

January 2016

Happy New Year!

It is a new year and that means it is time for teams to get into gear. Many teams have met a couple of times and some have not met at all. With two months until the regional celebrations and three months until the state celebration, it is time to get to work.

On that note, I will mention this one last time this season. Although registration for the regional and state gatherings does not close until January 22, 2016, teams need to buy their registrations from national DI as soon as possible. I know that many of you receiving this newsletter do not yet have registration numbers. In fact, I was talking to a mother last week who has children on two different teams. She told me they were just about to get started. This is great, but when I went to look at the registrations, those teams have not purchased their team ID's and are not on the system. I urge you not to procrastinate. Get your national registration today. If you do not buy your own registration number please contact the person responsible and ask them to start the process.

You can purchase your registration at www.ShopDI.org. This year's registration costs are \$195 for the first team and \$180 for each additional team. Rising Star teams are \$60.

If you already have your registration number, thank you and good for you.

If you know of someone who is thinking about DI or if you have any personal contacts at other schools or organizations that could help us spread the word about DI, please let either Chad or Tim know. We want to help make it possible for everyone to experience Maine DI and become a DIMAINIAC!

If you have not purchased your registration or are still on the fence about having a team, consider this. Purchase 1 team ID between December 21 and January 15, 2016 and National DI will provide a free team registration to a deserving school or community to use next season. Sign up today and help us inspire more students around the world!

We want to make this a great year for DI, and with your help we can already start making next season even better!

Registering Your Team

Team Registration is now open and will close January 22, 2016. Even though you, or your coordinator, have purchased your registration number and challenge materials you still need to register with CreateME. In order to register you will need your registration number. This year CreateME is using a new online registration system. Information and a link to the register can be found at <http://www.createme.org/index.php/tournament-registration/>

In order to help with this new process we have a registration guide, which can be found on the site above. If you have any questions about registering, please contact us at help@createme.org.

Team Dynamics

No matter how well your team works together, there will come a point when the team appears to fall apart. Team members may start yelling at each

other, ignoring each other, or even just refusing to participate. This can be scary and upsetting for new and experienced team managers.

The first rule for team managers when this happens is:

DON'T PANIC

Think of this as a learning opportunity. Your team members will not go through life without conflict and this can be a good opportunity for them to learn about conflict and how to use it to make a positive outcome.

Depending on your comfort level, there are several ways you can help your team through this process.

- Take a break – If the conflict occurs because of stress or because the team is stuck on something, simply take a break. Things often don't seem as bad when a little time has passed. Keep a quick favorite game or activity on hand you can use if this happens.
- Work on something else – Much like taking a break, this can be an effective tool, in reducing conflict and still having a productive practice.
- Stop the conflict – Call a halt and dissect with the team what is occurring. Make sure every team member understands the impact they are having on the team and let team members express their feelings. It is important to use I statements if trying this, such as I feel, or my perception. This can help the

conversation from devolving into a blame game.

- Allow the conflict to occur – let your team know that conflicts are part of team work and have them figure it out.
- Stop the practice - if the conflict gets out of hand remind the team that DI is fun, that they do not appear to be having fun, and that practice is over. For those of you who have set times parents pick their children up you could have them do homework or read a book.
- Get your parents involved. It is okay to let your parents know that practice did not go so well. But, at the same time let them know what steps were taken so they can support you when talking with their child.

If all else fails, don't worry. Most of these issues blow over before the next practice. However, if this is a recurring issue at most practices, you may need to take a step back and focus on teambuilding.

2015-2016 Dates

Below is a list of dates for the upcoming season. A complete list can be found on our calendar at www.createme.org

- 1/22/16 – Deadline for registration (but don't wait, register early)
- 1/30/16 - Instant Challenge Workshop @Gray New Gloucester
- 2/27/16 – Southern Regional Showcase
- 3/5/16 – Northern Regional Showcase
- 4/9/16 – State Celebration at UMO
- 5/25/16 – Global Finals

Visit our Website at www.createme.org
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Questions: contact Chad at affiliatedirector@createme.org or any of the CreateME team at <http://www.createme.org/index.php/get-involved/contact-us/>