

# The 9-Innings to Moving Beyond 12

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## **Identity /Learning Style**

Education and life can be truly meaningful when students have a deeper awareness of who they are and are able to shine in the areas of their wiring and strengths. As students begin to identify and understand who they are, they can better navigate and engage in the learning process and their overall life journey.

## **Persistence**

Teaching youth persistence is an important part of setting up students to succeed. We want our student-athletes to understand that once they have mastered persistence they are better able to work through challenges, deal constructively with failures and adversity, and achieve the goals they have set for themselves.

## **Goal Setting**

One of the most commonly overlooked skills in teaching students is goal setting. Although we know, as coaches, the importance of teaching fundamentals, teamwork and sportsmanship, we want to take time to teach our student-athletes how to set goals. This will ultimately teach them life skills like motivation, initiative, perseverance and commitment. When we set goals, we are more likely to achieve what we set out to do.

## **Time Management**

As youth become more and more independent, they will need time management skills so they can complete the growing responsibilities that are required of them daily. It is our hope that as our student-athletes learn to manage their time effectively they will make quality decisions and be capable of doing all the things that their hectic schedule demands with minimum stress.

## **Career Exploration**

Finding a job can be a challenge for youth (and adults for that matter). They must determine what careers are available, what their interests are, and what skills they have or need to develop. Numerous resources are available to help youth get a sense of their interest and skills as well as gain employment

experience and learn about employment opportunities. We will expose them to those resources and opportunities.

## **Financial Literacy**

Financial literacy is the ability to use knowledge and skills to make effective and informed money management decisions. Gaining the knowledge and developing the skills to become financially literate is a lifelong process that should begin as early as possible. Because financial literacy is not emphasized in the current education system - most youth lack the necessary knowledge and skills to become financially responsible adults. We want to ensure that our student athletes have a foundational understanding of personal finance, so they can lead financially literate lives.

## **FAFSA and Financial Aid**

There are a number of federal grant, loan, and repayment programs available to help youth finance their education. We will expose them to the many sources available to them while walking them through the application process.

## **College Selection and Application Process**

Nearly every option after high school is going to involve some type of education and training. It doesn't matter if the student wants to be a doctor or a mechanic, there will be more education in their future. We want to help our student-athletes determine what they want to do, where they want to go and address how they're going to get there. No university, community college or trade school is going to be a perfect fit, but planning ahead will help them pick one that meets their needs and perhaps even exceeds their expectations.

## **Transition to College**

Senior year of high school can be a difficult time; not only for students, but for their family, teachers, and peers as well. A world of decisions awaits – Am I going to college? If so, which one? What do I even want to do? What career am I aiming for? Can I afford this? Will I move out of the house...?

As coaches and mentors, we know all of these questions may be challenging to answer, but we know they still need to be asked and explored. We want to help our students answer them in light of their newfound self-awareness and the myriad of other resources at their disposal.