

## Coaching Tip: Flexibility & MLD Customization



"It's from our 'One Size Fits None' line."

**Coaching is all about flexibility**, both in terms of personal flexibility and program flexibility. Try and be aware of the fact that no two Leagues are the same and what works in one may not work in the other, and that's OK!

The MLD is a collection of guidelines and suggestions of best practices, you can and should be adapting to fit the needs of your coachees! [Powerful questions](#) to your Leagues can help all of you get to the root of what *they* need from the MLD, since they are the experts.

There is no 'one size fits all' program, but instead ideas that can be adapted to fit. This way the MLD best practices can become part of how we do things. Everything can have an element of growth, leadership development, and visibility already built into it!



It can be tough to be flexible without feeling like you are going off the rails. Leaguers are often planners by nature and flexibility can feel like it is going counter to well laid plans, but it isn't!

### Tips for being flexible/adaptable:

- **Remember the mission.** In what new ways can we have an impact on our community and do our "good work" as an organization?
- **Plan for uncertainty and change.** Ask all the stakeholders if anything can or should be done differently at the beginning.
- **Build in 'miscellaneous' time.** Allow for brainstorming and other topics to come up.
- **Ask Leagues ahead of time what they would like to talk about.** If it doesn't match up with that month's guidance, don't worry! There is a whole [library of guidances](#) to look through and see if an older one better suits this conversation.
- **Forgive yourself (and them) if you don't cover everything/get everything done.** There will be more time, and creativity and new ideas are important. Agendas are useful and we want to respect everyone's time, but if the agenda stops being useful halfway through a call, give yourself permission to ditch it and go with the flow!