



# HEAD COACH MENTORING

**Coach Tommy Atha**  
Head Coach Mentor

434.295.9122  
[SouthernTeachers.com](http://SouthernTeachers.com)



**SOUTHERN  
TEACHERS**  
AGENCY

# HEAD COACH MENTORING

## WHY HIRE A MENTOR?

Head Coaches are key members of any educational community. They and their highly visible sports teams are front-line representatives of the school and its mission. But the coaching profession is changing. The demands of sustaining top-flight sports programs are convincing many veteran coaches to leave the field. More than ever, schools need help retaining leaders with essential knowledge, enthusiasm, professionalism, and commitment. Head Coaches, particularly newer ones, need support in mastering the components of an outstanding athletics program and dealing with the stresses and pitfalls that can derail any career.

Support services offered by Southern Teachers go beyond information and insight. Our goal is to establish true mentoring relationships, to provide Head Coach(es) with practical advice and encouragement based on our years of proven independent school head coaching experience.

Acting as a critical friend, the ST Mentor begins the relationship by listening to the Head Coach and examining current program issues she/he is facing. The Mentor then guides the Head Coach in developing and expanding essential knowledge, skills, and perspectives. This relationship is far more cost-effective and impactful than attending a conference, where a few days of good ideas quickly fade away when the coach "returns to the trenches." Our Mentoring Program provides an ongoing resource for coaches as they navigate their respective seasons, continue improving their overall sports programs, and become role models for fellow coaches at their schools.

Coach Tommy Atha serves as our Head Coach Mentor. Throughout his 32-year career, Tommy has enjoyed coaching basketball and football at the varsity level. His outstanding leadership in independent school athletics has included oversight of teams and coaching staffs, program budgets, and facilities.

## WHAT WILL THE HEAD COACH MENTOR PROVIDE?

- General guidance to coaches building or managing high-level sports programs.
- Support for Head Coaches of sports that are not the Athletics Director's area of expertise.
- Additional focused advice and encouragement before and throughout a specific sports season.

## WHAT DOES THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ENTAIL?

The comprehensive eight-session package includes:

- Video conferencing twice a month for four months. In eight sessions, each 45-60 minutes long, Head Coach and Mentor collaborate on actions steps to be completed before the next meeting.
- Resources to support the Head Coach's action steps.
- The Head Coach Mentor's availability via email any time throughout the term of this agreement.





# **TOMMY ATHA** HEAD COACH MENTOR

TOMMY.ATHA@SOUTHERNTEACHERS.COM

434-295-9122

## **EDUCATION**

**Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC**

*B.S. in Political Science*

1990

## **EXPERIENCE**

**Southern Teachers Agency**

*Head Coach Mentor*

2023-present

**Darlington School, Rome, GA**

*Upper School Assistant Athletic Director*

2016-23

*Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Committee*

2020-21

*Admissions Officer*

2016-18

*Head Football Coach*

2002-23

*Middle School Athletic Director*

2002-15

**Elm Street Middle School, Rockmart, GA**

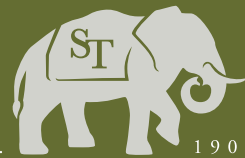
*Middle School English Teacher*

1991-93

## **HONORS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Region Coach of the Year, 2009-11, 2014-15, 2021-23
- Region Championship, 2009-11, 2014-15, 2021-23
- Darlington All Sports Coach of the Year, 2009-10, 2013-14
- Winningest Coach in Darlington School History
- Brown Award for Faculty Excellence, 1995, 2014





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