

COACHING 'BIAS'

Southland's Peter Carnie, a part-time coach conducted a coaching session in South Otago earlier this year, and shares his summary of the session.

Likes

Meeting new people, learning new skills, social contact, competition, competitive and always challenging,
the company the sport provides, mixed sport, good sportsmanship, admire accuracy that can be achieved,
lot of skill and thinking involved, friendship, great company and friendly attitude

Dislikes

Hate playing at lead position forever, people who complain, lack of tolerance of some skips, grumpy skips (one club has two), when new to the game...competitive players don't offer advice, travelling distances to clubs and competitions, drawn games, people who are too competitive get mad and make discouraging comments, the odd poor sport, a really bad mat, not enough enjoyment, too much advice from sidelines
skips frowning or growling at a bad bowl being played, cold hall, when the jack goes off the mat, slow players, never being allowed to move on from lead, those that complain about better players, but aren't willing to take advice or look to improve themselves

It is helpful to have this feedback as a valuable tool to look back on, maybe clubs and coaches can address some of the 'dislikes' and introduce more of the 'likes'.

thanks for sharing thanks for sharing thanks for sharing

THANK YOU for your input into the group discussion session...you all did a great job with your contributions, refer below;

1.THE ROLE OF THE COACH?

a.What qualities should a good Coach have?

To be tolerant, help correct a bad technique, encouraging, help new players, help improve a bowler's skills, doing some drills rather than just the game itself, demonstrate what is required.

b.What are some of the barriers limiting participation in our sport?

- Work, personal situations, lack of time, travel distances for a lot of players to get to club & competition.
- Costs: Rep fees, fuel etc.
- Perception: Still an oldies sport
- Small clubs have closed, people don't want to travel further so some don't play anymore.
- Attitudes of some towards newer inexperienced players can be off putting, can cause panic and player doesn't want to play with that person anymore.
- More things available in society to do now, more choices.

c.If you are observing players what are some of the common faults and negative comments you hear while playing.

Not concentrating, too many players advising the skip, too many thirds on the sideline, take green, time watching, keep toes off the mat.

d.Draw a picture of where you see our sport today

Attitude that it is a sport for older people (Need to change)

Positive

Skill of young players, have warmer halls, make people feel welcome, be friendly, make it fun, diversity of games e.g. 2,4,2

Negative

Declining numbers, job situations, family situations, other sports to choose from, need to entice younger people into the game.

e.What new initiatives/opportunities could we try/pursue and use to increase participation.

- Rotate players within the team.
- Communication with new & existing players regarding the club environment & games.
- Pregame advice, coaching new players.
- Calendars for events within the club.
- Events being organized well for the evening (including club nights) no one enjoys waiting around.
- Club events and games not to go too late.
- Have a fun, friendly, welcoming atmosphere.
- Include new players in club competition.
- Support and coaching.

2.The Coach/Player/Observer was a great way of challenging ourselves in each role. Please continue to use this on Club night and with new players.

- Creating a new drill or activity provides something different of a Club night.
- Make it fun, interesting and engage everyone in learning a new skill.
- Be creative, use your imagination.
- We can always learn off others.
- When we look at changes in other sports, the overriding factor is change adds more excitement for spectators. It makes the game more interesting.
- Some notable ones are 20/20 Cricket....how many people are now in the stands for a 5-day test match compared to a 1 day International or a 20/20 match.
- The new format for the 3-5 Outdoor Bowls concept, faster boats in the Americas Cup, the profile darts has with music and fanfare of the tournament, the list goes on.

3.What can we change in our game to make it more interesting?

Discussion on the head situations created a lot of interest. It gave players debate over what shot was the best option. I feel we should do more of this, especially for the second-tier players who don't always skip. Maybe a 20/30-minute session could be arranged before a tournament start time. Set up some heads, if you can involve an experienced skip to give their opinion that is even better (like Robert did). Remember though, let groups have a discussion first and give their opinion. **Golden rule: engage everyone.**

Moving forward you have some talented people certainly capable of taking up a coaching role. Chris, Colleen or Gordon would be ably equipped to run a coaching session for your District and Clubs in your region. I certainly hope one of these people will take a leading role in your area. If there are future Coaching Sessions run by Sport Southland that I feel might be beneficial, I will forward those details to Chris by email.

Once again thank you for your input during the session.

Regards Peter



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UNLOCKING A PERSON'S
POTENTIAL TO MAXIMIZE
THEIR GROWTH**

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