

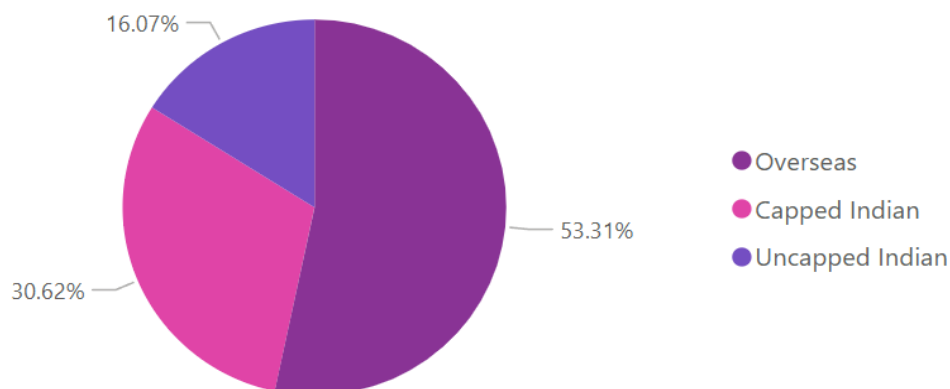
## Women's Premier League Expansion – A Bold Leap or a Risky Gamble?

The curtains have come down on a successful Women's Premier League in India with the Mumbai Indians defeating the Delhi Capitals in a breathtaking final that went down the wire. The crowd numbers have increased every day, and the Indian audience have welcomed the league with open arms over the course of these three seasons. With the auction cycle now complete, the talks of expansion will soon take over the discussion topics in the higher offices of the league. Is an expansion worth considering? Or should there be another cycle where the Indian talent can get further exposure to take the game forward? We look at the numbers for a better picture.

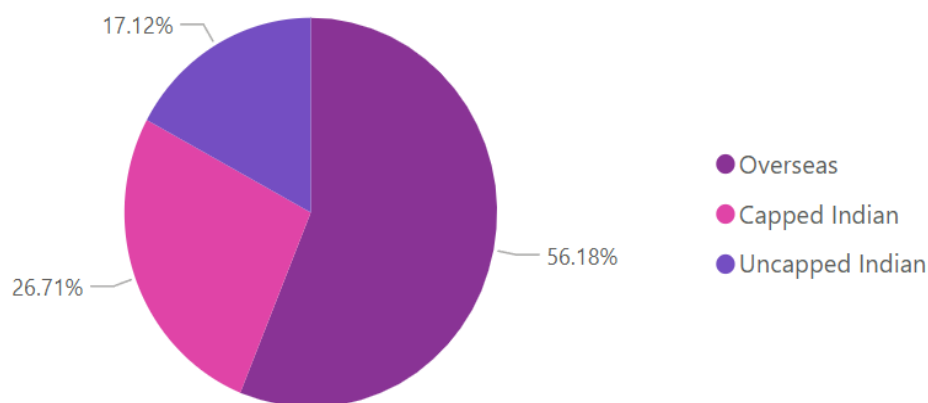
### Uncapped Indian – Is the stage there?

Mumbai Indians using 16 bowling overs of overseas players was motivation to understand how much of a contribution an average uncapped Indian makes to a WPL team. Given that there are only 4 overseas players (5 if from an associate nation) in a team of XI, the Indian core contribution becomes vital. But, in this season of the WPL, it is the overseas players who were doing the heavy lifting for the teams. It was observed that the captains trusted their overseas teammates, with overseas players bowling and facing more than 50% of the balls in WPL 2025.

