

A Discussion With A Player

Interpersonal relations with players is fabulous and on occasion tenuous. Might even say as head coach same could be said dealing with selectors, management and fellow coaches.

Were I to offer advice to fellow coaches on your chats with bowlers about working in tandem, I offer these insights by way of a first hand conversation from my own limited experience, rightly or wrongly.

GOALS

I can only assist you the bowler if you set your own goals, then we can work out what to do as relevant. This has to be our top priority for you, for me and it will be interesting for me to view your goals as I currently know you.

HONESTY

I will be upfront in my dealings with you, and in doing that, I also acknowledge that means giving you unwelcome news that sometimes you won't like and at times I am in the wrong. I will always concede my errors, though not always give concession for my views and I expect that same honesty from you, the player.

FEEDBACK

And here, under this heading, I will assume I am coaching a team, I will start out saying let's all agree we have biases and you don't have to like me and vice versa. However, that said I want you to have accurate, honest, reasonably immediate feedback. In games we should do that as soon after as a debrief of performance, team and individual. I want you to improve as I bet you want to, also so that gets off the ground if you are realistic about each performance on the day. Don't hark back to previous performances when appraising this performance and on that you as players need to feel comfortable to give me feedback, constructive not personal and be it good or bad, so be it.

INDIVIDUALS

Again within the team format I have to accept and accommodate all of you as team members. I have to get you to be a cohesive unit; I have to

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coach you individuals who form our team. My best way to do that is know you are individual, different. Over our journey with me as coach I may do this well, I may do it abysmally, heaven help us all in that case, but know I am trying to learn the lessons so as to do it, coaching each of you as a team, to my utmost. For me a team is only as good as its weakest member, so I value all of you as equal (worth) in and to our team.

Interesting to read my own thought process on this imaginary chat though I have had similar chats with bowlers many times over the years hence my rattling this off now.

Lachlan Tighe, 2020