

Situation Awareness, SA, Explained.

Question:

Hello Lachlan:
My name is Casper. You have made a few references to the term 'situation awareness' for bowlers competing in events. Can you explain what that means please?

Response:

Hello Casper:
Situation awareness (SA). Simply, being aware of what (else) is going on beyond watching the bowl roll down the green toward the head.

A few examples I have observing the 2017 Australian Open in Broadbeach this June.

One _ A fours team had an underperforming lead who showed his heightened anxiety by loudly expressing his discontent in verbal negativity. In fact you could hear him tell his team, firstly not to pick up his bowls, then, when they didn't, he berated them for not at least kicking them closer to the mat for him. Prickly to say the least.

If that team wanted to get to finals contention they had to do something about his (disruptive) contribution. I reckon they had to get together and challenge him to be a better team contributor both with his bowls and importantly, his demeanor. And let go being a cantankerous individualist.

Two _ Opposing pairs teams, both with two wins and their contest to decide the section winner. Team ONE lead immediately, in the warm up end, displays his dissatisfaction with the miserable wet cold windy conditions. (Those of us who played the AO those days when it was like this would agree, stiff mate.) After the very first end of this game there is a prolonged delay due to a downpour and Team ONE lead continues to deplore having to compete at all.

Team TWO lead hears all this yet talking to that team after their (losing) game he declined to share that observation with his skip during the game. They may have been able to alter the tempo of the game, staying out longer in these conditions, changing the process of the game, the attack on the mental toughness of the ONE lead.

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In fact the TWO lead may have lacked the toughness being aware, but not being accountable to advise the skip. Team ONE won, team TWO, though aware of the situation made no decision which is a decision, inaction.

In sharing this insight with the TWO team skip was unaware of the ONE lead attitude so how much situation awareness did he have, though in his defence he is 30 metres away. Or is that a defence, as you have all your senses to use to be in “situation awareness’ mode.

Hope the AO examples demonstrate what SA is from my view.
Thanks for asking.

Lachlan Tighe, 2017