

Game of Teams: Discover How to Become a Collaborative Leader

by Winsor Jenkins

At a time in the global workforce where teams continue to grow yet struggle to effectively collaborate to produce results, collaborative leadership is viewed as essential. Without it, teams fail. The book presents a practical blueprint for developing collaborative leaders and teams.

Game of Teams: Discover How to Become a Collaborative Leader is a 2025 award-winning book that promotes the development of a collaborative mindset and skillset to effectively lead teams. The author argues that a collaborative mindset and skillset must be learned – and that people can't be expected to effectively collaborate at the flip of a switch due mostly to cultural factors. Given the book's focus on developing collaborative leaders, it offers a solution(s) in the form of an innovative yet coherent operating framework to apply to develop collaborative leaders. This includes coaching to support development. The framework introduces several team principles and a series of essential competencies that come from the game of soccer; an environment where team success is only achieved by effectively collaborating!

Game of Teams is written as a powerful business parable that reimagines team leadership. The story is structured into four main sections and an appendix: Collaborative Leader Development Challenges, Leader Coaching Challenges, Leader Coaching Essentials, and Team Collaboration Development Challenges. Each section (multiple chapters) builds on the previous one to offer actionable insights and key learnings. The appendix provides useful resources to support development. Readers will follow the learning and development journey of a newly promoted team leader, confronted with the need to develop a nonperforming team. His development must be accomplished in real-time, challenging his commitment and confidence along the way. With the help of an external coach, he will crack the collaboration code and succeed.

This book will appeal to all organizations and their people at every level interested in producing results via team-based applications. With soccer embedded in the operating framework, it may even be more relevant in markets across the globe where team values, teamwork, sports, and professional development are highly valued, aligning with market demand, thought leadership, and global appeal.

As a team development advocate and soccer enthusiast with over 30 years of executive leadership development experience including coaching, the author invites readers to discover the magic of soccer's metaphor, rethinking leader (and team) development by introducing soccer's strategic lessons as part of a larger developmental framework. His qualifications extend to writing for the *Soccer Journal*, the *Human Resources Planning Society*, and *Association for Talent Development (ATD)*, along with writing his first book, *The Collaborator: Discover Soccer as a Metaphor for Global Business Leadership*, winning the Axiom Business Book Award – Bronze Medal – in the category of International Business/Globalization. This was followed by *Game of Teams*, winning Axiom Business Book Award – Silver Medal – in the category of Business Stories/Parables in 2025 – and the North American Book Award – Silver Medal – in the category of Business – Leadership / Management in 2025.