

Fielding Positions for Leg Spinner

Overview

A leg spinner's bowling action naturally creates opportunities for edges, mistimed shots, and catches on the leg side. The fielding positions should be set to maximize these chances while maintaining pressure on the batsman.

Core Fielding Positions

Close Catching Positions

- **Slip (1st/2nd):** Essential for edges from turning deliveries. Position slightly wider than for pace bowlers
- **Leg Slip:** Crucial for leg spinners - catches deflections off bat/pad on the leg side
- **Short Leg:** Close to the batsman on the leg side for bat-pad catches from sharp turn
- **Silly Point:** Aggressive position for catches off the face of the bat

Ring Field Positions

- **Mid-off:** Positioned slightly straighter to cover drives against the spin
- **Mid-on:** Essential for preventing singles and catching mistimed shots
- **Cover:** Positioned for drives and cuts, often saving boundaries
- **Point:** Covers the cut shot and backward point area
- **Mid-wicket:** Key position for leg spinners - covers the area where batsmen often hit with the spin

Boundary Protection

- **Long-on:** Covers straight hits and lofted shots over mid-on
- **Long-off:** Protects against straight drives and lofted shots
- **Deep Mid-wicket:** Covers the leg side boundary where batsmen often target leg spin
- **Third Man:** Covers edges that go past the slip cordon
- **Fine Leg:** Positioned for deflections and glances

Tactical Variations

Attacking Field (New Batsman/Favorable Conditions)

- 2 Slips + Leg Slip
- Short Leg + Silly Point
- Mid-off, Mid-on, Cover, Point

- Long-on, Deep Mid-wicket

Defensive Field (Set Batsman/Flat Pitch)

- 1 Slip
- Mid-off, Mid-on, Cover, Point, Mid-wicket
- Long-on, Long-off, Deep Mid-wicket, Third Man
- Fine Leg/Deep Fine Leg

Pressure Field (Building Pressure)

- 1 Slip + Leg Slip
- Short Leg
- Tight ring: Mid-off, Mid-on, Cover, Point, Mid-wicket
- Long-on, Deep Mid-wicket, Third Man

Key Considerations

Pitch Conditions: On turning pitches, employ more close catchers. On flat pitches, focus on boundary protection and preventing easy singles.

Batsman Type: Against aggressive batsmen, use more boundary riders. Against defensive batsmen, pack the close field and ring to create pressure.

Match Situation: In limited overs cricket, balance attack with boundary protection. In Test cricket, prioritize wicket-taking positions.

Bowling Line: Leg spinners bowling outside off stump need stronger off-side fields. Those bowling leg stump line need reinforced leg-side protection.

Captain's Notes

- Communicate regularly with the leg spinner about field adjustments
- Be prepared to move fielders based on the batsman's preferred scoring areas
- Consider the bowler's variations (googly, top spinner) when setting fields
- Maintain attacking intent while protecting against the batsman's strengths