

Situation Awareness SA, again

Question:

Hi Lachlan, it is Casper again. Thanks for explaining situation awareness recently. Does situation awareness ever apply to the playing of the bowl?

Response:

Hello Casper, you are a glutton for punishment and thanks.

Anyway, yes to your question, guaranteed. Two examples of Situation Awareness SA, again from me observing the competitors at the 2017 AO in Broadbeach.

1 Same length:

One team I knew set out to play a particular length whenever winning the mat. I noted one end where having won the mat they chatted quickly and placed the mat that same length where they won the previous end, a length different from their regular length. Observing their decision I felt it was because they had 6/8 bowls in the head to the opposition 1/8 even though the shots won was only one. Reasoning behind the decision: if they get 6:1 ratio of effective bowls in the head, chances are they may pick up multiple shots one end at this length.

2 Unkind hand

Greens for the 2017 AO ran superbly given the rain downpours, yet sometimes a rink was fiercely narrow on one side. One game I witnessed the skip calls took little heed of this narrow factor, limitation, and called players to draw that hand, supposedly with an outcome of drawing around a head of earlier delivered bowls for shot bowl. What happens, bowls delivered stays out at jack high anywhere from a mat length to a metre wide of the jack. Here, SA is the skip if wanting to call the narrow hand not as a draw delivery which they know will hang out but as a delivery using the weight that will get a favourable outcome (not the shot yet at this stage).

Casper, here then is a first hand observation of players in competition. We can all do this if we stop simply watching the bowls as spectators.

Lachlan Tighe, 2017