

## The Role of the Skip

*The skip helps the players on his team enjoy the game at all levels of play! Every club has a few skips that shouldn't be because of the brutal way they 'lead' a team or one could say destroy a team. Know they are exceptions and strive to be fill the role of a skip with pride.*

Have you ever wondered at the way certain people bring out the best in others? Say, bosses, coaches, parents, teachers and SKIPS. They seem to possess a knack of inspiring people. This remarkable skill in the art of motivation makes them successful at almost everything they do.

Virtually everyone is called upon to inspire others in one situation or another. Almost everyone is capable of rising to the occasion because most often motivators are made, not born. The best leaders (in bowls, 'skips') are self-confident, treat others with respect, are good-humored and develop contagious enthusiasm in their teams. They smile a lot, seem to feel good about themselves and make others feel good, too.

There are simple rules that develop leadership mentality - strength of mind and independent thinking.

### Rules to Develop Leadership Mentality

1. **Be a booster:** Build confidence in your team by complimenting effort, improvement, achievement and success, no matter how small. Use both praise and instruction freely. Catch your team-mate doing something right and then praise him immediately. There is no place for criticism or sarcasm nor negative body language.

Taking the time to thank people who help us is a basic courtesy that should apply in all human relations. We all want to be appreciated and when someone genuinely thanks us, we will follow that person a long way. Leaders who like others and believe those they lead have the best of intentions will get the best from them.

2. **Study other people's needs:** Find out in team discussions how your team-mates like to be treated to get the best from them. Too many leaders who see motivation as mere back-slapping and pep-talks ignore this essential point. Real leaders know that if they listen long enough, people will explain how they can be motivated.

3. **Create an environment where failure is not fatal:** The best motivators expect their people to make mistakes and recognize it is more efficient to teach people how to learn from their mistakes than to replace them.

4. **Encourage initiative, experimentation:** Team mates admire and follow someone who is willing to explore and who rises to challenges - practice sessions give ideal opportunities.

5. **Place emphasis on co-operation, team unity:** Good leaders do more than build allegiance to themselves. They also build into the team an allegiance to one another. People in these teams will take responsibility for ensuring high standards. Members in a team where group pride operates will do a better job because of its inner loyalty. A good leader can then allow group morale to do some of his work for him.

6. **Focus on success:** Persuade your team to think about successes, not the obstacles. He who believes in success inspires others to follow. He who gains inner strength is the one who tries and if he fails, corrects his error and tries again.

7. **Set high standards:** Successful leaders tolerate a considerable amount of individuality but they do insist on high standards and certain core beliefs. Leadership methods seem to vary greatly but one constant among successful motivators is a devotion to ideals and superior performance.

8. **Develop the ability to communicate:** Learning to express yourself in front of others without shyness is a key skill. A friendly hello and a smile are successful leadership techniques. Practice leadership skills to build confidence in one's own ability. Team meetings and practices offer leadership opportunities.

9. **Develop the three 'Rs':** Three basic characteristics are resourcefulness, respect, and responsibility. Successful leadership belongs to those who keep trying or try new ideas when there is a setback (resourceful); to those who try to understand all players and situations and abide by the rules (respectful); and to those who face up to the consequences of their actions (responsible).

10. **Set an example:** Examples matter more than words. Adopt as many of the above rules as your own. Talk with your team mates about them.

