

## **Dave Smart on Teaching Younger Players (Basketball Immersion)**

- NEVER underestimate what younger (club, school) players are capable of doing – test them.
- Younger players have fewer bad habits to be broken, are more open to learning, and are easier to teach.
- They also have short attention spans so they need to be quickly transitioning in shorter drills.
- They are willing to learn, want to get better, and don't feel that they already know EVERYTHING.
- There are more development opportunities with younger players, but they also like to play.
- In workouts, structure the development in the first portion, making it clear from the beginning that competitive games and drills will follow if good work is done earlier (you'll have their attention).
- Again, importance is on making messages CLEAR – the kids need to know when you are teaching in a development mode versus having them compete in a score-keeping situation.
- With respect to competition, if it is not introduced by Grade 9 then Coach Smart feels it is too late (has to be brought in early enough in a player's life so that it can be developed properly).
- Example of competitive vs. competitor – in CIS, Carleton's players are in the gym for 6 hours each day during the summer and are being COMPETITIVE.