



Frequently Asked Questions

Region 12

November 2018

1. Getting Started

1.1 When should we start meeting?

Most teams begin meeting around October, although some teams begin earlier or a bit later. Rising Stars® teams typically start a bit later in the year.

1.2 How is the decision made about what Team Challenge the kids work on?

That decision is sometimes made by the Team Manager(TM) before the teams are assembled, as some Managers are more comfortable guiding some Challenges, rather than others. In many situations, the team makes that decision during the first few meetings. However, you can be very frank with the team members if you are uncomfortable with any particular Challenge.

1.3 Can I tell the kids what Team Challenge they should select based on my assessment of their skills?

The spirit of Destination Imagination (DI) is to encourage team members to reflect on their strengths, rather than depend upon guidance from the Team Manager. Help the kids figure out what skills are important for a particular Challenge, but let them decide if they have those skills or are willing to learn them. You might also work out a comfortable way for the students to provide feedback to other team members.

There is a Skills Assessment in the "Roadmap" document that is helpful in assisting kids in identifying their skills and interests.

1.4 Can parents attend meetings?

Yes, but that is unusual and is not encouraged.

DI is all about promoting creativity and problem solving among the kids, and that may be negatively affected by the presence of parents at the meetings. The kids (and Team Managers) need to sign a "Declaration of Independence" form indicating that the work they did is all their own.

1.5 I don't understand the Team Challenge. Where can I go for help?

You have lots of support as you go through this process. Speak with your district coordinator, other experienced managers, or any member of the Region 12 Governing Board. You can submit questions to us at help@ohdi12.org. We're here to support you!

Your team can submit questions on the DI website (DestinationImaginagion.org) by clicking on "Login" then "Team" and "Clarifications."

1.6 Is there a limit on the amount of money we can spend?

No. You can spend as much money as you want in the practice and preparation phase, although we don't encourage that approach. However, there is a limit on the money that you spend on items that are presented on stage as part of your team's solution. Most Team Challenges specify a dollar limit, which is listed with the rules of that Challenge.

Some teams collect funds from parents for snacks, etc.

1.7 What do I need to include on the Expense Report?

Read the "Rules of the Road" to determine what should go on your Expense Report. Typically, anything that is part of the Team Challenge solution should be itemized. Remember, even donated items need to have a cost associated with them unless they are listed as exempt in the "Rules of the Road."

2. Registration

2.1 What forms do I need to complete for Region 12 registration?

First, you or your school district needs to purchase the DI materials using the "Start a Team" form from **Destination Imagination Shop DI**. Once this purchase is complete, DI will send you a Team Number that you will need for registration for the Region 12 Tournament.

Second, you need to complete the registration material to participate in the Region 12 Tournament at Sinclair in March. You'll need to complete the following forms, which can be obtained at <http://ohdi12.org>

- Team Registration Form
- Tournament Helper Form
- Tournament Appraiser Form
- Schedule Conflict Form
- Sinclair Waiver Form

2.2 Can I complete the registration forms for my kids?

Yes.

2.3 Can I register my team without having Tournament Helper or an Appraiser?

No. We depend on volunteers to help run our tournament and will not accept your registration without both a Tournament Helper and an Appraiser.

2.4 How do I find a Tournament Helper and Appraiser for my team?

Seek the help of the parents on the team to find individuals to fill these roles. You can speak with colleagues at work, members of various clubs or organizations, or your District Coordinator for assistance.

2.5 Do I need to supply two people to help out at the tournament?

Yes. The Tournament Helper works 4 hours on Saturday, with some limited openings on Friday night. Their schedule will be such that they will be able to see their child perform in the Team Challenge.

However, Appraisers have a larger time commitment. They must be available for a 4-hour training session in February—two weeks before the tournament—and be committed to understanding the Challenge and the appraisal process. In addition, they must be able to appraise throughout the entire day of the tournament on Saturday, typically involving 6-8 hours. Parents should generally not be Appraisers because they will not be allowed to take time off to see their children perform in the Team Challenge.

3. Meetings

3.1 How often should the team meet?

There is lots of variability among teams, depending upon the Challenge, age of the kids, and interest level of team members. Most teams meet once a week until the holidays, and then more often up until the time of the competition in March.

3.2 How long does a meeting typically last?

Again, this depends on the age and interest level of the kids. Many teams meet for about 1-2 hours. Avoid long meetings with younger children.

3.3 What should I do if every team member cannot attend?

At your first meetings, establish a few rules that work for you and your team. For a team of 7 kids, most managers feel that having a meeting with fewer than five students is not helpful.

There are times when a team may divide up various tasks, so you may have a meeting with only a subset of the team to focus on some activity.

3.4 Is there a general format that I should follow at every meeting?

Figure out what works best for you and your team. Many teams begin with a short discussion and group interaction time. Try to help the team focus on what they want to accomplish. For the last 10 minutes or so, many teams finish up with a snack or free time.

