

Power Soccer

A Popular Education Dynamic

Goals:

1. To learn and/or deepen understanding of how to identify power.
2. To learn and/or deepen understanding how power is developed and systemically maintained by those in power.
3. To learn and deepen understanding of how to organize people to uproot power.
4. To further develop critical thinking skills.

Materials:

Soccer ball (or other soft ball if preferable)

Space (conference room is ideal)

Goals (chairs or other furniture can be used to create goals)

Whistle (not necessary, but nice)

Rules:

The rules of power soccer are the same as regular soccer. With 2 exceptions, one, the teams playing are not equal in size, one team should be about $\frac{3}{4}$ (Large Team) the size of the other team (Small Team). Two, the Small Team gets to make and change the rules at any point during the game. Additionally, the goal for the Small Team is smaller in size than the goal of the large team by a ratio of 2 to 1.

Playing:

The facilitator should play the role of referee. Before the game begins, the referee will prep the Small Team about their power, the Small Team has the power to:

- Stop the game at any point by yelling out "timeout"
- Change the rules in their favor at any point in the game, during prep the referee should give the Small Team ideas about the kinds of rules they can make, for instance the Small Team can make a rule that allows them to use their hands to make scoring easier, or they can make the Large

Team play while hopping on one foot, or they can eliminate specific people from the Large Team from the game.

Referee explains the rules to both teams and then blows the whistle and throws the ball in the middle of the “field”. The game will proceed as long as the Small Team doesn’t call a timeout. The referee should call the game once the Small Team is unquestionably ahead of the Large Team.

Debrief:

The debrief element of this dynamic is the single most important part of the dynamic. At debrief the referee/facilitator should sit everyone in a circle in the center of the playing field and ask agitational questions. Someone should take notes at this juncture.

Some suggested questions:

1. Who had power in this game?
2. Why did the Small Team win the game?
3. Could the Large Team have won the game? If so, how?
4. What was the role of the referee?
5. Can anyone think of how this exercise apply to the restaurant industry?
6. How does it apply to broader society?
7. How can we apply this exercise to our daily work at ROC concretely?

After the debrief, thank everyone for participating and send them to the locker room.