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### Final Thoughts for All Coaches

1. Join your professional organization. Among other benefits, the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association provides \$2,000,000 liability insurance for its member coaches.
2. Be a student of the game. Continue to educate yourself
3. Never use profanity or put your hands on a player in anger
4. Avoid criticizing your players in public
5. Never disregard the directions of a trainer or doctor
6. Lead a healthy life style.
7. Sometimes things just don't work out. Keep your resume updated
8. In most cases you are hired as a teacher first. Do a great job in the classroom and your other assignments
9. Develop a good relationship with the Superintendent, Principal, AD and faculty members
10. Remember as a head coach, you can't do it all. Learn to delegate without micro managing.
11. Be aware of your player's classroom progress. If there are issues you may be able to help the player and the teacher
12. Keep the lines of communication open to all
13. Invest in an IRA annuity for future retirement. The earlier you start the better.
14. For mental health purpose, There will be times that you may need to get away from the game and your players. Your players need to get away from the game as well. The ideal time is end of summer after summer games and workouts and just before the beginning of a new school year. This helps everyone start the new school year and season with a fresh perspective.
15. Don't forget your family. They will have to make a lot of sacrifices for your commitment to the coaching profession. Involve them in your job as much as possible. Come home at a reasonable time, or someday you may not have anyone to come home to. Give your family quality time. Basketball should never become more important than your family.
16. Dealing with criticism. Coaches have always had their critics, fans, media, parents and wannabees, etc. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century world of social media these critics can go online be critical and become perceived experts. It will serve no useful purpose to respond to these critics. You will appear defensive and they will know they have your ear. Listen to the legitimate critics of your coaching. Those that hired you, coaching peers etc. They want to see you be successful. Self-examination of criticism from those you trust will help you grow as a coach. For everyone else a thick skin is useful

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### Conclusion

Everybody wants to be a coach. We are part of a profession where people on the outside looking in think they can do our job better than we can. The truly committed coach cares about his players and is willing to do whatever it takes to help young people reach their potential on and off the floor. The Billy Graham quote says it all "One coach will impact more young people in one year than the average person does in a lifetime." Whether we realize it or not our players are listening to everything we say. We have an awesome opportunity and responsibility to shape the character of the leaders of future generations. If this information does nothing more than help you with new ideas as you organize your thoughts when preparing for coaching obligations and strategies, or solidifies your belief in what you might already be doing, then we have accomplished our goal.

If the IBCA can assist you in anyway don't hesitate to contact us. Good Luck