

Skips, Do We Need Them?

YouTube video series, 2018:

We produced eight (8) video clips featuring a panel of nine credentialed players / coaches. To my surprise, numerous people have since told me they could hardly hear the audio of the clips. Why I am surprised is because I simply put on my earphones and the sound was normal. These panel discussions were informative, yet, compared to the practical clips, were poorly viewed. Therefore I summarize the panels Q & A in written form as follows:

Q: Why do we need skips?

What I experience is, the vast majority of the skips in bowls, have no game plan, no assigned role for the other three in a fours team; in that case why do we need to pay any heed to their instructions as the bowler on the mat as there is no plan so we can do what ever we want?

Hence my question to you panel, why do we need skips?

A: Answers offered from the panel:

- As the leader of the team without being the best bowler
- Brings the others together as a cohesive team
- Being at the head see and read the game better
- Role is important
- Ensures the team has one person in control, responsibility
- Sets out roles for other team members
- Highlights the importance of selectors knowing who to seek
- Decides the game plan
- If the team has a game plan that is known, trained with drills then as a team we do not need a skip though assigning one can be to enthuse the team
- A good skip would train with the team and realize the value of the individual team member
- The skip provides a comfortable environment for the members, steers the play and plays well themselves

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