

Lesson 6

Team Leadership Problem: Indiana's Challenge

Indiana's Challenge is a team leadership problem involving communication skills, cooperation, and problem-solving as a team.

Overall Goal

This activity is used as a capstone event for the RRLA and offers students an opportunity to apply many of the leadership concepts they have learned.

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction	3 min
Objective of the Game	
Rules of Play	
2. Indiana's Challenge - execution phase	15 min
3. Debriefing Questions	3 min
4. Conclusion	2 min
Estimated Duration	20-30 min

LESSON PLAN

Synopsis

Team members gather around a 10-foot diameter circle. The challenge is to remove a volleyball, soccer ball, or basketball that is balanced atop an orange pylon that is located in the middle of the circle.

Team members have jump ropes they can use to get the ball out of the circle. One element of the challenge is that the team must find three different ways to remove the ball. One of the three methods must include flinging the ball so that a group member can catch it in the air. Another element of the challenge is that the ball may not touch the floor either inside or outside the circle. In addition, no team member may step over the line or touch the inside of the circle with any body part. Whenever the ball falls to the floor, one team member may cross the line to place the ball onto the cone. While in the circle, this team member may not help manipulate any of the ropes.

Criteria for Success

The team completes the task when it invents three methods of removing the ball from the pylon and getting it into the hands of a team member outside the circle. As stated previously, at least one method must include flinging the ball so that a team member catches it in the air. The team must use some combination of the ropes.

Equipment Needed

- A basketball, soccer ball, or volleyball
- An orange pylon
- Four jump ropes (sash cord rope recommended)
- Masking tape to mark the circle's perimeter (blue painters' tape would be a good choice)

Set-Up

- Place the pylon at the center of the 10' diameter circle. Make sure the pylon has an opening that will allow the ball to rest atop it.
- Place the ropes outside the circle.
- To mark the boundary of the circle, use chalk or tape.

Rules of Play

- If the ball touches the floor, one team member may cross the circle line to replace the ball on the pylon.
- Participants may not cross the line (the perimeter of circle) at any time while trying to remove the ball.
- The teammate replacing the ball on the pylon may not manipulate the ropes while in the circle.
- The ball may never touch the ground inside or outside the circle.
- If a team member breaks a rule, the team must stop, replace the ball, and begin again.

Possible Solutions *(for background information; do not share with students)*

There are a ton of possible solutions to this challenge.

One method is to cross the ropes so that two ropes are perpendicular to two other ropes. The group then creates a small cradle in which to rest the ball. Team members lift the ball and carry it out of the circle. They also use this method to lift the ball and fling it into the air so that a group member can catch it. In both cases, team members must hold the rope tight so the ball does not slip through.

Another method is to create a channel with the ropes. One side lifts its end of the ropes and rolls the ball to the other side of the circle, where a team member catches it.

Still another solution is to place two ropes parallel to one another about 8 inches apart and then weave the other ropes back and forth to create a long, skinny net. The team uses this net to carry the ball out of the circle, roll the ball out of the circle, and fling the ball out of the circle.

Take-Aways

Depending on the time available, either ask the students to identify what they learned about leadership through this exercise, or summarize the points below for them. (Use the white board.)

It's the process of figuring out how to achieve a goal or solve a problem that's important. Completion of the goal follows that process. Therefore, teams need to cooperate, communicate, and support one another to be successful.

Through Indiana's Challenge and The Maze, we learned that failure is temporary. Moreover, through failure you learn what doesn't work, so failure is actually a good thing - it makes you smarter.

We also learned that if the problem involves everyone - if we all have to get the ball off the cone or if we all have to navigate the maze - then the solution has to involve everyone. Again, teamwork matters. Together Everyone Achieves More.

Anyone can lead. Anyone who has a good idea can help the team achieve its goal. Therefore, you need to treat everyone on the team with respect. And if you're trying to lead, your job is to serve the team, not try to boss people around and brag about being the leader.