

Chris Connolly's Tips for Successful Leadership

(As presented at the 2023 APF Seminar & Annual General Meeting)



Chris is a seasoned football coach known for his dedication to the sport and his extensive experience, dedication and commitment to Australian Rules Football (AFL).

Chris' journey in football began as a player, where he showcased his skills and knowledge of the game. However, it was in his coaching career that he truly shone. After stints as an Assistant Coach with the Melbourne and Hawthorn Football Clubs, in 2002 he joined the Fremantle Dockers as head coach, a position he held with distinction for several years.

Under Chris' leadership, the Dockers experienced significant growth and success. Within his first few years as a coach, the club went from wooden spooners to making finals. His coaching philosophy emphasised teamwork, discipline and a commitment to excellence, values that became the hallmark of the team during his tenure.

Tips - Chris Connolly



Set goals - increases motivation



Be well **planned** - short, medium and long for individuals & team



Work with the **right people** – select wisely



Embrace learning - lead by example and mistakes increase learning



Be **Innovative** particularly with **Technology**



Proactive - great leaders are proactive eg: raise own funds



Own style - be **authentic** - fundamentals



Keep it simple - 7 focus points the whole year



Routine to **reduce stress** eg : Nana nap, exercise, diet



Keep your partner out of it.