

# Tactics and Game Plan Points

## Game Plan

The Game Plan is the approach to playing competitive bowls; obviously the Game Plan is supported by peak fitness, skill levels, knowledge of the game and good understanding of the Laws and Rules of the sport.

- Be fully aware of weather, green surface and playing conditions.
- Be confident and positive at all times.
- Focus on the game to be played.
- Be in full control of emotions and body language.
- Do not get upset when things don't go your way.
- Be patient, things do change in the course of the game.
- Make full use of roll up ends.
- Select and use best side of green.
- Play preferred length when in control of mat.
- Avoid changing hands unnecessarily.
- Avoid playing weighted shots early in the game.
- In the early ends work on getting feel of the green and making sure our technique is good and we are bowling with good rhythm.
- Avoid distractions.
- If being beaten, set small targets, example; trailing 5/15, set target to get to 10, once that is achieved, set new target, get to 15, and so on.
- Always respect your opposition, they can get you with good shots and they can get you with lucky shots, KEEP YOUR COOL!
- Bowls in the head and get a good second shot.

- Make careful and good shot selection decisions.
- Play percentage shots.
- Cover danger,
- Avoid losing more than 1 shot each end

All these points should be embedded in your mind, just like your technique, the points above should become natural to you during a game.

Study the points until you are confident you can take them into the game without having to think about each one.

You need to start the game Confident and Relaxed, with a strong Belief that you have prepared for this encounter.

## **Tactics**

Tactics are decisions made during the game particular situations. The following are some of the things that need to be considered.

- Shot Selection
- Risk Analysis
- Green and weather conditions
- Decision making
- Game score and end situation
- Number of ends to go
- Your strengths and weakness's
- Opponents strengths and weakness's

## Examples of some tactics;

- Slow the game if losing.
- Change the length if losing.
- Keep the mat at same length when winning.
- Subtle change of length of each end against inexperienced players.
- Draw to win on ends (or adding extra shot when opportunity occurs).
- Attack heads on short ends.
- Play same hand as opponent if getting beaten.
- Cover behind the head if consistently out drawing opponent.
- Anticipate opponent's next bowl, cover or beat them to it.
- If you hold one or more good shots, do not over pack the head and set up a target. Option draw on the other hand or play a position bowl.
- Play long ends into the wind, short ends with the wind.
- Play long ends against opponent's who have a short delivery step.
- Play short ends against opponent's who have a long delivery step