"Roadmap," a Team Manager's guide published by DI and part of your Destination Imagination Program Materials, will give you some ideas for team meetings.

3.5 What's the best way to make certain that the kids are solving the Challenge correctly?

The joy of DI is that there is not a single correct solution to the Challenge. The best solution is one that the kids come up with on their own without adult direction.

Also, make sure the team knows and understands the Challenge. Use the "Rules of the Road" for additional help. If your team has a question about a specific solution to their chosen Team Challenge, use the Clarification process to ask that question. See the "Rules of the Road" or the DI website for how to send in a Clarification.

Here's a suggestion from experienced managers---have your team read through the Challenge many times during the season. Their understanding of the Challenge will change over the months.

3.6 How can parents help me?

Parents should attend your first team meeting, where you make clear your expectations regarding how parents can support their child and the team. Be clear and specific about what you need, and have sign-up sheets available for parents.

There are lots of ways that parents can help out---transportation, materials for Instant Challenges, donating snacks, assisting with the costs, volunteering at the tournament, supervising small groups of team members during building, sewing or working sessions, etc.

3.7 Am I allowed to have an Assistant Team Manager?

Yes. We strongly encourage Managers to work together with teams. This shares the workload and will give you another perspective as issues arise within the team.

4. Group Dynamics

4.1 How do I handle kids who refuse to follow the rules?

Your first meeting should be a joint session with both parents and students so that expectations can be delineated. Have your team discuss and develop clear rules for your group (e.g., respect other's opinions, no sarcastic remarks, etc.)

With any group of young people working intensely over a several month period, expect and plan for some problems. We recommend a three-step approach when difficulties persist.

First, talk alone with the student. Make certain your rules and consequences are clear and specific. Second, involve the student's parents and your district coordinator if things don't improve. Finally, recognize that DI is not for everyone. There are occasions when a student should be removed from the team. This decision should be made after consultation and collaboration with your district coordinator and school principal.

The biggest mistake you can make is to ignore problem behaviors and hope they will go away on their own during the year. That rarely happens.

4.2 What can I do about difficult parents?

Involve your district coordinator in meeting with a parent who presents ongoing issues.

4.3 How can I help my team work together?

Your team's effectiveness in developing creative solutions is significantly affected by their ability to work together and feel safe in voicing unusual and creative ideas.

You can foster such an environment by aiming for that delicate balance of being both "task focused" and "fun focused." There are times when your team should be allowed just to act silly, goof around, and get off-track. Other times, they need to focus on accomplishing a specific objective during a meeting. Finding that right balance is the key to effective managing.

Spend time at the beginning of the process on team building skills. Look at the "Roadmap" for ideas on how to do this.

4.4 How should a team make decisions? Majority rules?

There is no one or best way for decision-making for all teams. Much depends on the age of your students, type of issue you are trying to resolve, and group dynamics.

Try this. Either you (or your team, depending on their age) can research different ways of making decisions (e.g., consensus, voting, etc.), and try them out on various issues.

4.5 Can I assign team roles for meetings?

Yes, you can but you shouldn't. Let the team members do this.

If their decisions aren't working out, have them go back and talk about what's going on.

4.6 I'm feeling overwhelmed. What can I do?

DI is a very "messy" process since your students are making lots of decisions, some of which won't work out. There are times you may feel exhausted and frustrated by the apparent lack of progress of the team. These are common responses to be expected at times throughout the year.

Reach out to experienced Managers, your district coordinator, DI Region 12 Board members, or help@ohdi12.org. We are here to support you!

4.7 We have a few team members that ramble on during meetings. How should I handle that?

The worst thing you can do is to ignore the problem. Such a style can be very frustrating to you and team members.

You have a few options, depending on the situation. You can speak with the team member alone, providing them feedback and examples as to how their style is impacting the team. A second option, usually reserved for older students, is to deal with the issue within a team meeting.

4.8 How do I get quiet kids to participate?

Some kids don't do well in groups, so you may need to solicit their thoughts by having them discuss some issue with just one other team member. You might also ask each team member to give their ideas on some topic, giving a quiet person a chance to speak. Some teams have kids jot their ideas down on paper and then share them with the group.

Your caring attitude and positive words of encouragement will have a significant effect throughout the season.

4.09 How can I keep everyone on task?

Your job as a Manager is to help manage the process. At the beginning of a meeting, have the team identify a very specific task that must be accomplished. During the discussions, keep referring back to that goal to help keep everyone focused.

5. Interference

5.1 Can you give some examples of what is and is not Interference?

The following are examples of Interference.

- *Showing differential positive encouragement for some ideas rather than encouraging all ideas---e.g., "That's amazing. That's the most creative answer we've had today."*
- *Making any suggestions regarding how a Challenge or any part of the Challenge might be solved.*
- *Doing any part of the construction or writing for the team, including last-minute fixes and touch-ups before the performance.*
- *Helping team members with costumes or makeup before their performance.*
- *Saying such things as "The Appraisers will love that solution!"*
- *Asking leading questions.*

The following are not Interference.

