International Level Measures

I use the words 'mat length' (**ML**) as my core measure and defined its dimensions and showed both the visual and audible effect of it and the link to skip strategies and directional calls.

Why do I refer to **ML** here in HP?

Well if the perfect shot is the resting toucher, for example, then **ML** is a reflection of HP where we aim for perfection and in just falling short of that achieve excellence. **ML** is approximately one revolution of a bowl from perfection. Because it is only ONE revolution:

Short of perfection
Beyond perfection
Narrow of perfection
Wide of perfection

and thus **ML** is essentially = EXCELLENCE as an outcome.

Postscript - while coaching in Alberta, Canada, in August I had used and applied the ML. One wag, Dene, said he was watching some supposed good bowlers and he felt their interpretation of my concept was a…mattress length.

As we laughed we recognised the self-deception of players and their measured abilities.

Examples of international level measures

1.Canadian National squad - Measuring Delivery skill performance from 10 attempts:
Scoring was done by the number of deliveries ending within 'Mat Length' (ML) of delivery being attempted at the minimum length RH forehand.

Types of delivery, (10 attempts all each)	Total bowled	Total effective	BC Ave. %	BC Ave. /10	BC 'pb'
1 Draw	720	324	45	4.5	10
2 Wrest out toucher	120	14	11	1.1	4
3 Add a yard past jack	400	115	28	2.8	7

Samples of measured delivery skills at international level

4 Trail – hide it	150	15	10	1	4
5 Yard on / over shot	120	31	25	2.5	6
6 2-yard on / over shot	100	18	18	1.8	5
7 Drive	450	193	43	4.3	9
8 Firm up shot swinger	100	36	36	3.6	8
9 Draw to ditch, ML	490	108	22	2.2	6
10 Resting toucher	190	5	2	0.2	4
Total	2840	859	240	2.4	4

The first session 1,800 bowls were delivered; session two another 1,040 bowls delivered totalling 2,840 bowls delivered and assessed for the table above.

2.Malaysia national squad,
Survey of 3,600 bowls deliveries on choice of playing lengths and the difference of elite bowlers to club level bowlers:
At minimum length, difference was   2.8/ 10 deliveries
At medium length, difference was   1.3/ 10 deliveries
At maximum length, difference was   3/10 deliveries
Showing less difference at medium length. And shows the folly of playing medium length. You bring lesser skilled players into the contest.

3. Elbows Squad Measuring performance (score out of 10 attempts):
The purpose:
For Rating to establish a standard to gauge skill / consistency for all shots at the two extreme playing distances of minimum and maximum length. Below is the 'pb' level for each delivery as measured by the best performance from the squad over a period of a decade.
Scoring is done by the number of deliveries ending within **'Mat Length' (ML)** of delivery attempted at the distance indicated below; best recorded scores are within the table.

The alternate hand columns are blank as we never did get to experiment with that skill.

19 Types of delivery (10 attempts each deli very)	Min. Length B/H	Min. Length F/H	Min Length Alt. Hands	Max. Length B/H	Max. Length F/H	Max. Length Alt. Hands
Jack	10	n/a	n/a	8	n/a	n/a
Draw	10	10		10	10	
Draw to ditch	9	9			6	
Wrest out toucher	4	5		3	3	
Add a yard	7	6		8	8	
Trail shot	4	4		3	3	
Trail shot-hide it	4	3		2	4	
Yard on shot	7	7		6	5	
2 yard on shot	5	6		5	4	
Firm shot						
Firm shot, stay	5	6		5	6	
Drive	9	9		7	8	
Push short bowl ML						
Resting touchers						
Plug/ Block entry		4		1		
Widen head jack high		5		4		
Caterpillar						
Caterpillar opposition						
Set play skills						
Draw jack spot right	9	8		9	8	
Draw jack spot left	8	8		7	7	

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