

Positioning - Over the Stumps

Skill Description

The keeper needs to be in a waiting position where the bowler's delivery and the line of the ball can be clearly viewed. The position of the crouch varies, depending on the type of batter (RH or LH), the batter's stance and back lift, whether the bowler is coming over or round the wicket, or whether the keeper is standing back or over the stumps. The positioning of the keeper also determines where the slip fielders stand.

Key Factors

- Ensure a clear view down the delivery line
- My positioning was about 5 cms outside off stump and two foot lengths back

Skill Execution

I position myself just outside off stump when over the stumps. I mark a line about 5 centimeters outside the off stump down the wicket line. I then mark another line across the wicket, two foot lengths back from the stumps. I place the ball of my left foot where these two lines intersect, then bend into my crouch position, with my gloves touching the ground. I may vary this position slightly if the batter obstructs my view in the stance or back lift or if the bowler changes to around the wicket.

I set up on the other side of the stumps for LH batters using the same measurements. The distances I have indicated are suitable for me to have a good view of everything as well as reach the stumps comfortably for stumpings. The specific distances will vary from keeper to keeper, but my point is that it is important to have a set distance for consistency.

Drill Description

Rehearse marking out and moving into your crouch position. Have a partner monitor your position and have someone observe you under match conditions. Practice for the left hand batters as well. Use a mirror inside, or sliding glass doors outside to check your technique.

Drill Coaching Points

It is important that the keeper is comfortable with the line and distance from the stumps. This positioning suits me, but should only be regarded as a guide. I also sometimes adjust my position for different types of batters (obviously with left and right handers). By sticking to my standard positioning as much as possible, I have developed an instinctive feel for where the stumps are in relation to any movement I make, resulting in effective movement of the gloves for a stumping.