

Umpires Managers Seminar – Philadelphia – 2 & 3 March 2017

Prior to the Big Apple International Indoor Championship I have delivered an umpires managers seminar for PAHF participants.

The group had representatives from Canada, French Guyana, USA, Trinidad & Tobago.

The group showed a variety of different levels: local US umpires managers, international umpires, starting umpires managers and international FIH umpires managers (Dean Wenrich, Wendy Stewart and Susie Gomes). And also the both TDs and Steve Horgan (director of Umpiring USA) attended the first day of the seminar.

As I was very much aware of the difference of levels I decided to base the seminar upon basic competences for starting umpires managers and competences for more advanced umpires managers. At the same time I have introduced the role of an umpires coach.

The programme was as follows:

Thursday 2 March 2017

- Introduction session
- Identifying learner needs
- Role and responsibilities of umpires manager – both domestically as internationally
- Role of an umpires coach
 - Umpires manager versus umpires coach
 - What is coaching
 - Coaching and education styles
 - Learning process
 - Grow model
 - Observation
 - Reflection
 - Feedback versus Feed forward
 - Feedback report
- Start of workshop Communication

Friday 3 March 2017

- Continuation of Communication
 - The art of asking questions
 - Relations within a tournament (officials, team coaches, organisation committee etc.)
 - Level of tournament
 - Use of video in a tournament
 - Working in a team of 2 umpires managers or more
- What is most important in umpiring
- Marking the umpire and umpire feedback forms
- Answering and discussing all learner needs (created at the start of the seminar) and all questions sent to me prior to my arrival in Philly

During all the workshops the participants had to be active themselves: individually, in groups of 2, 3 or 4. I have used a range of different work forms/activities and I have used a coach-centred approach. The participants received so-called 'keycards' with helpful information and some other documents.

Conclusion

From the first minute until the final one I have enjoyed every part of this seminar. The biggest challenge was to keep it interesting for the more experienced people and at the same time to teach/train the less experienced ones. The feedback I got was positive, which was reflected in the so-called 'learner reports'. For your impression a few of these learner reports:

"I no longer feel as much unknown about how to work effectively in an UM role. I look forward to sharing my knowledge and experience"

"I have discovered that I have so much more to offer to every umpire and person. I am going to interact with in a capacity as umpires manager or even as an umpires coach because of my interaction in this seminar with the participants and with Yolande Brada. It has been resourceful and invokes so much abilities and sensitiviti I may not have been aware of."

"I am happy that I am on the right track with many skills, but found areas in which I can improve. I have discovered that I can use more interactivity to teach concepts rather than lecture."

"I am happy that I attended. It was very informative. I especially liked the 'exercises' and small group work (sessions)."

Thank you for inviting me.

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Sunday, 19 March 2017