



TICK SYSTEM TRAINING SESSION January 2020

- When we have training sessions on various topics many of them turn into debates about our club's tick or scoring system. In this session it is not the intention to debate if we should have a bowls scoring system or not.
- Our objective is to simply train players, particularly Thirds and Skips, on when and why to record a tick. To gain the most benefits from the system it is very important that everyone is as consistent as possible on when and when not to tick.
- But we do acknowledge that many members have strong views such as:
 - Should we have any system of recording performance at all
 - Should we keep it but change it to make it easier to get a tick or,
 - Should we change it to a more complex system.
- The Pennant and Selection Committees have strong views supporting the current system. Some of which are summarised as follows:
 - Any system of recording and tracking performance is better than not having one at all. Otherwise it is very subjective and reliant on a lot of follow up and people's memory of how well each player bowled.
 - You are more likely to be less effective trying to manage achieving an objective, such as trying to improve your own bowling, if you do not measure your performance and trends over time.
 - A simpler and non-subjective tick recording system is more likely to be followed and implemented compared to a more complex tick system. The advantages of a more complex system, such as allowing a greater distance behind the Jack compared to in front or scoring conversion shots differently, do not necessarily outweigh the disadvantages of more complexity and subjectivity.
 - There are players who do not like to record ticks at all and players who think we should make changes that are likely to make it more complex, so we think we have the right balance with our current system.
 - We have many years of data that is extremely valuable in measuring individual and overall performance trends over time, so it is important that we maintain consistency.
 - The ticks are just one factor that selector's look at in picking players for sides and positions. Other factors would include: Actual game results, ability to roll the jack, ability to play different shots/hands/lengths, comradery, team support, positive nature, skill in shot selection, tactics and other feedback from Skips etc.)

- We are not going to debate if we should keep or modify our tick system. The Pennant Committee fully supports the current system and will not change it mid-season.
- If you have a strong opinion on change, then we ask that you put your recommendations in writing and submit to the Pennant Committee.
- We believe there is currently too much inconsistency in how the Skips are recording ticks. This is making the data less valuable, to both the selectors and players, and more difficult to compare trends for individuals and teams.
- Before we talk about when to tick or not, we think it may help if we cover off on some of the reasons that are sometimes given by some Skips for why they are different to others in how they tick:
 - Some Skips do not want to be negative and deflate players, so they inflate the ticks. Skips need to be aware that they are just fooling themselves and the players and distorting trends. This will make it difficult for the player to know if or when they are improving. Ticks should be recorded as accurately as possible. Skips should be truthful, but positive when discussing with players the tick results at the end of a game. Acknowledge that a bowl within a mat length is a challenging objective. Find something positive to say such as – “many of your bowls were just outside a mat length” or “Many of your bowls were behind the Jack” or “You have improved over last week” or “Well done on being a great supporting team player and having fun” or “Well done on a great job rolling the Jack” or anything else positive.
 - Some Skips like to give Ticks for shots that are outside a mat length but are behind the Jack by say up to a meter or for any shots that result in cutting back opposition shots, even when more than a mat away and so on. Once again Skips must accept the importance of having a single consistent and non-subjective performance recording system. It is harder to judge a metre length compared to a mat length or if the bowl is behind the Jack enough or if the conversion shot ends up close enough or not.
 - Some Skips believe ticks should be given for a favourable conversion shot (say going from 2 down to only 1 down or better), even if outside a mat length. But that is not necessarily a reflection of the player doing a good bowl, which is what the tick system is meant to be recording. If the Skip is doing a good job, the shots they request, if those shots are well executed, should give the best chance of the team winning the end. So please stick to recording ticks only if the bowl finishes one mat from designated target or misses an upshot by one bowl or less.
 - Some Skips record shots with say a circle if the bowl is just over a mat length away but still ends up in a good spot (say directly behind). At the end of the game the circles do not add into the ticks, so our scoring system is not distorted, but the Skip can say to the player “You scored 6 ticks today, and you had about 6 bowls (circles) that were good bowls that were close to or just behind the head. Well done.” This is a reasonable method. But anything more complicated than that has the potential of being a distraction and making it too hard to determine “true” ticks and therefore distorting our tick system.