

# **Debriefing Pennant Performance**

Here in the state of Victoria we have what is called club pennant, where a club fields sides of 16 players to oppose other clubs. A large club might have 6 sides spread from a skill level called division one down to division ten. It is in this context I offer the following article.

## **A process that should apply for the Club top two 2 sides**

(As a respected club, you do rink debriefs once you have entertained the opposition guests and they have departed your club.)

### **Preamble**

It is imperative as fair dinkum members that you always review pennant performance, sometimes even wins hide sins. How else can we together steer for the future.

My idea for each and every one of the four in the rink is to:

- Listen to the other three.
- Contribute an opinion or statement on yourself and the other three.
- Do ONE ranking on the performance on each of you who played today.

### **Statistics- purpose for keeping them**

My prime purpose is to use stats. When the rink meets after each segment (say ends 5, 10, 15) to gauge what we are doing and the strategy to employ for the next segment with a view to winning. Of course, their added value is to assist in the review of our personal and rink performance after the game.

Question is, who records the stats. The lead can record them with the second and third sharing a view on the accuracy of the record as you do each end. Maybe the skip can signal deliveries that are ML to assist; now all are involved in our effort; discuss as a side, decide as a rink.

### **Statistics recorded of mat length (ML) / effective bowls**

Stats are a prime guide, but not the only measure in rating performance. For the top two club sides the ML / effective delivery aim at all playing lengths as we start the season would be for a:

Front end team, Lead & second EACH to acquire    —  33% which is 14/42 deliveries.  
Back half team, third & skip EACH to acquire       —  30% which is 12/42 deliveries.

Where the player in the position reaches that % / delivery score, I would say on this basis they are rating at performance level 4/10, described below, then subject to other considerations (measurable objectives & observable behaviours) as discussed within the rink.

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(NB \_ A draw bowl that finishes behind the head, yet just beyond a ML is of great value to us, BUT it is not within a ML and, thus is not given a tick score; same as a bowl asked to be a metre into the head yet is delivered 3 metres over and gets a result – it is not a tick as the delivery was not at the weight sought. Subjective, agreed, but intended to ensure we can deliver what is asked of us long term).

(NB \_ The shot result of the delivery is not the measure, it is the skill of the delivery that is the focus.)

### **Guideline to have your Rink discussion**

#### **Priority comments**

- What was one thing you did well today? Now, having explained that, allow each of the others to tell you one thing they thought you did well today. All four of you do this full process.
- What is one thing you can improve on from today? Having explained this, now allow each of the others to make a comment on one thing you can improve on from today. All four of you do this.
- Rink discussion - what did we set out to achieve today (game plan) and how did it go?
- Rink discussion - why did we win (important to know so dwell on it), or lose?
- Rink decision - now, do the performance rating for you four players to be handed to selectors?

#### **Secondary comments**

(Time or interest permitting)

- What do we do / change / improve individually or collectively to succeed in future?
- What did we learn about today's opponents?

#### **Player Performance Rating**

I prescribe these numbers / definitions to reflect the rating of a player's game performance:

1-2 = no good; 3 = just a game; 4 = OK for today, 5-6 = solid, good; 7 = very good; 8-9 = exceptional; 10 = perfect.

(NB \_ Players rated today 1-3 need supervision at training as this standard cannot continue too long; rated 4-6 keep developing and training; those 7 + we need to ensure the other teammates come up to meet your level: if you are one rated 7 +, you can help nurture fellow team members.)

Examples of **measurable objectives** beyond those ML / effective delivery % stats:

- Rink to win a minimum 9/21 ends
- Lead to deliver jack to prescribed length 80% time
- Lead / Second to have 2/4 bowls effective 11/21 ends
- Rink losses kept to a maximum of 3 shots
- Rink to keep game loss to singles figures (< 10 shots)

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- Number of ends played at certain lengths – min / med / max.
- Our side to win every home game
- Game divided into segments, eg. ends 5/10/15 or 6/12/18 and rink meetings held.

Examples of **observable behaviours** influencing player performance rating:

Team skills

- Team spirit / support of each player
- Positivity level of any player

Mental skills

- Concentration / focus / distraction levels of any one player
- Anxiety / frustration level / demeanour - of any one player

Tactical skills

- Tactical nous / decisions of skip, third
- Communication / calls of skip, third

Club pennant players:

Your performance, your honesty at rink meetings, application at training, and having a personal commitment in developing your skill influences selection, not your desire to be selected.

## **Lachlan Tighe 2017**

### **Postscript          Selection**

#### **Article #1 AFL All Australian team announcements this week**

Sam Mitchell gets selected half back flank in All Australian team though if he had a preference would prefer midfield position; Jarryd Roughhead wins the AFL goalkicking award, gets selected ruck / forward pocket in All Australian team though he would prefer to play as a permanent forward. Neither player gives the position selected a second thought - they got chosen in the top team in AFL.

#### **Article #2 Lincoln & Grant in the final stages of winning the US Civil War, 1864**

Lincoln on Grant, who in 1860 was no longer in the army having only been a lieutenant, about Grant's stature in 1864 where he is now the Union Commander in Chief determining the war for the US. It is men who wait to be selected, (while still displaying and fostering their skills) and not those who seek, from whom we may always expect the most efficient service.