

Wicketkeeping Skills Analysis Report – Anirudh (Age 12)

1. Client & Player Information

- Player Name: Anirudh
 - Age Group: 12
 - Primary Skill Analyzed: Wicketkeeping
 - Client Name: Sai
 - Date Video Received: 04/24/2025
 - Video Details: Wicketkeeping drills session – short highlight clip
 - Analyzed By: Specialist Wicketkeeping Coach
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2. Executive Summary

Anirudh is a promising young wicketkeeper who demonstrates good natural ability and enthusiasm. He shows quick reflexes and generally clean **glovework** for his age, with confident catches during the drills. His **stance** is energetic and he displays courage in going for dives and challenging takes. The primary development focus for Anirudh will be improving his **footwork and positioning** – especially moving efficiently for leg-side balls – to ensure consistency as the pace and difficulty of deliveries increase. Overall, he has a strong foundation to build on, with a few technical adjustments that will significantly elevate his keeping performance.

3. Detailed Wicketkeeping Analysis

A. Stance & Ready Position

At the start of the clip (around **00:05**), Anirudh's stance is low and athletic. He sets up with his feet slightly wider than shoulder-width, knees bent, and weight forward on the balls of his feet. This ready position gives him a solid base and allows for quick movement. His hands are presented in front, open and ready to receive the ball, which is excellent. A strong stance like this keeps him balanced and prepared for variable bounce or deflections.

Areas for Improvement:

During one moment (approximately **00:20**), it appears Anirudh rises up a bit early before the ball reaches him. Occasionally coming up too soon can cause a keeper to misjudge low balls. He should focus on staying in his crouch and maintaining a steady head until the ball is securely in his gloves. Consistently holding the stance a fraction longer will help him handle those low deliveries more cleanly. Overall, his stance is fundamentally sound, and with minor tweaks to his timing and weight distribution (keeping more weight on the toes and slightly forward), he will gain even better stability.

B. Footwork

Anirudh's **footwork** is developing well, with glimpses of quick lateral movement. When standing back to faster deliveries, he generally takes small shuffling steps to line up with the ball. For example, around **00:12**, a delivery veers to the off-side and he efficiently shuffles his feet to get his body behind the line of the ball, taking it cleanly in front of his chest.

When standing up to the stumps for slower balls or spin, Anirudh attempts to mirror the ball's movement with his feet. He shows quickness when moving to his right or left on straight deliveries. However, there is room to improve the sharpness of these movements. In one instance (around **00:27**), a ball down the leg side required him to adjust – he managed to get a glove to it, but a crisper initial step with his left foot first might have allowed him to gather it more cleanly.

C. Glovework

Anirudh exhibits generally good **glovework** throughout the drills. He catches with soft hands, meaning he cushions the ball into his gloves rather than snatching at it. At **00:15**, there is a clear example of him receiving a ball with his palms facing the ball and fingers up, allowing the ball to nestle nicely in his gloves. His technique of forming a “big cup” with both gloves together is evident and is a strength at this stage.

Areas for Improvement:

There were a couple of bobbles on harder deliveries. For instance, near **00:30**, one fast-paced ball hit his gloves and popped out momentarily before he secured it. This suggests he can further soften his hands and improve grip strength. Ensuring he “gives” with the ball (slightly drawing his hands back toward his body) will help absorb the impact. Focusing on watching the ball all the way into his gloves will eliminate occasional fumbles.

D. Taking Pace Bowling (Standing Back)

When standing back to pace, Anirudh positions himself at a suitable distance to react to edges and bounce. In the **00:10–00:18** segment, he stays low and then rises with the bounce, which is the correct approach. He collected several deliveries cleanly.

Areas for Improvement:

One delivery around **00:18** that jagged in slightly saw him react a bit late with his footwork. Ideally, he should take such balls closer to his body by moving his feet earlier. Continued practice with varied lengths will help.

E. Taking Spin Bowling (Standing Up)

Anirudh remains crouched close to the stumps, allowing maximum time to react. In the **00:25–00:32** window, he adjusted well to a couple of turning balls.

Areas for Improvement:

A leg-side delivery around **00:28** escaped his gloves. Improving agility and anticipation for leg-side takes is important. By staying low and moving his body across rather than reaching, he'll improve handling on those tough lines.

F. Lateral Movement, Diving & Recovery

Around **00:35**, he executed a dive to his right, leading with the correct hand and recovering quickly. This shows bravery and coordination.

Areas for Improvement:

Improving footwork to avoid unnecessary dives, and focusing on diving across (not forward), followed by a quick recovery, will help.

