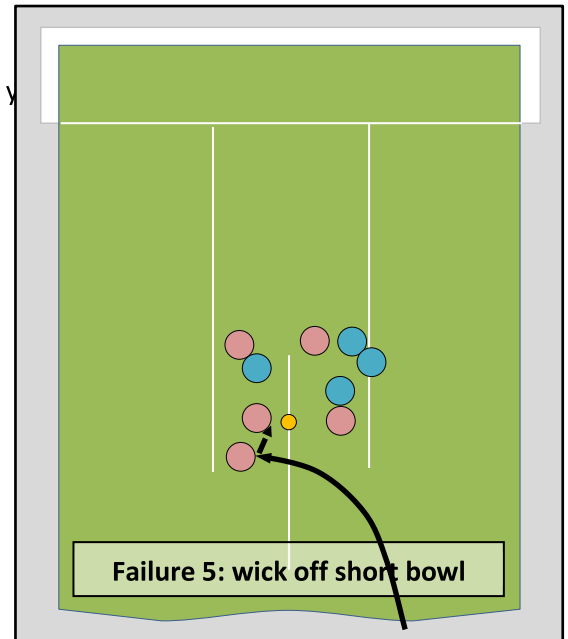


FAILURE 5: WICK OFF THE SHORT BOWL

If you miss the draw line even tighter, there is a chance that you will wick off the shot bowl or the jack.



THE BEST WAY TO FAIL

In the example scenario, in attempting the draw shot, if you are wide of the perfect line there is little chance that you will improve the current position. However, if you are slightly tight, there are a number of ways in which you can get a positive result. The best way to miss your line is on the tight side.

A short bowl doesn't really help and could even end up blocking your final bowl. The best way to miss your weight is slightly heavy.

By erring on the tight and heavy side, you increase the likelihood that you can change the head in your favour.

When explaining this "best way to fail" approach to one of my partners, he asked the very astute question (thank you, Martin) "If you are playing the shot to fail, won't you miss the perfect shot more often". Logically, his observation should be correct and yet, in practice, it didn't seem to be the case. Being the bowls nerd I am, I paid close attention to how I was playing these shots and noticed that, although I was still trying to play the line to draw the shot, I was offsetting my stance so that, if I missed the perfect line, I was more likely to fail on the side that has the most positive options.

OFFSET STANCE

An offset stance is one where the front foot is placed to one side of where it would normally be for your standard draw shot. In the example above, as a right hander, I would be bowling my forehand. With an offset stance, I place my front foot just to the right of its normal position.

In the illustrations below, the white footprint represents the front foot placement for a standard draw to the jack. The black footprint shows the offset position.