Taking Responsibility

In bowls, two groups of people need to take (far greater) responsibility; selectors and team skips.

I should include head coaches as a third group. Responsibility is crucial for success at the highest level of our sport, bowls.

If you hold one of these three positions, responsibility comes in the form or factor of accepting it, choosing to take it, for your thoughts, actions and your role, your commitment to the these forms and factors rises and so does your performance.

Where you are ordered or directed or told or expected to be responsible and you do not accept it, your performance does not rise, necessarily.

Blame & skips in bowls teams

When the skip gives direction and as a player we take the action as asked but it fails, what do we do?

Blame the skip, of course.

They had the responsibility. I saw the delivery differently, yet conceded to the skip call and he fluffed it. I was never convinced about their call and so my delivery was half hearted to say the least.

The blame game has two sides. Selectors listen to team skips. The skip races to the selector (bit like a confessional) and blames you for your inadequacy, incompetency and divisiveness. You're out mate.

Dictatorial skips are often abrasive in nature and hyper-critical, maybe even hyper sensitive. Poor souls. But, good at the blame game; when in doubt lash out. And they are thus so because with these skips it is not about the team, it is about their self perception and the team is a reflection of them, their success and if unsuccessful, well it has to be one of the other three players, surely!

How can skips provide choice and shared responsibility?

In the midst of competition, simple positive behavior such as soliciting a response from the player on the mat, to whit…what do you see?

In an ideal team, where we had an agreed game plan and our role in that plan prior to starting the event, the player on the mat, who is about to deliver, has to remember what that plan was, his contribution and the subsequent decision they make should be (quickly) based on that context, not, his desire to be the sole hero with this next delivery.

Let's see selectors take responsibility to secure skips that display relevant responsibility.

Lachlan Tighe, 2018