“Youth prefer to be stimulated instead of being instructed.”
THE COACH-EDUCATOR

- People interested in collaborating in the organisation of FIFA grassroots activities
- Coaches, parents, teachers, community leaders, etc.
• Foster the child’s development in sporting, social, psychological and educational terms

• Promote learning through play

• Introduce children to football and initiate them in the practice of football through play

Football is a vital aid in educating future citizens and encouraging young people’s inclusion in society.
The coach-educator – main functions

- Emphasises the play element and organises many small matches
- Uses activities to instruct and train the children
- Is responsible for safety and first aid
- Addresses all aspects of the game
- Takes on all teaching duties
- Remains in contact with the young person’s family and/or school
- Provides instruction that is adapted to the children’s level
- Helps the youngsters to mature, to become men/women
- Guides the youngsters and serves as a model and example
- Listens to the youngsters
PROFILE OF THE COACH-EDUCATOR

• Basic knowledge of football
  – small-sided games
  – exercises
  – basic skills

• Teaching and organisational skills
  – teaching methods
  – organisation of sessions, festivals and tournaments

• Knowledge of the children
  – General developmental features of different age groups
  – Relationships, behaviour, communication and language
• Children are the most important part of the activities

• Development
  – sporting
  – psychological
  – social
  – educational

• Partnership with parents

• Voluntary work
- Enjoy working with the children
- Get to know the children very well
- Be a point of reference for the children
- Set high standards but be tolerant
- Listen to the children
- Communicate openly
- Instil confidence in the children and reassure them
- Develop team spirit
- Encourage initiative and risk-taking in individuals
- Focus on the “spirit of the game” rather than errors
- Teach by encouragement
BEHAVIOUR TO BE AVOIDED

- Constantly shouting or behaving aggressively
- Training children or asking them to play as if they were adults
- Forgetting that the main motivation of children is to play football
- Giving explanations that are too long
- Presenting technical objectives that are too advanced for the children’s ages
- Organising exercises that become too boring
- Focusing on one exercise for too long
- Continuously interrupting play
- Criticising an individual in front of the group
- Forgetting to balance the teams
- Placing too much emphasis on the results
“Good parents help their children to be good players; excellent parents help their children to be excellent people.”
SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION – 10 IMPORTANT TASKS

1. Provide a safe environment
2. Use safe, appropriate sports equipment and facilities
3. Plan activities
4. Monitor players who are injured or temporarily incapacitated
5. Play within age categories
6. Inform the children and parents of the inherent risks of the sport
7. Monitor activities closely
8. Have knowledge of first aid
9. Set out clear rules for the activities and how they are to be carried out
10. Gather essential information on the health of the children
TO SUM UP

The coach-educator has to focus on coaching children playing football, rather than coaching football players.