



PROVIDING EDUCATION, CERTIFICATION, AND  
RECOGNITION TO USSA CLUBS AND COACHES

The days are getting shorter. There's a crispness to the air. Leaves crunch under your feet. You search frantically for the windshield scraper you tossed in the garage in the spring. Winter must be coming.

With winter comes the most exciting and exhausting few months of the season for ski and snowboard coaches. There are thousands of things to do to get ready for the upcoming season: budgets, registration, competition schedules, goal setting, parent meetings, equipment ordering, and the dozens of little things that need attention on a daily basis. It can be a hectic, frustrating, and demanding time of year with not enough time in the day to get done what needs getting done.

Despite all the noise and busy-ness, now is the time of year to gather your staff and get everyone on the same page. The coaches are the ones on the frontlines every day giving their best to the kids on your team.

Here are ten things to do in your pre-season staff meetings to set the tone for the season.

1. Introduce and welcome all new staff members.
2. Communicate programming changes, schedules, training plans, new athletes, or families to the program and any other necessary updates.
3. Revisit and reinforce the Vision, Mission, and values of your organization.
4. Review safety policies, procedures, and plans.
5. Announce any events or competitions your team is hosting this season.
6. Recharge the team vibe! Let everyone know the role they all play in the success of the team.
7. Swap stories and adventures from the off-season.
8. Hand out team gear, jackets, hats, stickers, etc. Especially stickers, everyone loves stickers.
9. Recognize achievements from the previous year and set goals for the new season.
10. Remind everyone that it's all about the kids.

The next few months are why we do what we do. Every winter is full of successes, obstacles, good times, and challenges. Having a great staff that works together as a team towards common goals can make or break a season. Take the time at the beginning of the year to get everyone together to celebrate past success and get everyone stoked for the upcoming winter, it's well worth it.

Don't forget to remind everyone that it's all about the kids.