

## **Tactics and the Game of Bowls for Competition and Pennant Players**

1. At least 60% of games are won on clear thinking with successful tactics.
2. Do not at any time divulge your tactics with your opposition – CARELESS TALK COSTS GAMES!!
3. Watch for players who are inclined to favour one hand.
4. A time may come to force them on to the other hand – but only under instructions from your Skip.
5. In most cases, your opposition is only as strong as you allow them to be.
6. Don't be inclined to give praise to your opposition during a game. If warranted, do so after the game.
7. NEVER turn your back on a bad bowl.
8. Forget the Bad bowls as they are history.
9. In most cases a bad bowl is due to lack of concentration.
10. When not holding shot, always endeavour to draw the second shot.
11. Winning bowls is all about playing the percentage shot.
12. Remember – there is a time to take a risk.
13. There are of course times *not* to take a risk.
14. At all times try and keep the opposition bowls covered in case the jack is moved – valuable information from Third to Skip.
15. Avoid being short if the shot is against you, as the best ammunition you can give is a bowl through the head.
16. *Never* drive if you only have one bowl in the head, as the odds are against you.
17. It is important that the Lead roll the jack to where the Skip requires it, as a bad length can sometimes allow the opposition back into the game.
18. If the Lead can draw his/her two bowls near the jack, he/she therefore makes a positive contribution for the team, plus building the confidence of other team members.
19. The Skip must at all times consider the overall score and the number of ends played, plus the overall position.
20. On a draw shot, remember you always take the same line whether it is a short or long end.
21. Never approach the mat with a particular shot in mind; at all times await instructions from your Skip.
22. Always remember, that *no* bowl is ever in the draw if you take the right grass.
23. If you are a third and cannot see the shot asked for; then ask the Skip for permission to examine the head.
24. In many cases the head reads differently from the opposite end.
25. In the event of a close measure, always declare as to what you think and then let the opposition measure.
26. *Never* declare the shots you are holding until the opposition bowl has come to rest.
27. Encourage your own team members at all times.

28. Remember that 72% of draw bowls finish across the head line, so therefore it is necessary to take green at all times.
29. It is far better to be a foot wide than a foot narrow. Wide bowls nearly always fall towards the centre line, narrow bowls fall away.
30. From time to time we can all do with some advice on improving our bowls performance.
31. No matter how well we play the game, there are always elements we can improve on.
32. A good bowlers performance is based simply from:

**DEDICATION - CONCENTRATION - DETERMINATION** plus the will to win at all times