

Skip Skills, Attributes

Skip the 'leader' within the bowls team

SELECTORS: Your role in choice of skips, especially at elite level is hire the inspired and inspire the hired (right person, right position).

(‘Leader’ my acronym to describe concisely a snapshot of an ideal team skip).

Leadership:

The best skips are those marshaling their team, using their team members and their skills as tools to success, giving the teammates their opportunity to amaze us as a team, to inspire fellow teammates, rather than a skip leading by being a pacesetter who never allows others ‘in on the action’.

They Generate a game plan for the team (members) to prepare at training.

Exemplary:

Sporting behaviour,
Commitment to excellence - winning mindset, history, intensity at training.

A person in whom the team trusts - honest, consistent, supportive
Technical skill proficiency at the competition level,
composure in pressure periods of play.

Analytical:

Takes in information.
Objectives and process set to compare during the game,
Team skills, conditions, length, hand, scoreboard, player behaviours,
Uses sensory attributes and skills,
Uses sporting brain as a sifter mechanism,
Game plan application is the prime focus.

**Selection of skips
What to look for**

Decision maker:

Trained, planned, instinctive, clear, positive,
Trouble shooting in the heat of battle: maintaining, chasing, attacking, defending, momentum.
Adaptable: game plan fluid in case losing. Alters players behavior to better performance.

Energiser:

Energizer for and of the team,
Maximizing player skill contributions,
Uses both body muscles and brain in a relaxed manner.

Responsible, Accountable:

In control of the team,
Inclusive but decisive,
A willingness to share responsibility with the team, but accept full and sole accountability,
A preparedness to challenge and confront those players who are passive or not being part of the team.

Team success - Leadership

'Athlete assessment' source for the research

- 36% more team development programs with winners than opponents
- 60% unsuccessful teams had leaders with an inability to work as a member of the team (skips or others in 4s team would be our bowls parallel)
- Prime reason felt for the failure of these team leaders was due to their lack of clarity and what they are expected to do, their own goal, their teams goal (overcome to a degree in bowls if a game plan and roles are spelt out).
- 9% said teams failed due to a lack of technical ability.
- Summary - successful teams and organisations know their success is due to the functioning and efficiency of, and within, the team. And leadership is of paramount importance to that success.

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