

LEVEL-O CERTIFICATE COURSE IN CRICKET COACHING

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Lecture 56: Pitch Preparation

Hello everyone, let's talk about pitch preparation in cricket. So before going into that, we must know about the dimensions of the cricket pitch, the pitch diagram. As you know, the cricket pitch is 66 feet in length from stump to stump. If we measure it in yards, it is 22 yards, and if measured in meters, it is 20.12 meters. The overall width of the cricket pitch is 10 feet or 3.05 meters. The playing area from the return crease to return crease is measured as 8 feet and 8 inches. Now, there are different aspects of the cricket pitch: the return crease, bowling crease, and popping crease. So, from return crease to return crease, the width is 8 feet 8 inches. We saw a mark just beside the stumps. That is called the danger area mark. That is 1 foot, 1 foot. From the middle of the stump, a 9-inch distance covers the total stump area. From the popping crease to the end of the popping crease, the length of the popping crease is 6 feet, meaning 12 feet in total length. The distance between the bowling crease and the popping crease is 4 feet. The return crease is 8 feet. So, these are all the dimensions of the cricket pitch. In between the cricket pitch, from the popping crease to 5 feet away inside the pitch on both sides, the middle area is called the protected area. If a bowler or batter enters this protected area, they will be warned by the umpires. Now, let's talk about pitch preparation. Before going into that, we must know about the types of pitches. There are mainly two types of pitches: turf and non-turf. On non-turf, there are cemented pitches, matting pitches, and polygrass—also known as astroturf. Nowadays, astroturf cricket pitches are widely used in India. Advantages of non-turf pitches. Low maintenance. Cost-effective. Best utilized for practice purposes. They provide service for a longer duration. Ready to use even after heavy downpours. Pace and bounce can be regulated. Suitable for imparting basic coaching lessons to novices. When considering a cricket pitch or Laying one down, certain points should be kept in mind. What are they. The aim. What will the aim be. Whether it is a practice match, practice, or a match. Selection of the prepare a practice pitch or a match pitch. And where do you want to select the area where the pitch will be prepared. And the direction should be north and south. Now let's talk about the process of a cemented pitch. So you have to dig the ground 6 inches. If the base is sufficiently hard. Fill

with crushed white stone up to 4 inches. Nicely tamped by the roller. Now use an iron net of 4 mm. Then prepare a workable mixture in a ratio of 1:2:4. That is 1 part cement, 2 parts sand, and 4 parts broken chips. Now we will talk about. The next phase is to spread this mixture evenly up to 2 inches. Again, prepare a mixture in a ratio of 1 to 4. 1 pounds of cement and 4 pounds of fine sand. Add water, mix it well, and cover the whole area by up to half an inch. Yes, sir. Now, prepare a mixture of cement and water for the final coating. Spread it over the whole area using a wooden float for smoothness. Use a wooden broom at the batting end up to 4 feet for roughness. Now, we want to remember before laying down a tarp pitch. So, we have talked about how to prepare a non-turf pitch, that is, a cemented pitch. Now, we'll talk about the turf pitch. Decide to prepare at least two minimum strips to avoid wear and tear. You must have rollers. At least two types: one is a heavy roller, and another is a medium or light roller. A light roller is half a ton, a medium roller is one and a half tons, and a heavy roller is two and a half tons. You should have a good-quality pitch cover to protect the pitch. Now, regarding the selection of soil, if the percentage of sand is too high, if the pitch is too soft, it will be slow, break easily, and the ball may sink or pop up dangerously. That's why the selection of soil is very important. Clay, particularly clay—if you find it inside, you can see black clay. You can use it. The clay with a lower percentage of sand, ideally pure clay, can be used for the cricket pitch. Select an area of 90 feet by 20 feet by 10 feet. Dig up to 9 inches. If the existing soil condition is good and the base is sufficiently hard, apply a light roller to create an even base. Cover the whole area with flat bricks. Now, after removing all the dug-up soil, fill the whole area with water. Let it dry naturally. You will find some impurities in the sub-base area. Clean it thoroughly. Next part, use fine sand on the top of it filling in the gaps between the bricks. Fill the whole area with small pieces of clean soil up to the ground level. Keep the whole area moist by spreading water. Apply a light roller, preferably in the morning and evening. The surface will start settling down. Continue this process till the surface is hard and not going down. Add clean soil up to 2 inches above the ground evenly. Repeat The process of watering and rolling till the base is even and hard. Now use soil dust up to 2 inches for leveling. Continue the watering and rolling process. You will find some patches are becoming shiny. It means you are heading in the right direction. Keep continuing this process till the whole area is shiny. But in this process, grass should be planted cross-section wise at an even distance, covering the whole area. Keep the whole area moist by spraying the water, preferably in the morning and evening sessions. This will be the process whenever the grass is uprooted. Then roll it. Again, use fine dust on the area of the pitch. And have a good roll. Your pitch is ready to play. That is the process of pitch preparation. Thank you.