

Dealing With Coaches

*IHONC General Session
Training*

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Things To Consider Before Engaging

- Age group
 - Can the captain accurately relay information?
- Score and time remaining in game
 - Is this a stall tactic to get the win?
- Timeouts remaining
 - Is he fabricating a timeout?
- On-ice strength of the coach's team
 - Is he buying time for his penalty killing unit?
- Potential outcome if you ***don't*** engage him
 - Is a preventable bench minor imminent?
- What happened in the immediate past
 - Does he have a legitimate beef?
- Has Zero Tolerance already been violated?

The Coach's Intent

- Possible intentions
 - Information Gathering
 - Combative
 - Attention seeking
- Assessing intent before you get there
 - Body language
 - Position on the bench
 - Language used

Information Gathering Intentions

- Identify Your Objective
- Establish boundaries and ground rules
- Communicate clearly and quickly
- Be courteous – don't interrupt
- Don't ask questions of the coach
- Keep honest intentions from turning into combative intentions
- Give the opposing coach the courtesy of the same explanation should he want it

Combative Intentions

- Identify Your Objective
- Establish boundaries and ground rules
- Don't get fooled by combative intentions masquerading as honest intentions
- End the engagement if it turns personal
 - Listen for “you” and “your”
- Unless blindsided with obscenities or gestures, skate away instead of assessing a bench minor
- Acknowledge to the other coach that the conversation was unproductive

Attention Seeking Intentions

- Identify Your Objective
- Establish boundaries and ground rules
- Coach just wants to be heard
- Can listen without agreeing/disagreeing
- Acknowledge to the opposing coach what the topic of conversation was

Common Actions

- Identify Your Objective
- Establish boundaries and ground rules
- <<do something>>
- Communicate with the opposing coach

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