

Basketball Teaching Tips

1. If students do not have sufficient noncompetitive practice time to learn and improve skills, so that 90 percent of the class is ready to move on, don't add the performance pressure of competition.
2. Students will come to you with a wide range of abilities, with many feeling that they are "no good" and no match for classmates with prior basketball playing experience. Size differences in the close quarters of a basketball court can be intimidating. As a result, consideration should be given to developing and encouraging the least experienced athletes to make realistic goals and meet them. It goes without saying that teachers must be vigilant that everyone has equal playing time.
3. The non-aggressive player and non-athletic player must not be overrun by the others on the team:
 - Teach everyone that they can score and under what circumstances.
 - Once the game starts, disallow the dribble until each team gets the idea of passing to the open person.
 - Coach the player who assumes point-guard responsibilities that his/her role is to set up the team, not just him/herself.
 - Make sure that personal fouls are called.
4. Every effort should be made for each student to have a location to play at each day:
 - Every student should be on a team and every team should have a court to play on.
5. Develop a short tournament.
6. Everyone likes to shoot a basketball, but surprisingly, not everyone likes to play the game. Too often, if their skills are not up to those of their classmates, they are made to feel bad. This problem can be avoided if teams are divided equally and the more experienced players don't make fools of the least experienced players. With teacher guidance, students who do not feel quick enough or accurate enough to make a team contribution will learn that they can contribute, and the teammates who scorned them can learn to appreciate their effort and growth. Showing everyone that they can score is a good starting point.
7. If students are unable to participate fully in class activities, remember that they can be involved by coaching, officiating, keeping score, or conducting a research project.