Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2678

Gill, Leeann

(1961 -)

Born	19610101
Occupation	Australian Rules Football Coach

Summary

Leeann Gill is the only woman in Victoria, quite possibly Australia, qualified to coach Australian Rules Football at Victorian Football League Level. A Level Two accredited coach, she coaches the under-16 boys at the Rowville Junior Football Club, where she has been a coach for eleven years. Working her way up through the ranks, she is now the club's most qualified coach. In 2005 she won the 2005 Australian Football Coaches Association Female Coach of the Year award.

Details

Leeann Gill's experience as a coach of a sport played mainly by boys and men has not always been easy. Some parents have withdrawn their children from the team, rather than have them be coached by a woman. When she took over the under-9s, another coach declared that she would not be able to do the job properly because she hadn't played the game. When her team made the finals and his didn't, she proved him wrong. 'I've had coaches turn their backs on me and walk away when I went to shake their hand after the game,' she recalls, '…usually when the team I coached had won.'

Gill believes she has the skill and knowledge base to coach at the senior level, but notes that the greatest barrier to her doing so is a psychological one. What would prevent her is the level of acceptance by the players. 'I don't think they're quite there'. She does think, however, that women could take on roles at an Australian Football League Level, as assistants or in the recruitment area.

Published resources

Newspaper Article
She's the coach, man, Critchley, Cheryl, 2005

Videorecording
Game Girls, Cannell, Mirriam, 1997

Site Exhibition
She's Game: Women Making Australian Sporting History, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2007, http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/sg/sport-home.html

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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Created 10 April 2007
Last modified 5 September 2012