

Tactics Explanations

The coaching and training of bowls tactics and mental skills too, need to be explored further and I think of Commonwealth Games 2018 incidents in many bowls events to reinforce this need in bowls.

Some of the causes for the losing results from the Games recently held, were an outcome of (frequently) poor decision making.

I can feel Robbie Dobbins, Games gold medallist and former national bowls coach, on my shoulder, shuddering when he ever thought of the inferior decision making skills of national squad players. Readers, remember Rob was national coach for four bowls countries.

Poor decision making may be a consequence of emotional overload (mental skill) at perceived times of stress or an absence of a winning game plan (tactical skill), which meant maybe minimizing losses, when the wheels of the team / player are going through a shaky period of the event. Or in some cases at the Games when the team was doing so well as front runners, the players lowered their intensity and brought on the loss.

A few illustrious world bowlers have told me over the years that other (elite level) bowlers still do not make informed decisions such as taking opportunities the instant they appear. Guess what? They (opportunities) might disappear the very next delivery, which turns out bad news for us as a team.

I shall use our domestic winter period this year to explore some training ideas with a handful of premier league bowlers with a view to finding a better approach to tactical & mental skills training as part of my coaching development when the season resumes in six months.

What I shall explore in these training sessions over winter, knowing what I viewed as the flaws in elite players at the Games 2018, will be these:

A generic game plan if there is such a thing,
Reading a head: The perfect head,
What contingency plans has the Skip when it is not working for the team,
When is the time (ends complete) in the game to use the contingency plans,
What if the lead is floundering, Skip?
What if the second is floundering, Skip?
What if the third is floundering, Skip?
What if you as the skip are floundering?
Early decisions when the opportunity arises,
Skip calls workshop - time limits to enhance precise, firm yet positive instructions,
Skip calls workshop - best use of the lead in simulated heads,
Skip calls workshop - best use of the 2nd in simulated heads,

Website menu: Tactics
Topic- what are game tactics

Skip calls workshop - best use of the 3rd in simulated heads,
Short ends advantages - into mid green,
Short ends advantages - up green at minimum,
Definition and application of maximum length: jack & bowls
block bowls - skill and timing,
Minimizing losses to two shots per any end,
Gain & maintain: don't be greedy - investing in the front end
foundation,
Play the opponent's hand even when holding,
How are we using deliveries 4-6 in the fours event,
Wilson, Marshall & Foster compete generally at approx. 27m.,
Get the hotshot draw bowler as lead, not skip,
Get the energizer, strategist & people manager as skip to steer the
team.

Lachlan Tighe, 2018