

Switched on teams

Teams and Situation Awareness (SA)

Situation Awareness as a facet of Mental toughness – an ability to understand what is happening, like a WIP to be ready to quickly anticipate and decide. A general understanding of what we are all about as a team (of four) not you as one player in the rink of four.

Too often we find a rink differs from the side / team in its approach to the pennant game. I have no real problem there as that rink has to work out its approach based on the four players in the rink and the approach of that rink Skip. Their game plan.

However, the team / squad / side can have an overall TEAM plan and within that rinks and their skips can adhere to the TEAM plan, SA again. What might be the ingredients for a team win outcome - win the pennant contest that day.

Team plan for all rinks/ skips - 2/4 rinks must win their competition game, every rink to win a minimum of 9/21 ends = guarantees 36 winning ends.

The team has to win 43/84 ends, which means some rinks will exceed the nine minimum and get us to the 43 figure.

Every rink to keep shots lost per end to a max of 2.

Losing rinks to keep losing score to <10.

Every end to have 2 bowls in the head at conclusion of head.

Front end rink members to have 2/4 bowls in the head 15/21 ends.

All of the above are measurable and valid for debrief discussion.

More importantly the rink can meet a few times in the course of the competition and gauge how we, note we, are going toward the stated objectives. And address the trend if it is our rink that is not progressing toward the measurable objectives set for the game.

Our emotional contributions of SA as team members can be described in this way:

Teamwork principle – a team of bowlers sharing a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they travel on the thrust of one another;

- **Teamwork principle** – there is strength, power and safety in numbers when travelling in the same direction as others with whom we share a common goal; worth looking at your teammates in that context especially in bowls fours where the skip is only as good as his third who precedes him, his second likewise, his lead as the first among equals;
- **Teamwork principle** – it pays to take turns doing hard jobs, we bowlers in teams should look at pursuit cycling to see the application of the principle;
- **Teamwork principle** – those who exercise leadership need to be remembered with our active support and praise, and in the team game environment that is the one percenters (1%) so often referred to by coaches in other sports: this is a major area for improvement in training bowlers for the future;
- **Teamwork principle** – we must stand by those among us in their times of need, or in sporting parlance hang tough beside those bowls teammates who are experiencing a form lapse.
- **Teamwork principle** – each and every one of us to share the energizer factor that makes for good teams (performance); it is not about you, it is all about us.

What causes we bowlers within teams to fail to pick up the situation (awareness) SA:

- No pre-training or experience in reading the competition battle,
- Far too immersed in our own game (performance),
- Total unwillingness, or inability, for team members to give input,
- Which may be due to poor choice of skips as leaders,
- Not having a game plan to give each player a sense of focus,
- Not developing a task / role for each team player,
- Presuming bowlers can do what they have not achieved in deliveries the previous ends; I think it is called ...expecting miracles,
- Inability of the players to be aware of behaviours / emotional responses (of a negative, disinterested, discontented nature) from within the team.

Then we see that situational awareness of a team has a lot to do with communication skill. And that skill is not covered in any way for the development of bowlers' skills.

Pity.

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