Percentage of Balls Faced - WPL 2025



Percentage of Balls Bowled - WPL 2025

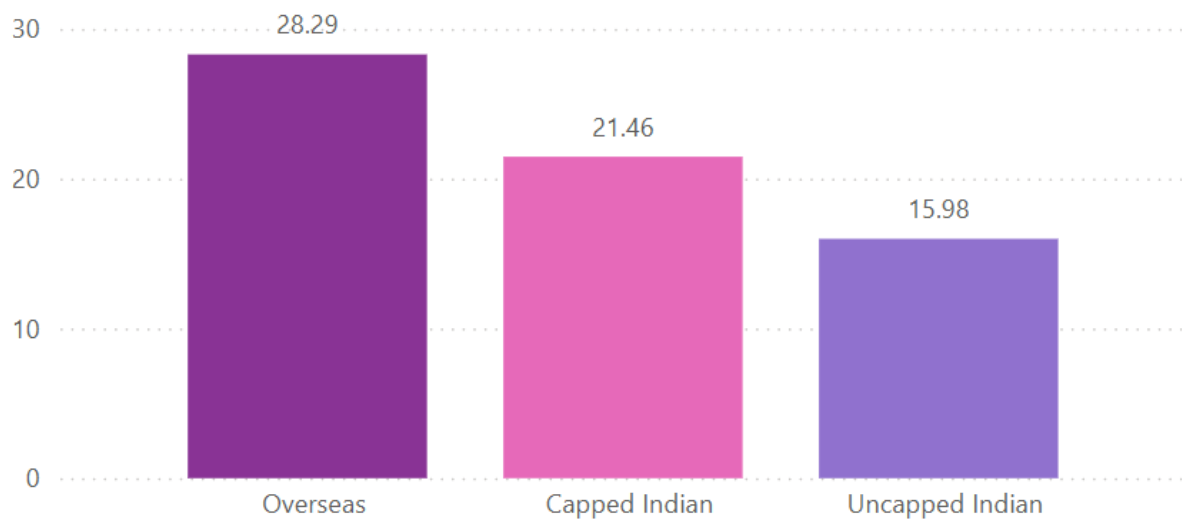


Uncapped Indians took a backstage in the league, facing and bowling less than 20% of the balls in WPL 2025. It is a telling insight that although there are 4 or 5 overseas players in the team, they combined to have a higher workload than 6 or 7 Indian players in the playing XI.

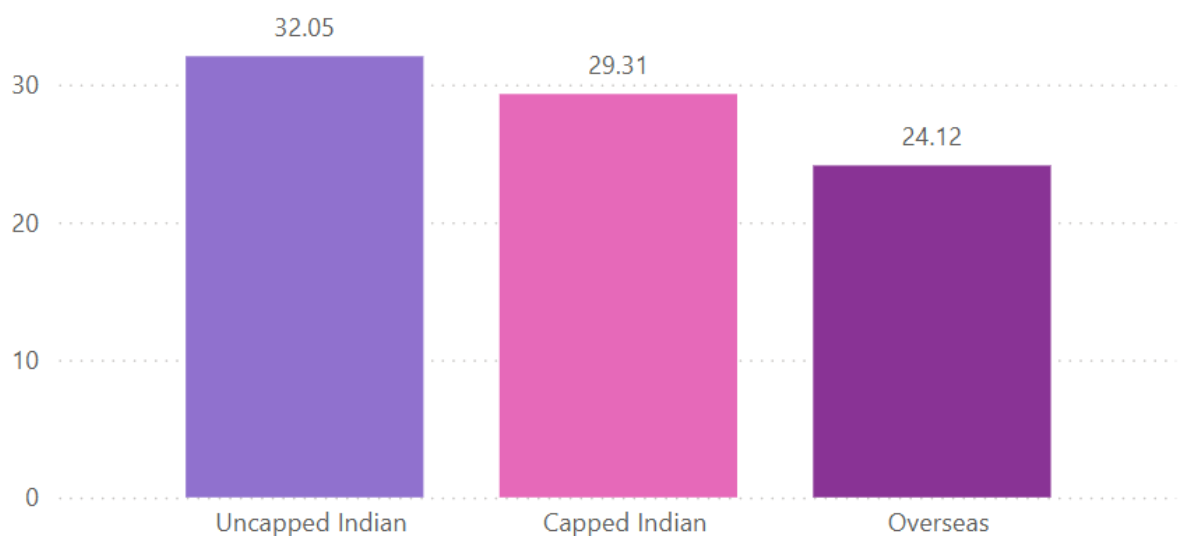
### Consistency leads to success – Is it there?

Batting and bowling average have always been very important metrics when it comes to understanding how consistent a player is in their craft. Although some pundits believe that, in T20s, average is overrated, but when comparing among groups, average could be important to understand which group has performed well. It was observed that the overseas professionals performed more consistently than their Indian counterparts with highest average in batting and the lowest average in bowling. Uncapped Indian players stood last in both these categories.

