<http://hardwoodhustle.com/>) podcast is hosted by Adam Bradley and TJ Rosene. Joined by the biggest names in basketball, Hardwood Hustle strives to educate, empower and encourage their listeners with each and every episode.

(These communication tips were developed by TeamSnap and Hardwood Hustle. Tune in (<http://hardwoodhustle.com/episode-52-coaching-to-its-fullest-at-the-youth-level-with-teamsnaps-ken-mcdonald/>) to Hardwood Hustle for more!)