



# Who's Got the Ball? (and Other Nagging Questions About Team Life): A Player's Guide for Work Teams

*Coach Maureen O'Brien*

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More than a fad, teaming is proving to be a new way of organizational life, with eight out of every ten employees now involved in some kind of teamwork. But how exactly does one play on a team at work? While there are plenty of manuals, trainers, and theories that help managers create, lead, and reward teams, actual team members are often left struggling without a handbook or a coach.

With refreshing clarity and common sense, Maureen O'Brien, a team expert with more than twenty years of experience as a player, coach, and business consultant, offers one-on-one coaching tips to team players in *Who's Got the Ball?* The author covers all the bases, from setting a team's goals and articulating its noble purpose, to banishing boring meetings, deciding how to make decisions, and even using flip charts effectively. Friendly and conversational, O'Brien offers experience-based, easy-to-implement guidelines that are eminently practical and surprisingly fun. Her concise coaching notes, wonderfully illustrated by real-life organizational situations, address every aspect of daily team life, including: creating a workable team structure \* being a valuable team member \* avoiding common teamwork traps \* running an effective team meeting \* making and implementing decisions \* leading a team.

From developing a new team and determining just what kind of game your team is playing--individualistic baseball, interdependent basketball, or tightly orchestrated football--to dealing with personality-based conflicts, knowing when to take a time-out, and honoring a project's most valuable player, *Who's Got the Ball?* is an invaluable guide to surviving--and thriving--on today's work teams.

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