**Batting Average - WPL 2025**



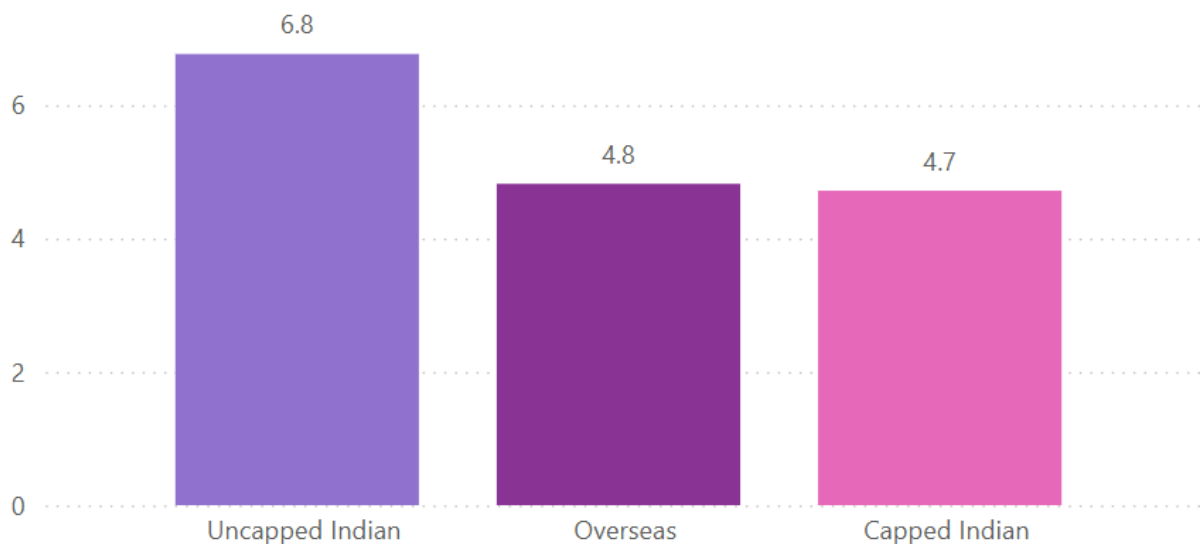
**Bowling Average - WPL 2025**



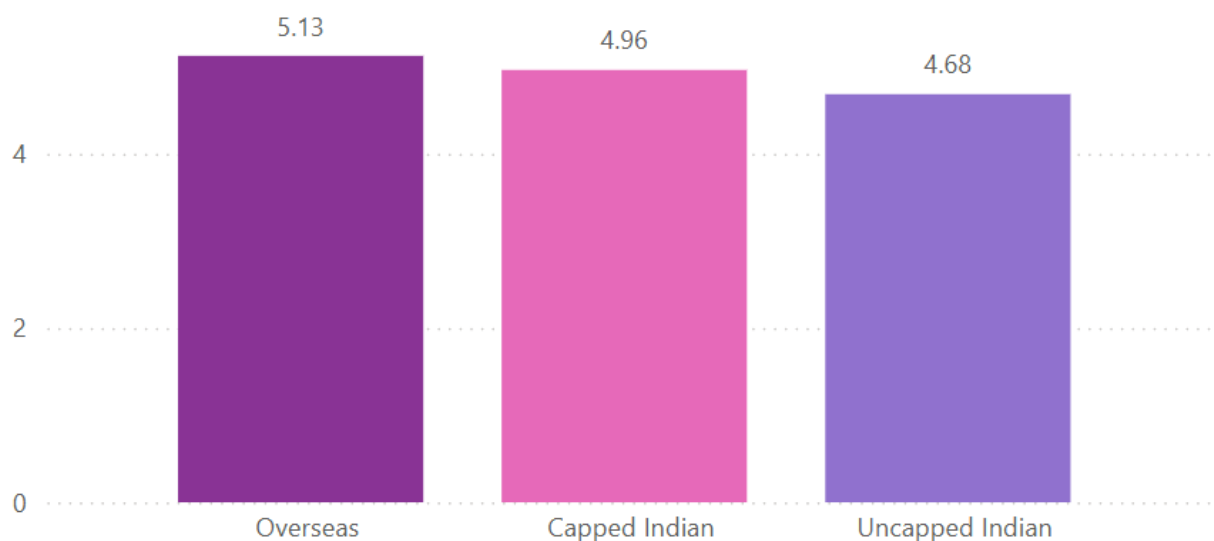
## Lesser, the better – The story of balls per boundary and dot balls

An above-average T20 batter takes lesser number of balls to score a boundary (4 or 6) and ensures their innings has lesser number of dot balls, tackling the scoreboard pressure in an easier way. A bowler should take more balls to concede a boundary and bowl more dot balls, which increases scoreboard pressure, in turn helping the bowler. In WPL 2025, overseas players scored boundaries at a close-second rate compared to capped Indians, while conceding the most balls per boundary in the bowling department. The glaring underperformance of uncapped Indian players is seen very evidently in this as they took 2 extra balls, compared to their overseas teammates, to score a boundary. Uncapped Indians also conceded a boundary at almost half a ball quicker than overseas players.

