

Bowls Web menu- Q&A
Selection criteria & statistics

Selection Criteria Used, Statistics And Responsibility For Communications

Question:

Thanks Lachlan:

Some interesting reading in that coaches network report, 2017 from the January seminar.

If the next session is post pennant season, perhaps a question around selection criteria might be timely.

For example, if a player needs to be dropped from the #1 side, who has responsibility for that 'difficult' conversation: Skip, Side Captain, Coach, Head of Selectors?

Even more relevant if no rink stats are kept (rink voting slips are often inconclusive) what is the hard evidence relied on to drop a player for 'poor form'?

Another also, - apart from 'player of the year' awards, do rink stats mean anything? I sense a lot of players go through the motion of completing the marking sheets in order to avoid conflict.

Hope to catch up soon.

Regards, Richard

Response:

Hi mate:

Selection, in my view, is the weak link in the whole competitive system of bowls, right up into international level and it all stems from our unwillingness to measure performance against a comparative standard.

As an aside, I recall now being in the BA role and requesting selectors describe to me what their criteria for national squad and team selection; oblique words that included commitment, harmony, team spirit were voiced, yet not one of the national selectors had a measurable criteria.

One criteria abounded though - prejudice for / against some players; continuing on.

I don't get concerned about the fickleness of player expectations in second side and below at any club, as I believe it is always the top side that

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has to be the model for our desired behaviour at our respective clubs, so it is

the best players who set our standards, thus honestly appraising their form, better still if they kept stats, to use to monitor the form.

Anyway, your question - from my experience if I was the coach I would talk to the (top side) players who are underperforming and urge that they train with me as we value their place in the side.

If continuous poor form requires their being dropped, a selector must contact them as well as the coach who should discuss what we (he/me) could do to get them performing well enough to be back in contention for the top side.

As you say, voting slips are inconclusive and often not submitted. Poor old selectors.

Let me illustrate a better way - if our rink lost 18-30, someone is off their game, maybe even two players. Voting slips handed in should show that person.

A debrief post game as a rink, where we furnish honest public voting is the ideal (we had that at Richmond if you remember for many rinks).

However, what we all experience is a stupid silent vote where sometimes that losing rink all votes one another 5-6/10 F*&%k; Get a life people.

In that absurd case, all four players do not have a leg to stand on so selectors should call in the skip and challenge this nonsense. I say the skip in this case, because that person was given the leadership role so lets challenge their status.

I notice at one club the criteria for selection says:

Positions are not guaranteed.

Minimal changes will be made to sides.

Compatibility in rink personnel.

I have no idea what that means and I can say this fluid criteria applies at elite levels too as I described a bit earlier.

How can any player know what constitutes a performance requirement to remain in a team, go up, or be dropped.

My club handbook does state players will be contacted when dropped, but I always see that as the consequence. What about how and why you get selected somewhere to start with.

The other side of the coin though Rich, is players have unrealistic expectations and are bloody minded in their dealings with selectors, who are well intentioned volunteers.

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Still we lack measures and we continue that way because bowlers would die if they had to be measured on performance.
And as our executives are also bowlers, hell no change there my friend.

Hope this response helps and keen to include selection criteria on a future session.

Catch you for coffee soon.

Lach

Lachlan Tighe 2017