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The T-ID Programme in action:

- a. It is recommended that every district establish a District Academy to which all current District players are invited as a starting point – the T-ID should then be introduced in all District Academies as soon as possible.
- b. Each District should *at least* have their top 20 men and top 20 ladies in their District Academy and this grouping should include their U25, Open & Senior players.
- c. For all other players, the T-ID represents a vehicle for recognition which begins at club level.
- d. Initially, any player who wishes to be available for National Selection must submit *at least* 2 (two) 20/20 assessments and *at least* one (1) complete set of T-ID results per month to their own District Office or DSCC.
- e. The DSCC will be responsible for verifying the player's submission and then recording the results on the Results Schedule provided by the NSCC. The Top Ten players results will then be forwarded to Bowls SA each month.
- f. The DSCC will also be responsible for providing their District Selectors with copies of the Results Schedules on a regular basis.
- g. Upon receipt at Bowls SA of each District's T-ID Top Ten Results Schedules, the scores will be added to a central database and accessed by the National Academy for evaluation.
- h. The National Academy will then use this data to identify players for consideration for the different National Squads that they are responsible for assembling.
- i. Selected squad players will then be invited to National Camps held by the National Academy, so that their skills and their abilities can be monitored directly.
- j. A promotion and relegation process will be implemented between the squads, allowing the best performers in each squad to progress up to the next level by replacing those at the bottom of the higher squad.

New Talent Identification Programme (T-ID) opens new doors for bowlers around the country.

The National Academy, being the National Coaches & Selectors, with the complete approval and support of the Bowls SA Executive, is implementing a new national selection process that offers the top players in South Africa the most transparent, fair and honest method ever considered to reach Protea status.

Through the use of a revised and revitalised T-ID Programme, the National Academy will have a vehicle for positive and objective player selection unlike anything ever previously presented to South African bowlers.

The revamped T-ID programme will be the foundation for a new performance pathway for bowlers that begins at District level and extends all the way to the Gold squad, a pathway which is outlined in the diagram below.



The new performance pathway will be broad-based and will include Junior Elite, Elite and even Senior players as the programme develops, and of course it embraces both Male and Female squads at each level.

The foundation for the new selection process will be the implementation of player academies that will be established in every District, where the T-ID programme will be implemented by the District Standing Committees for Coaching (DSCC's) in each of the districts, with results being uploaded each month to Bowls SA.

The NSCC and the DSCC's will act as the co-ordinators of the T-ID, and to this end, the NSCC have developed a new T-ID instruction booklet that has already been distributed to all Districts offices.

The purpose of the Talent Identification programme.

The long term purpose of the Talent Identification program (T-ID) is to increase the number of players who can play at District, National and International level, and to allow Districts to uncover a wider grouping of players of talent from within the ranks of its own district's players.

How will the T-ID be implemented?

Every DSCC will be responsible for teaching club coaches in their District how to setup and run the T-ID Programme, and should they need any assistance in that regard, they must please contact their NSCC liaison member and make arrangements to get the programme started.

The importance of the T-ID cannot be emphasised enough, and to ensure that all players and club coaches understand the significance of the T-ID, an explanation is provided below to ensure that the new Bowls SA Player Selection process is clearly understood by all our coaches and bowlers alike.

A player's T-ID results each month are to be forwarded to the District Standing Committee for Coaching, (DSCC), who will record these on the District Results Schedules provided by BSA.

From these submissions, a monthly TOP TEN listing will be extracted by each DSCC and sent to Bowls SA's headquarters for submission to the National Academy for assessment.

How can the T-ID get you into one of the National Squads?

There are several new squads that form part of the National Academy, and the diagram below illustrates the current squad planning program.

Once your T-ID results have been assessed, the National Academy will select players who will then be invited to join one of the National camp weekends.

At these camps, the selected players will be able to compete on an equal footing with all the other selected players, and over a period of time, the best players in South Africa will be recognised and become part of the new National Squads.

Once part of a national squad, a promotion and relegation structure will be implemented, allowing players in lower squads who perform better than players in higher squads to move up, and the displaced players will then move down, and so a fair and equitable process for future selection will be put in place that includes the best and promotes talent objectively and transparently.

The plan going forward

For the programme to succeed and deliver the full benefits, the T-ID project needs all current District players in all districts to embrace the programme and to become part of the programme by joining their District academies and by participating in the T-ID directly from the outset.

The T-ID exercises are designed to increase game-playing skills and expand the range of shots that players can perform under competitive conditions. At the very least, the T-ID programme will allow you to become a more accomplished player, who can add value to any district team in the future.

If you want it to, the T-ID also makes you eligible for national squad selection, and you will be able to measure your own performance against that of any other player in the country in a totally fair and transparent environment in time to come.

The National Academy will be holding several training camps in various districts during 2010 and the districts involved will be invited to bring their best players to these camps to compete with and be measured against the national squad players.

Don't delay, start playing the T-ID immediately, it's the best thing for you, for your district and bowls in South Africa. Enjoy the T-ID, it will benefit YOU directly and make playing bowls much more enjoyable!