### Balls per Boundary (Batting) - WPL 2025

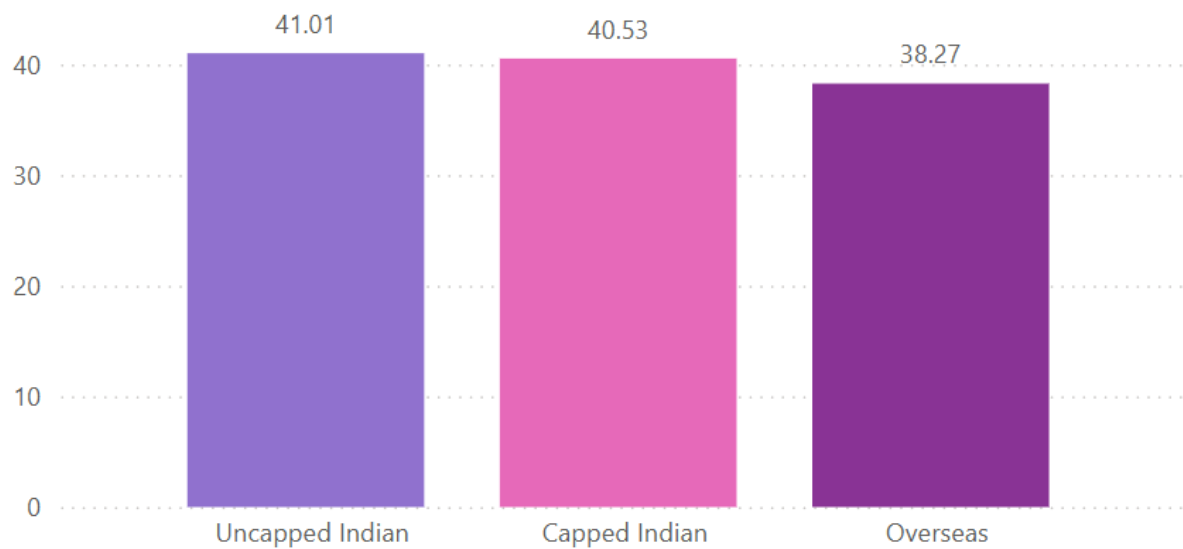


### Balls per Boundary (Bowling) - WPL 2025

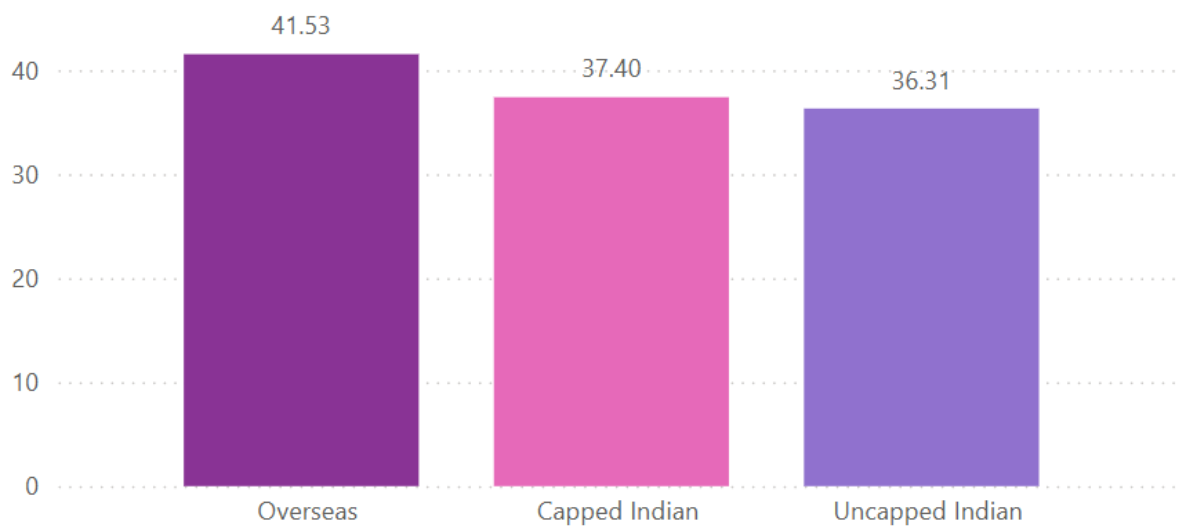


Overseas players take the mantle again, playing the least percentage of dot balls, while also conceding the most percentage of dot balls. Uncapped Indian players, unfortunately, again take the last spot, conceding almost 5% lesser dot balls than the overseas players.

**Dot Ball Percentage (Batting) - WPL 2025**



**Dot Ball Percentage (Bowling) - WPL 2025**



The Numbers are ...? They are just numbers.

A conclusion of the fact that Indian players, capped or uncapped, have a lesser role and are performing underwhelmingly compared to overseas players can be reached by all the important metrics mentioned above. The decision makers could view these one of two ways:

- 1) Uncapped Indian players have a smaller role and this could be the reason we could look to expand the league to six, or even eight, teams to ensure they get the opportunity they deserve.
- 2) They could acknowledge the smaller role and yet look at the metrics and decide against the expansion, fearing a watered-down league with more teams.

The business side might agree with the second point, but an expansion could trigger a butterfly effect among domestic teams to improve their infrastructure to make women's cricket more attractive and reachable to the general population. If there was a board that could afford a potential bad product for a few years, that would be the BCCI. Only time will tell which route the league will take.