

Decision Making = Strategy Planning

I once attended an Institute of Sport coaching seminar with the theme being ‘Tactical Analysis’ covering strategic consideration such as style of play, game plans, offensive and defensive principles, team rules, game analysis to evaluate performance, assessment of opposition and the implementation of strategy (decision making) within the coaching program.

I found the principles and content very much applied to bowls as it is the translation from the other sports that we force our thinking to go forward on performance and coaching.

I interpreted one comment from a presenter to be that coach training (for elite groups Bowls squads) needs a greater emphasis on strategy (decision making) in game settings with technical and fitness skill being important but lower emphasis in the program.

I would add that mental skill training is imperative too in all the coaching sessions we bowls coaches conduct.

For example the incident I noted in an interstate event the sheer presence, no dominance, of one state skipper (aptly called the General by my fellow spectator) who was allowed to impose herself on the ‘field of battle’ without the opposition skipper doing anything to physically present herself to contend with that imposing ‘General’. That is an area of mental toughness that has to be trained. Trained if you are the general, trained if you are the one facing such a general.

And in the pairs event I observed how one (bowls) pair displayed a ...walk all over them feeling... simply by my seeing the other pair not wanting to present a presence when at the head, so giving an impression to spectators (and remember your opponents and teammates are all spectators too), that one team was in winning mode just because of the air of confidence they displayed in their physical manner.

Lachlan Tighe website
Tactic menu: decision making is planning strategy

There is no value in having the best technical skill around if decision-making (skill) is not equal to the technical skill. So one team appears better planned, more intent on knowing their roles, tactically skilled and aware of the value of a physical presence being an indicator of a mental skill developed.

And with those other superior skills it comes through more often than not in results.

Lachlan Tighe, 2020

Attitude: all about practising habits
No Limits