Team Rules

A good team has people with a diverse collection of skills and talents who respect each other’s strengths and support each other’s weaknesses. In the best teams, everyone has a win-win attitude and subverts their individual goals for the team. It’s not easy to be part of a good team, but if you are ever part of a truly great team, the feeling will stay with you forever.

Synergy happens when a several individuals create a group that is stronger than the sum of the individuals. These ideas come from many sources and I offer them with the hope that they can help individuals be good teammates and teams find greatness.

Good team members ...

1. ... are great finishers
2. ... criticize in private and praise in public
3. ... can be trusted
4. ... lead themselves
5. ... make their leaders better
6. ... accept and live the vision of the group
7. ... make their teammates better
8. ... avoid becoming isolated
9. ... are reliable
10. ... participate actively
11. ... treat others with respect
12. ... listen actively
13. ... are flexible
14. ... communicate constructively
15. ... put the team first
16. ... are committed to the team
17. ... cooperate instead of compete

Remember that all teams have conflicts. A great team must develop techniques to “fight fairly.”

In addition, to be a great team, all members must ...

• know their own strengths,
• know their own weaknesses,
• know their teammates’ strengths,
• and find ways to put them together.

“None of us is as smart as all of us.”
—Ken Blanchard

“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”
—Phil Jackson

Compiled by Jeff Offutt