

SOME COMMON ERRORS IN BATTING FAST BOWLING AND FIELDING

By

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As one observes the training of young cricketers over a period of time one clearly sees a number of errors of technique in batting, in bowling and in fielding, cropping up time after time. These errors are the most common that are perpetrated by young cricketers—nor are they limited to young players, senior cricketers also have the same deficiencies. It is therefore important that coaches make any necessary corrections to technique as early as possible in a player's career to ensure that a player develops his game correctly. The coaches' primary goal is to improve the players' technical skill and through this higher level of proficiency to increase the player's enjoyment and ability to participate successfully.

Cricket demands proficiency in batting, bowling and fielding and each player must be able to perform in no fewer than two of these skills to be successful and enjoy the game.

Frank Tyson has made the interesting observation that: "The greatest difficulty about executing a cricket skill is knowing when to do it".

In BATTING the most common faults may be summarised as follows:

1. Over use of the bottom hand which is mainly due to:—
 - a. lack of strength in top hand,
 - b. hands too far apart in the grip,
 - c. not using the correct size and weight bat for the player's build,
 - d. gripping bat too tightly.

Over use of the bottom hand causes players to play across the line of the ball and, more importantly, hit the ball in the air.

2. Backlift of bat not straight—generally toward 3rd slip area and directed in an arc—result playing across the line. Again this fault can be

attributed to dominance of bottom hand and, in some cases, stance being too open.

3. Body Movement

- a. No definite movement forward or back playing from or "Walking" across the crease.

This generally occurs when there is uncertainty about the length of the delivery and consequent unsureness about whether to play forward or back.

- b. Front foot not towards the line of the ball nor to the pitch of the ball—gap between bat and pad.

- c. Over balancing, particularly on the front foot—front knee not bent, nor body and head over the front leg which causes players to correct their balance by squaring off (become chest on).

- d. Excessive movement of the head and eyes not level which also leads to an unbalanced body.

e. Back Foot Shots

- i) Players not getting in the line of the ball, back foot not across and back, but rather back and away.
- ii) Chest and toes not front shoulder pointed to the bowler.
- iii) Trying to hit the ball too hard forcing errors—particularly with cuts and pull shots.

A majority of batting faults at present appear to be due to the equipment being used. **Bats are far too heavy and grips too thick, which is developing bottom hand dominance.**

The synthetic balls and surfaces being used are creating too much bounce which develops cross bat shots, but limits players to develop front foot technique and young players are generally too afraid to get in behind the line of the ball.

Coaches and administrators have a responsibility to ensure that young players can develop technical skills by using correct equipment.

Running Between Wickets

1. Turning blind.
2. Not running the 1st run fast and hard.
3. Incorrect calls—notably "GO" instead of yes and calling too late.



Team Captain

1. Stop single early
2. Stop fours at end, protect boundaries
3. Keep talking to field
4. Fieldsmen in correct positions
5. Place outfield in gaps
6. Field placing for limited over cricket
7. Set fields to minimise batters strengths
8. Don't be afraid to hold up game to make field change
9. Give bowlers a couple of overs notice before they bowl
10. Use fast bowlers in short spells
11. Bring fast bowler off at any stage
12. Take bowler off at any stage
13. Communicate with players
14. Be enthusiastic, unselfish and determined.

Team Batting

1. Bat first unless wicket wet
2. Batsman to bat as if nobody else left in team
3. Openers to play straight early
4. Check where singles can be taken
5. Team to look for weak & strong fieldsmen before they bat
6. Be careful of driving on rise
7. Let new ball go in early overs
8. Bat to ball on leg side
9. Attack wide bowling later in innings
10. New batsman to give strike to partner
11. Batsmen to talk to each other between overs
12. Answer sledging by scoring runs
13. Run rate -
 - 20-25 runs 1st 10 overs
 - 45-50 runs 20 overs
 - 80-90 runs 30 overs
 - 110-120 runs 40 overs
 - 150-160 runs 50 overs
 - 200 plus 60 overs

Team Bowling

1. Keep ball up
2. Warm up before and during match
3. Keep ball on or just outside off stumps (corridor of uncertainty)
4. Don't give batsman too much room to play shots
5. Concentrate on last two deliveries
6. Spin bowlers to bowl outside off stump to attacking batsmen
7. Field well off own bowling
8. Keep check on your field placing
9. Look after shine

Team Fielding

1. Desperate in field
2. Keep pressure on in field
3. Mark positions on field
4. Fieldsmen to move in couple of paces if batsman steals single
5. Watch ball into hands
6. Attack ball from boundary positions *
7. Back up throws
8. Outfield to move in with bowler (umbrella)
9. Back up bowlers end
10. Jog between overs
11. Encourage fieldsmen