

### The Lead

The lead position is a very important position but seldom recognised as such – in the higher grades the lead becomes more important because a good lead will set up the game for those following behind.

The Lead's first duty is to place the mat and roll the jack as close as possible to what the Skip indicates.

Next, the Lead should attempt to place their two bowls as close as possible to the jack or at least in a scoring zone so that they may be used by the players to follow.

This can only be achieved by regular quality practise, a good Lead will, as a rule, spend some practise time on their own without distraction. In this practise time they should have at least 10 ends rolling 5 jacks to pre-determined lengths, this to be followed by a number of ends practise with 2 bowls only and on one side of the green, meaning 2 down on the backhand and 2 back on the forehand.

Leads do not have to have flat touchers – bowls in the head is a good start. The ideal situation is one on the jack and one behind (every Skip's wish).

Lead's short bowls are a killer in any game, if the Lead drops their first bowl short it is imperative that the second bowl reaches or passes the jack even if it is over-weight.

A good Lead will be compatible with their team mates, will be involved in the game at all times by picking up bowls for their own players, by giving encouragement and not criticising other team members.

### The Second

It is often said that the Second is the most important position in the team, it certainly does carry extra duties as in keeping a neat score card and making sure the scoreboard is updated each alternate end.

During the game a Second often becomes the second lead if the Lead has failed, this means the Second needs to be a competent and reliable draw bowler with the confidence to be able to draw a shot or at least place their bowls in the scoring zone.

The Second will at all times be called to play varying weight shots, anything from 1 metre, 3 metres, 5 metres or even ditch weight, it is essential for the Second to practise these shots as a drill. It is quite okay to use 4 bowls for such drills but it must be remembered to finish the session by returning to 2 bowl draw practise.

A good Second will be compatible with their team mates, will be involved in the game at all times by handing bowls to their own players, by giving encouragement and not criticising other team members.

### The Third

This position requires a person of many talents, besides being an experienced bowler, they must be able to build a working relationship with the Skip that takes the form of a partnership, and their ultimate compatibility will greatly enhance the team's chance of success.

## Know Your Position - Continued

Other important things a Third should know and do:

- Have a good knowledge of the rules
- Maintain control at their end
- Watch for verbal tactics by opponents
- Do not allow negative comments from the Lead or Second
- Do not offer advice to the Skip unless asked
- Make sure their communication is loud and clear
- Do measure all close shots
- Do not go near the head when an opponent is in control of the mat
- If unsure of the situation, seek advice from team mates or ask the Skip to have a look at the head

In general play the Third will be called to play various shots, draw to add, draw to save, draw to position, draw to block, play varying weight shots as directed and drive when needed. When called to play any shot requested by the Skip the Third should attempt this without dispute.

A good Third will be compatible with their team mates and encouraging at all times.

The Third like other team members will need to replicate game situations for their pennant practise.

### The Skip

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| <b>Ability</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• draw to save</li><li>• draw to the jack</li><li>• good weight player</li><li>• control players</li></ul>  |
| <b>Compatibility</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• with all players</li></ul>  |
| <b>Direction</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• call shots on percentage</li><li>• avoid changing hands</li><li>• aim to get bowls in the head</li><li>• clear calls</li></ul>                        |
| <b>Encouragement</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• all players at all times</li><li>• especially when a player is struggling</li><li>• to be team players</li><li>• to be involved</li></ul>             |
| <b>Communication</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• talk to all players throughout the game</li><li>• involve players in game plan discussions</li><li>• involve players in after game analysis</li></ul> |
| <b>Game Planning</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• develop a game plan</li><li>• encourage players to assist with the plan</li><li>• be flexible</li><li>• be prepared to modify</li></ul>               |
| <b>Respect</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• respect all people involved with Bowls</li><li>• respect opposition for both skill and luck</li></ul>   |

- Leadership**
- by example
  - treat others the same as you would like to be treated
- Knowledge**
- all of the abovementioned points
  - the Golden Rules :
    - ✓ Bowls in head nothing behind
    - ✓ Do not pack heads
    - ✓ Avoid bad hand
    - ✓ Do not call bowls to dangerous situations
  - the rules of the Game
  - your player/s bowls
  - your players strengths
  - you players weaknesses
  - how to build a head
  - how to suss out your opponent
- Emotion Control**
- good body language
  - verbal encouragement
  - do not put team members down
- Confidence**
- instil confidence in your team
  - show confidence even when down
- Belief**
- believe in your team mates
  - believe in yourself

### Positional Play

During a game you may be asked to play a positional bowl. It seems a simple thing to do, but in reality it is seldom well executed. The idea behind playing a positional bowl is for it to finish at a designated spot, for example, to cover a back bowl or to be in a desired position in the event of the jack being moved.

During the course of the game a dangerous situation may occur when the opposition has a number of bowls in the head and you need to get one of your bowls amongst them to prevent the opposition from obtaining a multiple score. A well executed positional bowl is a must and to be able to do this successfully you must practise such a shot during your training sessions. Games are often lost because of the lack of a much needed positional bowl. The Director must remain constantly aware of any possible changes to the head and request positional bowls to be played.

Most positional bowls asked for are back bowls. How often do you see these bowls finish in the ditch, wide of the head or short of the head because the team player has not given enough thought to the execution of the shots to be played. Having at least one back bowl is crucial, particularly if you are holding shot/s and you are playing against an attacking opponent.

As you play a position bowl, think of yourself drawing to an imaginary jack. Remember that it is DRAW weight and that you may need to adjust your aiming line and foot placement on the mat if the target position is off centre. Concentrate on the task at hand and do not rush the shot. A director can help the player by being positive in indicating where they wish the bowl to come to rest, and always acknowledging the player's effort. The player is doing his best and it does help team morale.

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## **Know Your Position - Continued**

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Some directors can become greedy for shots by asking the player to "draw me another" instead of asking for a covering bowl particularly if the opponent has one more bowl to play. How often do you see a poor result when holding shot and the last bowl played is unintentionally narrow and across the head. Staying wide of the head when you are holding shot is the best option. Above all never underestimate you opponent's capability.

Always expect the unexpected.

### **Participant's Notes**