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# How to bet on Cricket

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## The Basics of Betting on Cricket

There are three different forms of cricket in the shape of a Test Match/First Class, One Day and T20 contests. The former stretches over a span of up to five days, providing an array of betting options both pre-match and in-play. This format is usually played in a series, with the 10 test countries playing each other over a six-year period, and the most famous duel being the Ashes between England and Australia. With the five day limit, however, draws are very much on the agenda almost to the extent they would be in an outright football market. Secondly, the One Day version of the game is exactly what it says on the tin, a whole day of action, and limited this time by 50-overs. Finally, the latter T20's have become an increasing popular version of the sport since debuting at professional level in 2003. Each side faces 20 overs a piece to see who's the superior and this is usually played out over a matter of hours and involves players going for bigger, more exciting shots, which generally tends to appeal to a wider audience.

## Popular Markets

**Match Betting:** The most popular of all the markets. In T20 and One Day matches we can almost ignore the draw market given how unlikely it's to occur – *at One Day International's (ODI), there's been only one draw since start November 2019 from 192 matches over that period which came in the World Cup final.* However, it's certainly more likely in a 20/20 than a whole day of cricket so that should be considered when betting on this market, with there already being *three from the 60 matches played this year in T20 internationals.*

**Completed Match:** A yes or no bet on if you think the match will be completed. This is determined based on outside factors e.g the weather might stop the game being finished for either one day or T20 fixtures.

**Innings Runs:** Most sportsbooks will offer a Under/Over value for which you need to deduce whether you think the team is capable of reaching or not.

**Top Bowler & Top Batsman:** The player to take the most wickets/runs over a given match or series. Can often present good payouts given the numerous options available to you, unlike in the outright market.

**In-Play:** A fantastic way to bet on cricket. Due to the slow nature of the game you can have time to assess betting options throughout and make researched plays on a given game. Whether that be how the next wicket will fall to how many runs a certain batsman will score, there's a constant availability of markets to look for.

## Value in Cricket

The key to success as we always say is to bet on VALUE. Over a long period of time if you consistently find this then you're going to be making a profit and so let's see how to know if you're finding it or not.

$$\text{Value} = (\text{Your Probability} \times \text{Decimal Odds}) - 1$$

For example, let's say we're betting on England to beat India in an upcoming Test Match, with the bookies offering odds of 3.00 for England to win. Following our research, we give the English a 45% chance of earning victory and so we want to work out if there is a value in this bet.

Consequently,  $\text{Value} = (0.45 \times 3.0) - 1 = 0.35$

If the value is greater than zero we have a value bet. In this instance, a predicted value of 35% (0.35 x 100) is found.

## Betting Strategies

There are loads of different strategies you can apply to cricket and below we're going to list a select few that we use to great effect.

First and foremost, before we trade any match, we want to know the statistics of the specific teams and the ground they're playing at as this can play a huge role on how the game will play out.

We recommend using one of the following sites to get your stats:

- ESPN Cricinfo - <https://stats.espncricinfo.com/ci/engine/records/index.html>
- HowStat.com - <http://howstat.com/cricket/home.asp>

## Playing Conditions

Cricket is arguably the sport that is most influenced by the playing conditions. It's paramount to have done your research on what the expected conditions will be. Indeed, a location's expected forecast and typical climate can significantly change the likelihood of rain delays and in the case of a Test matches, the chances of a draw occurring will understandably shorten if rain is expected. Delving a little deeper, it can also pay to be bowling on certain days due to the weather too. If cloud cover is expected this can allow the bowlers to swing the ball more and so they can become more effective as a result, potentially providing value in wickets to be taken or lower total scores.

The pitch plays an essential role too as certain grounds will provide easier bowling or batting surfaces. Indeed, Sabina Park in Jamaica is a proven bowler friendly wicket, with just 26.82 runs per wicket there since the start of 2001, while on the contrary, Sydney Cricket Ground averages as much as 38.80 rpw over that period and is much more batsmen friendly.

Finally, whoever wins the toss can have a significant advantage, especially in test cricket. The wicket will no doubt deteriorate as the five days play rolls on, leaving cracks and crevasses for the bowlers to exploit. When a wicket is truly susceptible to this deterioration, you wouldn't want to be batting last and chasing down a high score on the final day.

## Form

Recent, player and ground form can all be huge determining factors on the outcome of a game or who might have a good day at the office. For example, if we take one of England's bowlers Jimmy

Anderson, his average across all venues and formats of the game for England is 27.64 runs per wicket with the ball. Interestingly, if we look at his figures at his home ground Old Trafford, then we can see that the average amount of runs it takes for him to pick up a wicket drops over 25% to 20.59 runs. This can provide opportunities to study the form of players and teams in this detail to find an edge against the bookies.

Further to that, you can use the previous ground stats to come up with fairly accurate estimates at total run markets and with expected run rates too. At the end of the day, it all comes down to doing the research before the game in order to make better informed and researched decisions when you're betting.

### **In Play Punts**

As we mentioned before it's a great sport for in play action. Indeed, in Test matches an opportunity may present itself if a team is taking the new ball (after 80 overs are bowled). This often provides the bowlers with an edge over the batmen as it allows the ball to move about and bounce off the pitch a little bit more, which could lead to a surge in wickets. Moreover, if a partnership or individual is approaching a milestone e.g. 50 or 100 runs, this can present an opportunity to back an incoming wicket or a reduced run rate as they look to push it over the line.