- *Making certain your team members always treat others in a respectful and courteous manner.*
- *Correcting any child who misbehaves.*
- *Giving specific feedback on solutions to Instant Challenges.*
- *Telling the students that a certain solution is unsafe.*
- *Explaining the Challenge and encouraging the students to submit a "Clarification" if they are uncertain about something.*
- *Asking lots of open-ended questions, such as "What are some ways you might connect those pieces of wood? What do you think would work best?"*
- *Teaching the team members the basic skills needed to complete a task. This can be related to the safe use of tools, or sewing techniques. However, the teaching cannot be part of creating the specific artifact used by the team.*

5.2 What should I do if I discover that a parent has inappropriately helped out their child?

You have two options. First, you can decide not to use whatever idea or construction that was done by the parent, and come up with something new. If a parent helped out with construction, you could have the kids redo it on their own.

Second, you can use the idea or construction but report the "Interference" on your "Declaration of Independence" forms, with the understanding that your team will be assessed a deduction for that interference.

5.3 Can I carry the props for the kids on stage?

No. You may help your students carry props to the Prep Area and Launch Area outside the performance area. However, the students must carry the props on stage when told that "time begins."

5.4 Can I assign homework to the kids?

This would be fine to do for younger students, but typically by around fourth or fifth grade the team should divide tasks and assign homework to each other.

5.5 Can I provide feedback to the kids on their performance in the Team Challenge?

No. Instead, have the team review the scoring criteria at the end of the Challenge and provide feedback to each other.

You may also video their practice or dress rehearsal and ask the team members what they could suggest ways to improve their individual and team performances.

5.6 Is watching videos of past performances considered Interference?

No, but please be careful.

Many TMs avoid this practice because they want the team to come up with own solutions, rather than imitate what they saw on YouTube.

6. Instant Challenges (IC)

6.1 Can I provide feedback on their performance or is that Interference?

Yes, you can and should provide feedback to your team. This is not Interference because the practice ICs are not ones you team will solve on the day of competition.

You should also ask team members to provide feedback as well.

6.2 How often should we practice IC?

We recommend that you practice ICs at most if not all meetings.

6.3 How can I come up with ideas for IC problems?

As part of your Destination Imagination Program Materials, you will receive access to this season's Instant Challenge Practice Set.

IC problems are also available on the internet. Just search for "DI Instant Challenges," and you'll be connected to hundreds of sample problems.

DI has published past Instant Challenges. These can be purchased at Shop DI under "Instant Challenge Volumes."

You can send us an email at InstantChallenge@ohdi12.org and we will send you a copy of this year's Region 12 sample Instant Challenges.

6.4 Where can I find solutions to the Instant Challenges?

You can't because there is never a single or best solution. That's the beauty of ICs. Teams have an opportunity to creatively solve performance or construction problems from their perspective.

7. Tournament Day

7.1 What forms do I need to bring to the tournament?

At the end of each "Central Challenge," there is a checklist of forms under the heading, "Required Paperwork" that you must bring to Sinclair on the day of the competition.

7.2 Can I fill out the Tournament Data Forms for the team?

The team should decide on the content of what to put on the forms. Tournament Data Forms indicate that Elementary Level (EL) Team Managers may write down the information that their team dictates to them but that the Middle Level (ML) and Senior Level (SL) teams should complete the forms themselves.

7.3 What does the team do all day at the tournament? Do some teams go home?

Some teams go home, but most teams stay around and watch other teams perform or just hang around. You may bring games and other activities for the team members during downtime. Some parents organize bringing snacks for the kids at the tournament.

7.4 When and how do I find out how well our team performed?

About an hour after your team presents their Team Challenge solution, you can pick up your scores from the Head Appraiser at the Challenge Site where your team performed. In most cases, the Challenge Site will have a large poster board that the Challenge Master uses to post the team's name when their scores are ready to be reviewed. If you do not see a poster board, ask the Challenge Master or the Head Appraiser at the site. Please try to not disrupt a performing team. This is a raw score and does not tell you how you rank in comparison to the other teams.

7.5 Can I appeal my scores?


You need to speak with the Head Appraiser of the Team Challenge within 30 minutes of when you obtain your scores. If the matter is still not resolved, you may request a Dialogue Team if you still have concerns.

Please review the "Rules of the Road" that details exactly what can be appealed. Subjective scores cannot be appealed.

7.6 Which teams advance to the State Tournament?

In general, one team from each level advances to the State Tournament in March. If there is a tie in a level of a Challenge, both teams advance.

In other situations (e.g., Senior Level teams, or divisions that have many teams) two teams will advance. This will be announced at the Closing Celebration at the end of the day.



We appreciate the time, talent, and commitment that you have made to your students and the DI program. Please reach out to other managers, your district coordinator, or DI Region 12 Board members if we can support you in any way. Have Fun!