G. Stumpings & Run-Outs

At **00:40**, Anirudh cleanly collected a throw and removed the bails quickly, showing good hand-eye coordination. He's alert during stumping chances, such as at **00:26**.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue refining glove-to-stump speed and combining gathering with quick forward movement for maximum effect.

H. General Observations

- **Agility:** Shows energy and willingness to move laterally and dive.
 - **Focus:** Maintains strong concentration during drills.
 - **Communication & Presence:** Displays enthusiasm and should be encouraged to develop a vocal, confident presence over time.
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4. Key Strengths Summary

- **Quick Reflexes and Reactions:**
Shows excellent reaction time on deliveries, demonstrated by clean catches and a

swift stumping/run-out attempt. His fast hands allow him to grab balls that deviate or come off the bat unexpectedly.

- **Soft Hands & Glove Technique:**

Catches the ball with a nice “give,” cushioning it effectively. He presents his gloves correctly (fingers up for high balls, down for low balls) and secures most takes cleanly, showing advanced technique for his age.

- **Aggressive Footwork Intent:**

Makes a conscious effort to move his feet to the ball, rather than just reaching. This is evident in how he positions himself for catches, and it forms a great foundation to build on for covering more ground as he improves.

- **Enthusiasm and Courage:**

Very willing to dive and get behind the ball. He maintains high energy during the session and isn't afraid of the ball – a crucial trait for any wicketkeeper. His positive attitude and alertness stand out.

5. Key Areas for Development

- **Consistent Lateral Footwork (Especially Leg Side):**

Continue to develop quicker side-to-side movement when standing up to the stumps.

Why it's important: Helps him cleanly take tough deliveries wide of the stumps and prevent byes.

- **Staying Low and Balanced Longer:**

Work on maintaining his crouch and balance until the ball is in the gloves.

Why it's important: Prevents early rising that leads to missed low balls; helps handle skiddy deliveries.

- **Clean Gathering on Dives/High Throws:**

Improve consistency in collecting the ball when diving or fielding throws.

Why it's important: Reduces fumbles and improves reliability in game-critical moments like run-outs.

6. Recommendations & Drills

To address the development areas above, here are targeted drills and exercises Anirudh can incorporate into practice:

- **For Lateral Footwork:**

- *Drill 1: Goalkeeper Drill for Lateral Footwork*
Set up two cones to form a “goal” around Anirudh. Throw balls wide to either side.
Focus: Quick side-steps while staying low and using the near foot to lead.
- *Drill 2: Cone Touch Drill*
Place cones to his left and right. From a crouched stance, he touches each cone on coach’s cue.
Focus: Sharp lateral movement and fast recovery to center.
- **For Staying Low & Balanced:**
 - *Drill 1: “Stay Low” Shadow Keeping*
Simulate deliveries with no ball; stay crouched until an imaginary catch is made.
Focus: Reinforces posture and low stance endurance.
 - *Drill 2: Wall Sit or Catch-Hold Squats*
Hold keeping stance near a wall or mirror while pretending to catch.
Focus: Builds leg endurance and balance while staying in position longer.
- **For Clean Gathering on Dives/Throws:**
 - *Drill 1: Dive and Gather Practice*
Use a soft mat or grass surface. Roll/throw balls wide to practice diving and recovery.
Focus: Smooth diving form, clean takes, and quick recovery.
 - *Drill 2: Stumping Speed Drill*
Coach throws or lightly hits balls past a standing batsman. Anirudh gathers and removes bails quickly.
Focus: Improves glove speed and reaction timing.

7. Next Steps & Conclusion

Anirudh has shown excellent potential as a wicketkeeper. His quick reflexes, proper catching technique, and brave approach to stopping the ball all provide a solid base for development.

Focusing over the next few weeks on improving lateral footwork, maintaining a steady crouch, and refining dive technique will pay great dividends. Practicing the drills mentioned regularly will help build muscle memory and boost his in-game confidence.

We recommend a follow-up review in 4–6 weeks with a new video after drill-based practice to track progress.

Encouragement:

Fantastic work so far, Anirudh! Keep working hard on your wicketkeeping, enjoy the game, and believe in your ability — the journey ahead is exciting and full of potential!

8. Disclaimer

This report is based solely on the video footage provided on 04/24/2025. Observations and assessments are made to the best of the coach's ability from the clip. Actual game conditions may vary, and further in-person evaluation could provide additional insights. The recommendations above should be adapted as needed by Anirudh's coach or guardian to ensure they are performed safely and effectively.