

LEVEL-O CERTIFICATE COURSE IN CRICKET COACHING

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Lecture 21: Traditions and Etiquettes of Cricket (Contd.)

Cricket is known as a gentleman's game because players, umpires, and officials follow traditions and etiquette that uphold the spirit of the game. These traditions make cricket unique and respected worldwide.

Before the match starts, the captains of both teams come onto the field for the toss. The home captain tosses the coin, and the visiting captain calls (heads or tails). The toss must take place on the field of play, even if the field is wet. Umpires will find a dry spot for the toss.

At the start of a session, umpires enter first, followed by the fielding team, and then the batsmen. At the end of a session, batsmen leave first, followed by the fielding team, and then the umpires. This protocol is followed in all formats of cricket (Test, ODI, T20, IPL, etc.).

Players should respect and acknowledge the opposition's achievements. For example, if a batsman scores 50 or 100, the opposing team should applaud or say, "Well played." If a bowler takes 5 wickets, the batting team should acknowledge it with a handshake or a pat on the back. This shows sportsmanship and respect for the game.

Players should applaud their teammates for good performances, such as a great catch, a brilliant shot, or excellent fielding. This boosts team morale and enriches the game.

Do not mock or applaud the opposition's errors or misfortunes. For example, if a fielder drops a catch or a bowler bowls a poor delivery, do not make fun of it. This is against the spirit of cricket.

When a batsman scores 50 or 100, they often raise their bat to acknowledge the crowd. This is done to thank the fans for their support, as spectators come to watch and support their favorite players.

After the match, both teams form a line and shake hands with each other. This tradition promotes sportsmanship and mutual respect.

At the end of the match, players should thank umpires (for their decisions and hard work), scorers (for keeping track of the score), ground staff (for preparing the pitch and field), caterers

(for providing food), and home club officials (for organizing the match). This shows gratitude and respect for everyone involved in the game.

The fielding side should not appeal if they know the batsman is not out, as this puts unnecessary pressure on the umpire. They should not sled (verbally abuse) the batsman or make rude comments about their performance. They should help umpires by signaling when the ball reaches the boundary (e.g., indicating if it's a 4 or 6). They should also thank the umpire when they hold their sweater, cap, or sunglasses during the over.

If a bowler accidentally bowls a beamer (a ball above waist height), they should apologize to the batsman. If a non-striker leaves the crease early, the bowler should warn them before running them out.

During drinks breaks, ensure umpires also receive drinks. Do not sit on the ground for too long. Be ready to resume play quickly. Use the break to discuss strategies, not to waste time.

The batting side should be honest. If a batsman knows they're out (e.g., caught), they should walk off the field without waiting for the umpire's decision. When asking for a guard (e.g., middle or leg stump), they should say "please" and "thank you" to the umpire. They should not leave the crease until the bowler has delivered the ball. They should accept the umpire's decision, even if they disagree with it.

Players should not argue with the umpire's decision. If they have a question, they should ask politely. They should not show dissent by waving their bat or pointing at the umpire. They should not knock the stumps with their bat or body if they're unhappy with a decision.

Everyone involved in cricket (captains, players, umpires, coaches, managers, and even parents) has a responsibility to uphold the spirit of the game. Parents should not interfere or argue with umpires' decisions.

These traditions and etiquettes protect the spirit of cricket, promote the history and heritage of the game, and enhance the values and standards of cricket. By following these, cricket remains the greatest game in the world.

Respect is key in cricket. Players should respect their teammates, coaches, opponents, umpires, officials, and the game itself. Sportsmanship is what makes cricket special.