

Consequences Matrix

How Will Your Decisions Help or Hurt Your Teammates?

You will make better decisions if you focus on how the consequences of your actions affect your teammates. While this is only one criterion which can and should be applied to any decision you make, it is an important one. You begin by asking “What will happen to my teammate(s) if I act upon this decision? Over time, such reflective thinking will become habit.

		Long-Term		Short-Term		
Consequences for Self		Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Decision-Making -I should act on this decision. -I should not act on this decision. -I cannot decide at this time (Need more information, time, etc.)
Consequences for Teammate(s)		Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	

Using this matrix will not guarantee that your decisions will be good ones. However, the consideration of the consequences of a given decision in terms of one’s self and one’s teammates in the near and distant future should increase the probability that harm to relations and relationships can be avoided.

Reflection and Discussion Questions

- Do you agree with the idea that the best decisions are those that have the most positive consequences for you and your teammate? And that the poorest decisions are those that have the most negative consequences? Give an example to explain your reasoning.
- How do you know positive consequences will result from your action(s)? Inaction?
- How do you know negative consequences will result from your action(s)? Inaction?
- In which of the four quadrants would you find the most “immature” behavior? Why?
- As a team member, how can you use this matrix to help your teammates make better decisions?