

Culture of sport organizations seen through the coach

Bowls clubs and other tiers of bowls hierarchy are a long way from what and how other sport coaches are recognized so as to operate to influence culture.

Mack Browne was the head coach of the renowned college football team, Texas Longhorns, for fifteen years with a win / loss record of 158/48. That is a 75% success rate.

In response to the question....how do you deal with the talented but disruptive player....his response was.....each team can afford to have one arsehole, and that's gotta be me.

He did not deal with these types 24/7 because his view was these players take 80% of your energy and give less than 20% of what you need from them.

Paul Roos, AFL premiership coach, introduced and applied a 'no dickheads' policy for his victorious team. All these years on that team still has that policy as a fundamental.

Alastair Clarkson, another AFL premiership coach had a policy variation called FIFO- fit in of F off.

In bowls clubs the coach is not given authority or permission to address culture.

At club level the coach provides a service to those seeking such. Hence at the higher level of bowls, where skillful club bowlers are selected for representation, these bowlers have never experienced a proper sports coach in bowls.

A coach that can pursue the Browne, Roos or Clarkson examples for the good of the team.

As coach you need to experiment, stimulate, set the intensity, collaborate (especially with squad members) so as to know what works, what does not, and reinforce what works, currently.

Website column www.lachlantighebowls.com
Culture seen through the coach

I believe Alex Ferguson, MU football manager, was cited as saying he seldom had an original idea, but borrowed the best ideas going to use with MU.

He also sought players who fitted into what works.

Within bowls I don't see us having that luxury until the coach is given the authority and responsibility to steer such character culture with full blessing from the club, association hierarchy.

Hope to see that move someday in bowls in the future.

Lachlan Tighe, 2022.