

Singles Contingency When Plan Not Working

I am mucking about with ideas for a bowls coach workshop on what to do in the contest when we know early enough our plan is not working.

I am going to refer to the singles format of 21 shots contest for this article and in a following article, I shall outline ideas for pairs / fours format to approach.

OBJECTIVE:

I want to draw out ideas on what works / doesn't work, to be able to better operate in the competition.

Assumptions

I am going to assume we love competing at minimum length in singles from anywhere on the rink.

Any change to a contingency plan cannot be later than end five as you have soaked up too much time now to continue this pattern and you need to alter momentum before the opponent gets to 21 shots and victory.

Your plan is not working either.

Because bowl 1.2.3.or 4 is not productive/ effective, or

Because the opposition is superior despite you generally meeting your delivery objectives.

If the issue is a certain playing hand is ineffective, simply move over onto the other hand.

Singles Game Plan

HOW (one suggestion)

- First bowl objective ML every end
- Second delivery to be within a MW
- Third delivery either add, remove opponent bowl or cover behind depending on head situation.
- Final delivery either add, remove opponent bowl or reduce shots down

STRATEGY TO OVERCOME LOSING SEQUENCE

SINGLES

Where all / any of your four deliveries are ineffective

- View the first two bowls as a front end team - so if bowl one is the issue deliver it a metre behind from now on.
- Hence the other 3 deliveries' objectives are okay and can continue as planned.
- Final delivery never converts with your draw- use third one to be shot bowl and last delivery any weight.

- See how you are going after end eight (that end is an arbitrary choice leaving time / ends to readjust again).
- Come end eight and still struggling alter the delivery objectives of at least two of the four deliveries.
- Whatever you do ensure your pre-delivery routine was rock solid to start with or is now after end four.

Where the opposition is simply superior because

- They are playing their length, their strength.
- Their first bowl is highly effective every end.
- Their last bowl destroys you.

What now say you?

- Determine the tempo: they may have the mat, but you can walk to the head, alter third delivery every end so as to set the tempo for yourself.
- Are we faltering with bowls three and four? Do the exact opposite to what you did the first five ends with these.
- Can we be aggressive with weighted deliveries into the head?
 - With your first two deliveries for a change of outcome.
 - With deliveries two and three for a change of outcome.

WORKSHOP FORMAT

Our local pBus squad members would be core attendees and other targeted coaches we think might attend.

For me, this workshop is intended as an example of PD for coaches serious about being better coaches.

A good discussion topic and with premier level bowlers to do the competition performance we can conduct a three-end simulation where one player has won five ends and the score may be 7-0 so the other player is the one applying our suggested contingency strategies the next three ends.

Remember there are these two overarching strategies in the simulations:

When we are underperforming, or when the opposition is simply superior after the first five ends.

Each simulated contingency strategy is for three ends, which means we have now played eight ends in this format.

The obvious outcome for any of the contingency strategies should be a change in momentum (score).

**Website www.lachlantighebowls.com
Singles Game Plans- the contingency plan**

When we experience the strategy simulations, we will have knowledge about each and every contingency to factor into competition:

What worked,

What can be thrown away,

What can be modified,

What other contingencies were offered and tried to effect on the day,

What else we discovered from the simulation.

We can then tidy up our contingency strategies and game plans and then I can report the final workshop findings as a column on my website later in 2020.

Try something like this in your part of the bowls world.

Lachlan Tighe, June 2020.