

Advocating for Yourself and Your Team

1. Earn the respect of the people in your school and community before you ask for anything (except addressing unsafe conditions).
2. Do your research before you ask for something.
3. Find your supporters & find out where you can get reliable information.
4. Go through proper channels--Administration or Union?
5. Speak their language (apples to apples, not apples to oranges)
6. Be realistic about how what you do compares to what other coaches do (coaches of good teams practice in the summer too)
7. Don't come across like a whiner.
8. Don't ask for money that isn't there.
9. Keep big picture in mind

Example: Is it reasonable to request FTE (full time equivalent) for a dance class when students aren't meeting standard on the WASL and the school could be offering a reading class?

10. Figure out what you already get and what other groups/teams get
 - a. ASB funds
 - b. Transportation
 - c. Uniforms & Equipment
 - d. Custodial fees
 - e. Practice facilities
 - f. FTE (if you have a class)
 - g. Assistant coaches
11. Salary Considerations
 - a. How does your salary compare to coaches/advisors of other sports/activities in your school? Your district?
 - b. What are other dance/drill coaches in the district paid?
 - c. What are coaches in surrounding districts paid? (this may require some homework)
 - d. Your training and experience
 - e. Salaries are often negotiated by the union
12. Title IX—Only applies if you are classified and treated as a sport and follow all the rules associated with being a sport