

## *Respect - A Zoom Presentation For fellow Coaches 2020*

Gary (Lasky), the BV Sandbelt region coaching director, asked me to give an opinion on the topic of respect for coaches as part of his series of zoom presentations in 2020.

This zoom presentation attracted approximately 100 viewers.

Respect - an accolade some coaches crave.

Is it a question of how you want to be seen, or how you are seen?

One part of that question seems precious, the other is perception and respect.

I ask myself, and I did so with Gary, why must this topic, respect for coaches, get an airing.

For years numerous bowls coaches have expressed to me their discontent with fellow bowlers who do not give them the regard, the respect, they think is their entitlement.

Once again in the recent zoom meeting Gary held in September 2020, I heard the lament, from a coach, that as a coach he wanted to know how to get or gain respect;

I get tired, irritated, by that monotonous refrain from coaches about not being respected.

Get over it. Some of the bowls coaches I've met over the years are the sort of coaches I wouldn't go near at any time.

Gee, even last week I heard a variation on the respect factor this from a bowler saying many bowlers objected to the coach not making an approach to them as players to assist them. Feeling being coaches should go to bowlers to guide them not players going to bowlers.

Early 2019 I approached the winners of both the regional fours and regional pairs and said I was happy to coach them weekly for the next four months for the forthcoming state titles and laid down the conditions upon which I would take on the role.

No sense waiting for bowlers to approach you.

**Coaching presentation on Zoom**  
**Topic- respect**

I was preparing to get stuck into this zoom presentation on the topic of respect when I had a call from my mate Dave Cameron, located in NSW and a member of my bowls squad, and involved in bowls from club to international level. Our chat was wide ranging about bowls.

But one of his comments floored me, that a finding from BA directed research by LaTrobe university, that a major reason for bowlers not staying in bowls was due to the lack or absence of a coaching service to assist player development.

By that it was meant coaches only did, and were only able to do, the basic introduction stuff; so any motivated new bowler with the commitment to take their bowls further was on their own after the initial technical fundamentals were offered as a coaching service.

And an added reason for developing bowlers leaving our sport was the times offered by coaches were only suitable if you were retired. More often than not developing bowlers still work and cannot access the club till early evening.

Remember this information comes from research done for HO. From that source of research knowledge, I say we get what we give.

Let me use the word respect as an acronym with three examples for each of the seven letters in the word respect and see what the letters RESPECT do to describe what it is that I feel makes you, me, us and other coaches likely to be respected in our role as a coach:

- R     Right up to speed with our coaching skill,  
      Reviews their coaching performance annually where possible,  
      Rewards effort, reprimands mediocrity in players.
  
- E     Energetic in the role as coach,  
      Excited and effusive about coaching players, teams,  
      Effective in what they offer to players and teams they coach.
  
- S     Sets standards to make players better, successful and satisfied,  
      Seen as a source of bowls and sporting knowledge,  
      Someone who can transfer knowledge / experience / belief to bowlers.

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- P Plans well, professionally, punctual for every training session,  
Provides a purpose for every session,  
Professional approach to that coaching role is noted by others within  
bowls.
- E Earns respect by deeds and actions, and players seeking them out,  
Eager to learn more about better coaching to assist players,  
Excellence is a byword to their approach.
- C Communicates to people / players in a personable manner,  
Commits to the players they coach,  
Connects to whoever and whatever can make them a better coach.
- T Trusts others and is trusted by others,  
Teaches, not dictates, nor directs,  
Trains players to develop their technical, tactical and team skills.

So I used the letters in the word RESPECT as an overview for some qualities, attributes I would expect to observe watching anyone coach.

Just one thing, no one has to like your coaching other than you.

Danny Simmons, as a colleague in my bowls squad, talked about a philosophy in his September zoom session and he expressed his philosophy to we viewers as:

“Well I always consider my goal statement as part of my annual coaching review. It doesn’t change much each year.

“But no doubt it is a statement that drives me...and reads thus,  
***I want my coaching to mean something to me, to players I coach, to the sport of bowls.***”

And guess what? Players can feel that emanating from my body and soul because I certainly can.

**Lachlan Tighe, 2021**