

BERKSHIRE BOWLS COACHING SCHEME

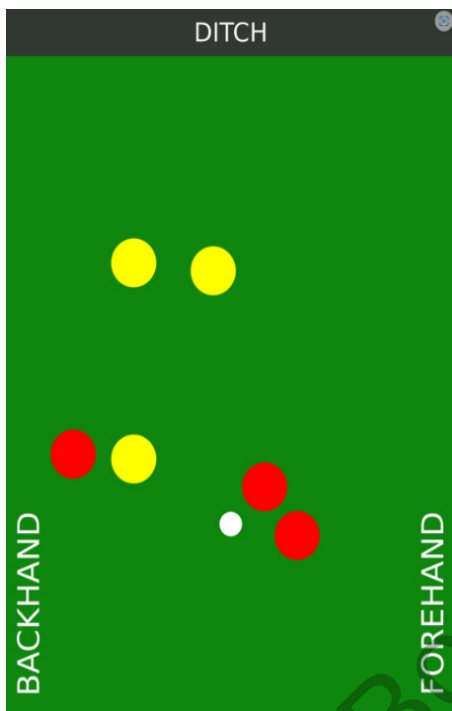
Reading the Head

Player and coach discussion handout

A Simple Reading Process

1. State the position: who holds shot and how many?
2. Identify the purpose: score, reduce, remove or cover.
3. Consider the options: Draw, Weighted and Cover.
4. Compare benefit and risk.
5. Choose the hand, target and finishing weight.
6. Commit, deliver and review.

Scenario 1 - Holding Two Shots



Situation: Red holds two shots but has no back bowls.

Draw: Opportunity to draw a third. Little danger from the opposition bowl behind, but jack movement could favour waiting bowls.

Weighted: May remove the opposition bowl and gain more shots, but a tight line could disturb the holding bowls.

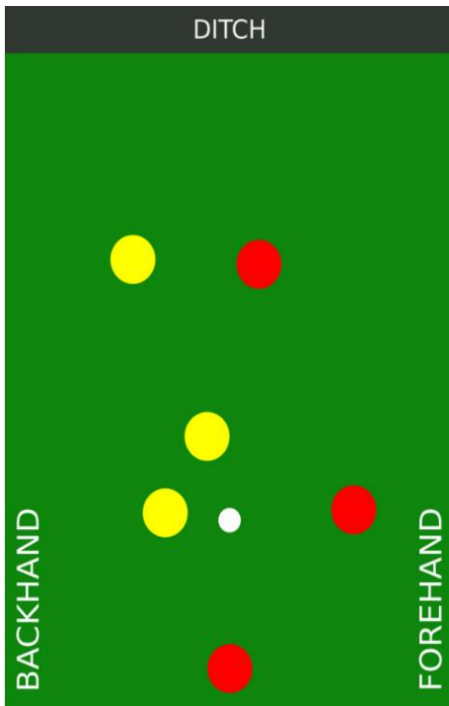
Cover: A bowl behind the head can protect against likely jack movement if the opponent attacks.

Discussion Question

Which option best fits the match situation, player ability and acceptable risk?

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Scenario 2 - Two Shots Down



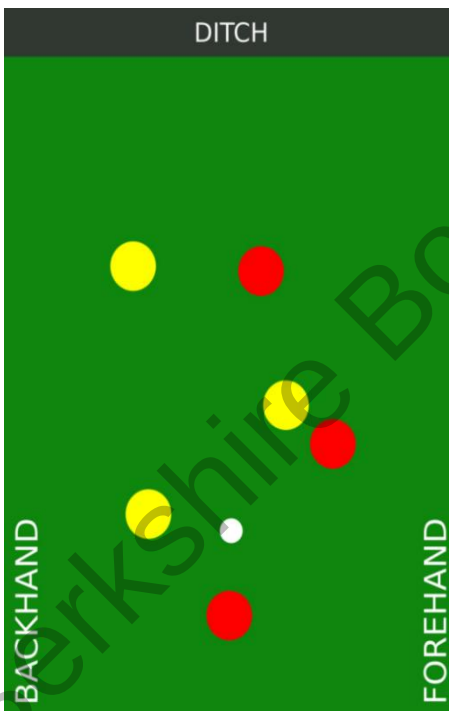
Situation: Yellow holds two shots. Red has one short bowl and one back bowl.

Draw: A draw or rest may gain the shot, but a miss can allow the opponent to add another.

Weighted: A controlled weighted shot may remove one or both counters or move the jack towards the back bowl.

Cover: No useful cover shot is apparent because the player is already down and the back position is partly covered.

Scenario 3 - Balanced Head



Situation: The shot is a measure. Both sides have strong second bowls and back bowls.

Draw: Possible, but the space is limited and jack movement may favour an opponent bowl.

Weighted: A slightly weighted shot may remove the nearest opponent bowl or promote the player bowl, but excessive weight can lose the head.

Cover: The back is already guarded, though further cover may reduce the effect of an opponent weighted shot.

Key Point

Reading the head has many elements, but the decision process should remain simple: understand what must be achieved, compare realistic options and commit to one clear shot.