

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

These sample questions have been grouped into five sections. Some questions will not apply to amateur levels or calibers of minor hockey. Thus, the interview committee must select which questions are relevant and/or important. When interviewing a number of candidates for the same position it is recommended that you first determine a bank of questions that will be asked of all candidates.

I. PHILOSOPHY APPROACH TO COACHING

1. Can you describe for us what you did in this situation... It was halfway through the 2nd period and it was a tight game. You have a line that was not as strong as your other two. You wanted to win.
 - a. What have you done?
 - b. Tell us about a time when the outcome was favourable?
 - c. Tell us about a time when the results were not as favourable?
 - c. What comments did you have to handle and how did you handle them?
 - d. Describe for us what you expect your players to sacrifice in order to win?
2. For your last team what, if any team or individual objectives did you set?
 - a. How did you determine what they would be?
 - b. Were the objectives achieved?
 - c. Would you have changed any if you had to do it all over again?
3. You have outlined (assuming application form was completed) your interests in coaching the coming year with this association. Outline your general philosophy and coaching objectives.
4. As a coach, it is necessary for you to have a standard for the management of your players and support staff before a game, during a game, at a practice, on a road trip? Please explain.
5. What is your attitude with respect to off-ice activities? i.e. Dry land training, school sports, other social activities.
6. What is your philosophy o formation of lines?
7. What is your feeling about players playing more than one position?
8. What are your coaching objectives in order of importance?
9. What is the percentage of time you place on fundamental skills versus hockey strategy?
10. How important is “winning”?

II. TEACHING AND INSTRUCTION

1. What type of practice preparation would you do to ensure that you receive optimum performance from your athletes in readiness for game play?
2. Tell us about a situation when it was important that one of your players learn a new skill. Why was it important?
 - a. What was the skill?
 - b. How did you go about teaching the skill?
 - c. What was the result?
3. How do you define player development?
 - a. Please explain how the athlete learns new skills?
 - b. How do you teach new skill development?
4. What is skill analysis?
5. Describe briefly offensive and defensive team play.
6. Why is sound yearly planning essential to the successful operation of a hockey team?
7. How do you teach disciplined play?
8. In tryouts, what skills are you looking for and how do you plan to evaluate them?
 - a. Is it necessary to provide feedback to your athletes on their progress?
 - b. When should this be done?
 - c. Would you prepare any formal evaluations for your players?
9. How do you organize your practices with respect to time for warm-up, cool-down, main teaching time, fun activity and other coaches' responsibilities?
10. Do you agree that to be a good coach you must also be a good educator? Specifically, how is this true?

III. COMMUNICATION WITH PLAYERS

1. How are your team rules communicated to the players?
 - a. Tell us about a time when you had to discipline a player and either the player or his teammates felt the discipline was unfair. How did you handle this situation?
 - b. Give us an example of when your discipline was proven to be unjust or inappropriate.
 - i. How did you handle this?
 - ii. What was the result?
2. Tell us about an occasion you are proud of when you were able to instill a sense of motivation into one or more players.
 - a. What was the situation?
 - b. What did you do?
 - c. What was the result?
3. Do you see yourself as a role model for the athlete? Why?
4. How do you handle the player who does not get along with teammates?
5. Explain your approach to individual and team discipline.
(i.e. Older groups out beyond curfew, younger players late for practices consistently).
6. How do you handle:
 - a. The aggressive player who gets frequent penalties?
 - b. The player who does not pass the puck?
 - c. The superstar versus the weakest player?
 - d. The player who complains about ice time?
7. What is your approach when dealing with players who have suggestions?
8. How would you handle a situation where there is jealousy between two players or where two players dislike one another?
9. How do you handle behavior changes of your players at the specific age group?
10. What makes players of this age-group different from adults?

IV. COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

1. Describe how you would handle a parent who has a different philosophy or game plan than yours.
2. What is your approach when dealing with parents who have criticisms and/or complaints?
3. What is your approach when you hear that a parent is criticizing you “behind your back” and hasn’t approached you on their own to discuss the concern?
4. How would you approach the parent who is excessively vocal and negative in the stands knowing that it is affecting either their own child or the team?
5. How would you handle a complaint from a parent that his/her child does not play enough?
6. How would you handle complaints/accusations from a parent that the team’s budget isn’t in order and that there may be money missing?
7. What are the most important steps in a dispute resolution?

V. GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. If applicable: How do you feel about coaching your child? What are the advantages and disadvantages?
2. What is it about coaching that you find most difficult or you need to work on the most?
3. Tell us about a situation that shows the most positive side of you.
4. Outline one coaching experience you think best characterizes you as a coach.
5. Why do you want this particular team?
6. Would you work as an assistant coach?
7. How would you handle dealing with your affiliate team throughout the season?
8. Should the coaching position not be available, would you consider accepting another position at a different level? What are your preferences?
9. What is your opinion about coaches holding a position on a minor hockey executive?
10. Do you have anyone who would work with you as assistant, manager, trainer?
11. Have you ever been suspended under any hockey regulations as a player or coach? Explain.