



## Guide For New Team Managers

### Things I Wish I'd Known...

Advice from one Team Manager to Another

This is a compilation of the best advice experienced Team Managers have to give. Hopefully this advice can help you feel more confident as you embark on this amazing journey! Good luck, and enjoy the ride!

#### 1. Do Instant Challenges, and then do them again!

-Almost every experienced Team Manager that was surveyed, said that practicing Instant Challenges was the best exercise to do with a team.

-Not only is running through a wide variety of Instant Challenges a great way to prepare for tournament, but discussing and retrying Instant Challenges can give your team AMAZING Instant Challenge skills!

-Resources:

- <http://www.dicolorado.com/resources-2/instant-challenge/>
- [https://www.destinationimagination.org/files/downloads/DI\\_Four\\_Free\\_ICs.pdf](https://www.destinationimagination.org/files/downloads/DI_Four_Free_ICs.pdf)
- <http://www.indiana-di.org/instant-challenge-resources-3/>
- <http://www.cre8iowa.org/resources/instant-challenge-library/>
- <http://nh-di.org/doing-di/team-manager-corner/instant-challenge-page/>
- [http://www.centervilledi.com/TM/CD\\_Volume\\_5.p](http://www.centervilledi.com/TM/CD_Volume_5.p)
- The Roadmap also has a few great Instant Challenges to practice
- You could also have your team write their own Instant Challenge. This will encourage them to think about challenges differently and improve their ability to find the challenge writer's intent.

#### 2. Play Improv Games

- Regardless of your team's challenge, improv games are a great way to build teamwork, practice creativity, improve performance skills, and get ready for Instant Challenges
- Many great improv games and resources are available online
- <http://www.madikids.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Improv-for-DI1.pdf>
- <https://www.qualitylogoproducts.com/blog/improv-exercises-team-building/>
- <https://www.theatrefolk.com/blog/improv-games-for-collaboration/>
- <https://funattic.com/improv-games/>

#### 3. Show your team what's out there

- If possible, taking your team on fieldtrips is a great way to inspire and encourage them to think outside of the box.
- Trips to places like hardware and craft stores can help expand your team's ideas about what is available in the world that might suit their purpose.

- If an opportunity presents itself, trips to shows or other venues which may relate to the teams challenge (i.e. a museum, a play, a showcase of art) can be a great place for teams to get ideas.
- If it is not a possibility to physically take your team someplace, it may be a good idea to provide them with a way to take a “mental fieldtrip.” You could let them do research on a computer, let them watch a film or documentary, or even just check out relevant library books. The more your team is exposed to, the more great ideas they can have!

#### **4. Read the Challenge and Look at Scoring!**

- Paying attention to scoring is vital for your team’s success. Encourage them to always return back to the challenge when they are planning and building.
- While extra props and elements can truly boost your team to the next level, they should always address the scored elements first before diving into the extra. Remind them that they can make improvements if they move on to the next tournament, but to get there, they need to score well!

#### **5. Encourage Goal Setting and Planning**

- Although under the rules of interference you can’t “tell your team what to do,” you can help them improve their chances of success by teaching them good planning and goal setting skills.
- Providing your team with something to make a big “To-Do List” on can help the whole team be on the same page regarding what their goals are for the season.
- Another great way to keep your team organized is to have them write out the important scored elements of the challenge and think about/write what their plan is to meet each criteria.

#### **6. Let the team have fun and spend time together!**

- The best teams are made of people who really like each other! Encourage your team to have fun while working towards their challenge solution.
- It is also always fun to have meals/snacks together and time when the focus isn’t necessarily on the Destination Imagination solution.
- Another great way to build teamwork and team morale is through planning a fun matching theme on competition days, whether this is team decorated t-shirts, or just color coordination. Being matching help a team build a sense of belonging.

### **Things to Remember**

- Trust the process
- Believe in your team. Kids can do AMAZING things!
- “Failure” isn’t failure, it’s part of the process
- Don’t expect perfection
- Allow for ridiculousness, this is where the brilliance is
- Creativity comes from chaos
- Master the art of asking questions (this lets you help the team while avoiding interference)
- Bond with your team. This can be an AMAZING experience for you too!
- Know that you are doing something extraordinary and changing kid’s lives.
- Have Fun!