

SOFTBALL GAME:

GROUP PROBLEM SOLVING EXERCISE

The Softball Game is a simple problem solving exercise that reveals group members' roles in a problem solving task. Each member of the group is given one of the following clues and are told that they may share the information with the group, however they may not psychically show one another their clues. As a group, they are to determine from the information the position played by each. Before the group submits their final answer, make sure everyone agrees. HINT: If the group is struggling, having them do a matrix with the nine names down the side and the nine positions across the top and then through a process of elimination they can solve the exercise.

As a facilitator it is important to observe the various group functions performed by the members and help the group recognize the different skills they bring. In discussing the exercise, have them (1) identify what they did that helped the process and what inhibited it, (2) how easy it is to dismiss important information and get confused by needless facts and (3) the importance of asking good questions, sharing information and working as a team.

CLUES:

1. The second base player beat Jane, Duncan, Bill and the catcher at golf.
2. Tyler and Duncan each won \$50 playing cards with the pitcher.
3. Jane has an apartment across the street from the third base player.
4. The outfielders bowl with Beth and Duncan in their spare time.
5. Wendy is taller than Bill; Sue is shorter than Bill. Each of them weighs more than the third base player.
6. Duncan, Perry, and the shortstop spent more than \$300 each shopping last weekend.
7. The catcher is married with three daughters; the third base player is married with two sons; Don is in the middle of a divorce.
8. Perry dislikes the catcher, yet lives in a house with his sister.
9. One of the outfield positions is played by either Perry or Sue.
10. The center fielder is taller than the right fielder.
11. The pitcher's husband is the third base player's brother.
12. Don is taller than the infielders and the battery with the exception of Jane, Tyler, and Perry. He is the same height as the center fielder.
13. Beth's brother is engaged to the second baseplayer.
14. The third baseplayer, the shortstop, and Bill work in the same office.
15. Wendy, Beth, Duncan, the right fielder, and the center fielder are single.
16. Four members of the team are married.
17. Wendy, Beth and Don car pool to work.
18. Perry's house is on the same street as Jane's apartment building.
19. Tyler is the team clown, the shortstop is the team captain, and Bill is known for his temper.
20. Duncan and Sue have the highest batting average.

ANSWERS:

Catcher:	Tyler	Second Base:	Wendy	Left Field:	Don
Pitcher:	Jane	Third Base:	Perry	Center Field:	Bill
First Base:	Duncan	Shortstop:	Beth	Right Field:	Sue

The second base player beat Jane, Duncan, Bill and the catcher at golf.

Tyler and Duncan each won \$50 playing cards with the pitcher.

Jane has an apartment across the street from the third baseplayer.

The outfielders bowl with Beth and Duncan in their spare time.

Wendy is taller than Bill; Sue is shorter than Bill. Each of them weighs more than the third base player.

Duncan, Perry, and the shortstop spent more than \$300 each shopping last weekend.

The catcher is married with three daughters; the third base player is married with two sons; Don is in the middle of a divorce.

Perry dislikes the catcher, yet lives in a house with his sister.

One of the outfield positions is played by either Perry or Sue.

The center fielder is taller than the right fielder.

The pitcher's husband is the third base player's brother.

Don is taller than the infielders and the battery with the exception of Jane, Tyler, and Perry. He is the same height as the center fielder.

Beth's brother is engaged to the second base player.

The third base player, the shortstop, and Bill work in the same office.

Wendy, Beth, Duncan, the right fielder, and the center fielder are single.

Four members of the team are married.

Wendy, Beth and Don car pool to work.

Perry's house is on the same street as Jane's apartment building.

Tyler is the team clown, the shortstop is the team captain and Bill is known for his temper.

Duncan and Sue have the highest batting average.