

# SoccerTech Culturally Responsive Coaching



Taken from Capitalizing on Cultural Competency. Dr. Patricia Morgan. US Soccer Foundation Blog. October 19, 2019.  
<https://ussoccerfoundation.org/blog/capitalizing-on-cultural-competency/>

## What is Culturally Responsive Coaching?

Culturally responsive coaching is a way of coaching that acknowledges and embraces players' cultures, languages and experiences and relates them to the learning environment.

To engage in Culturally Responsive Coaching we must: Be culturally sensitive or higher on the Cultural Competency Continuum so that we can use culturally appropriate activities in our coaching.

## How do we Develop Culturally Appropriate Activities?

To create a soccer environment that is engaging and accessible for all of our participants we should consider:

- **Assess our own behaviour** - Where are we on the Cultural Competency Continuum? What are our own biases about others? If we have players with cultures different than our own, we must be sensitive to those differences, to do that we must first be aware of how we currently act.
- **Get to know our players** - As coaches, we cannot create a culturally responsive environment if we don't take the time to get to know our players. Do our research - talk to others who know or go online if we must. If there is a player who has recently immigrated from another country, for example, sit down with them to ask if there were any activities or traditions they enjoyed at school or in sports in their home country.
- **Make our soccer environment a judgment-free zone** - Players must be able to look at situations regarding culture with an unbiased opinion and be comfortable asking questions to further their understanding. If a conversation arises about a current event or behavior, welcome a discussion. But be sure the conversation is directed towards learning, not criticizing. Promote players valuing differences by encouraging them to speak up and ask questions when they are curious.
- **Adapt our coaching** - Culturally responsive coaching is a player-centred approach. Are there any activities/exercises/games we use that do not benefit all of our players? What activities/exercises/games seem to engage all players and get them participating enthusiastically? In education, research has shown that students are more engaged in learning and learn more effectively when the knowledge and skills taught are presented within the context of their own experiences and cultural frames of reference.
- **Coach for all cultures** - Make sure our language and actions touch on the various cultures that make up the players we coach. Even if our players represent more of a monoculture, bring in videos and stories that reflect the multicultural nature of the game of soccer. Use those videos and stories to teach our players how to become culturally sensitive.

Adapted from 5 steps to becoming a culturally responsive teacher. Written by Kathy Deady. Teachaway.com. August 12, 2020.  
<https://www.teachaway.com/blog/5-steps-becoming-culturally-responsive-teacher>

As a coach, it is not enough to teach players the basic skills or the x's and o's of soccer. We must help our players learn to be aware of and tolerant towards the diversity that exists in the world.