

# Recap role of wicketkeeper

In cricket, the wicketkeeper is a player who stands behind the stumps and is responsible for several important roles during the game.

- **Catch:** Catch the ball if the batter misses or edges it
- **Stump:** Get the batter out if they leave their crease
- **Field:** Stop the ball and return it quickly to a fielder
- **Communicate:** Help organise and guide fielders
- **Support:** Encourage teammates and help the bowler

Front view



## Teaching points

1. Stand behind and in line with the wickets, but not too close
2. Stand slightly to the side of the off stump
3. Have hands in a cupped shape with fingers pointing down
4. Watch the ball all the way from the bowler's hands into your hands
5. Be ready to run out or stump the batter
6. When you catch the ball, always move towards the stumps; this will stop batters from trying to make runs, as they will be concerned that they will be stumped

Side view



# Following the path of the ball

## Why?

To successfully keep wicket, players need to be able to track the path of the ball once released from the bowler's hand. This includes following the height of the bounce and the direction left or right.

## Teaching points

- Low, balanced stance behind the stumps
- Stand slightly in line with off stump for clear view
- Watch the ball from the bowler's release
- Move quickly to stay in line with the ball
- Keep eyes on the ball at all times
- Make small side steps to adjust position
- Catch with soft hands in front of the body

