

TIPS FOR SUCCESS – CHAPTER 3

This week's "Tips for Success" addresses one of the most important responsibilities we all have at one time or another during a game of lawn bowls, and that is the responsibility of assessing the score at the end of each end of bowls. While the very same important principals of process and courtesy apply to you and your opponent if you are playing a singles match, today we'll focus on the scoring process in the doubles game - and in doubles play the vital role of determining scoring once all bowls have been rolled in an end falls to our Lead partners.

The "process" of being able to determine score really begins before any bowls are rolled. As the two teams are gathered at the mat-end for the coin toss and customary pleasantries before the match begins, it is paramount that each of the Leads identify and remember his/her Skip's respective bowls (and vice-versa). This will aid the Lead in assessing the developing head as the end progresses and be able to signal to their Skip (only if requested) who has the shot, where it is, any other bowls of note, etc. Remember, communication between you and your playing partner (either way) can only occur when your team has the rink - ie., when one of you is on the mat.

So now to scoring. The process must be co-operative and before beginning Leads must be sure all bowls have been rolled. When you are ready to determine scoring, one of the Leads should always use a towel (decide between you), placed sufficiently far from the jack in a "neutral" area to the side or back of the head. This is particularly important when you have more than one scoring bowl - that way these are "separated" from the pool of bowls still under consideration and there is no doubt they have been counted. If you need to measure, one Lead can take charge, the other Lead carefully observe or help. Be decisive in your actions, agree (or not which might require a re-measure), and then signal at the end of the scoring assessment to your Skip - tapping towards your shoulder once for each point earned, or down on your thigh for each point lost.

One final note regarding courtesy. Although we earn each and every point we win, the other Lead must also acknowledge the score of the end to you, thus enabling you to accept the points earned. Just another small nuance that makes the game of lawn bowling so special.

See you on the green, Leslie