In-competition: Before the event

How the coach works with participants in competition varies widely with the sport.

For team games, there are definite times before, during (in play and in breaks) and after. For individual sports like athletics, there is often considerable time between events and likely no opportunity to work with the participant during an event.

Regardless of the situation, general principles of coaching apply and the coach developer can observe coach behaviour and work with the coach as appropriate.

Before the event, the following coach behaviours are important for the coach developer to observe:

> engagement with all participants

> body language and tone of voice

> clear communication of strategy

> that the coach is meeting the key expectations of the sport

The coach developer should also look for participant engagement while the coach is in action:

> attentiveness

> enthusiasm/motivation levels.