In 2019, NNZ developed the Youth Engagement and Retention Strategy. In consultation with youth focus groups, we identified the need to educate and engage our Student Coaches. Student Coaches are a pivotal role to supporting the growth of Netball. NZ Sports School data has tracked the number of student coaches at Secondary School level and unfortunately the data indicates that Netball Student Coaches have fallen from 1,758 in 2014 to 1,381 in 2018.

How can we provide the support for student coaches to help them not only create a quality experience for their team, but also provide them a quality experience to ignite a love of coaching and sport leadership?

To further understand this, Netball New Zealand developed a pilot where 100 Student Coaches were engaged from the five zones and developed key resources to help them with their coaching season.

**WHAT WE DID**

1. Developed a 10 week online learning guide were Student Coaches could access resources, templates and other useful tools to help guide them through the season.

2. Redeveloped and printed for the coaches the “Oceania Foundation Coaching Resource” from the Pacific Sporting Partnership which provided a range of drills and games to develop skills and tactics with their teams.

3. Developed and printed for the coaches a Student Coach Logbook for the coaches to plan and reflect on their training sessions.

Thank you to the following schools who participated in the pilot: St Hilda’s Collegiate School, Cambridge High School, Hastings Girls High School, Napier Girls High School and Epsom Girls Grammar.
Online Resources:
Students were provided with access to the 10-week online coaching guide through the NNZ Learning and Development Portal where students could access drills and tools to help with the planning for the season, sessions and building a team culture.

Feedback from the Youth was that it wasn’t advertised well enough within their schools, not an engaging platform for them to use, they had their own plans, too busy or they were not supported.

Learnings were that they coaches are reliant on having easy access to the resources through their phones, they want videos to explain the drills and they need more support in their schools.

“DIDN’T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT, IT WASN’T EASILY ACCESSIBLE”

Student Coach Log Book and Community Coach Starter Resource:
The student coach log book was a tool for coaches to plan their activities, season plan and reflect on each session. 51% of the participants used this resource.

The Community Coach Starter Resource was a booklet with drills and session plans for the season. Over 70% of the participants used this resource.

Feedback from the Youth was that they found the resources helpful and straightforward

Learnings are that this group would like more variety and drills, less text, more images and be accessible on their phone or device.

“NEEDS TO BE SIMPLIFIED AND MOBILE FRIENDLY, LIKE AN APP”

Netball Central Zone Student Coach Days:
Netball Central Zone’s Student Coach Support Experience: Netball Central Zone took the initiative to pilot student coach education alongside the Regional Sports Trust Student Coach Day.

Feedback from the Youth was that they loved the resource, the planning was already done for me, the activities were relevant including the coaching points and there is a lot of good detail.

“STRAIGHT FORWARD AND EASY TO USE”

Coaching Experiences:
Suggestions from the student coaches to improve their experience:

Mentoring from the teacher coaches, umpiring workshops, coaching workshops, how to adapt a practice for less time and less numbers, support from someone at school, coaching and teaching activities that are relevant.

THE PARTICIPANTS

66% YEAR 11
34% YEAR 12
100% FEMALE

We live this game.