

# IGNITION PHASE

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR YOUTH-LED CHANGE

# IGNITION PHASE PURPOSE

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The **IGNITION** phase helps coaches and partners:

- Identify young people who could become **Cricket Changemakers**
- Build a **safe, inclusive space** where youth feel confident to share ideas
- Begin listening for the **issues** young people care about most
- Start connecting with **local allies** (schools, NGOs, cricket groups) who might support future action

By the end of this phase, coaches should have a good idea of the **emerging issue** in their community and **which young people** are ready to take on leadership roles.

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A regular coaching space or hub with trusted relationships
- ICC Foundation Coaching Course materials (optional)
- PYD (Positive Youth Development) content or games
- Participatory cricket games (e.g. Superpower Cricket, Bat Chat)
- A notebook or phone to jot down key insights
- Tea and trust – informal conversations matter!
- Contacts for local organisations (schools, NGOs, clubs)

## SUMMARY

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# WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

There's no one right way to do this — every hub is different. But here are some ideas to help you get started:



## 1. ORGANISE AN ICC FOUNDATION + PYD COACHING COURSE

- Work with your National Cricket Association or other training organiser to set up a 2-day ICC Foundation + Positive Youth Development course
- Invite older boys and girls from your hub who enjoy cricket, are good with others, or are always keen to help
- Pay attention to who shows up, gets involved, and encourages their peers
- Ask yourself questions like:

“Who do you think others look up to?”

“Who always includes others?”

“Who cares about making things better?”

This isn't about picking the best cricketers. It's about spotting those who have potential to lead and care.

### GUIDED NOTES:

 Who could you contact to support or co-deliver this course?



 Where could you run the course (venue)?



 Who would you invite? (Names or criteria)



 What equipment will you need?





## 2. BUILD A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT


- Make your sessions welcoming for everyone, especially girls, children from different ethnicities or backgrounds, and anyone who might feel left out
- Use games with messages (from the Explore phase handbook) to start conversations
  - e.g. “Superpower Cricket” to build confidence
- Model respectful behaviour, and gently challenge teasing or exclusion
- Build trust through regular attendance, friendly check-ins, and by listening more than you speak

A safe space helps young people open up about the things they experience in daily life.

### GUIDED NOTES:

 What can you do to make sessions feel safe and welcoming?



 How can you show that every voice matters – including girls and those usually left out?



 Which games could help build connection and confidence?



## 3. START LISTENING FOR ISSUES

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Use casual conversations and simple prompts during or after sessions:

- “What’s something you’d like to change at school or in your community?”
- “What stops you or your friends from joining in?”
- “If you could make things better for girls here, what would you do?”

Keep notes or voice memos if helpful — small ideas now might grow into your changemaking goal later.

### GUIDED NOTES:

 What questions could you ask to spark conversations?



 What issues are being raised (directly or indirectly)?



 How will you record or reflect on what you’re hearing?



## 4. CONNECT WITH LOCAL ALLIES

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Think about who else in your area could support change later on — during the action phase. This could include:

- **Schools** – teachers, school heads, health teachers
- **Cricket clubs or district associations**
- **Local NGOs** working on health, education, gender equality, etc.
- **Community leaders** or groups already respected by young people

Start small: invite them to a session, introduce the idea of youth-led change, and ask what support they might offer later.


### GUIDED NOTES:

 Which schools or teachers could you connect with?



 Are there other cricket clubs, academies or coaches who could support?



 Which NGOs, health workers, or community leaders might be helpful?



 How could you introduce the Cricket Changemakers idea to them?





# WHAT SHOULD BE IN PLACE BY THE END OF THE IGNITION PHASE?

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- You've identified at least 6-8 potential young leaders who are positive, curious and respected by others
- You've started to hear or notice one or more issues that matter to your group
- You've begun building a safe, inclusive space where young people feel able to speak honestly
- You've made contact with at least one organisation or ally outside of your hub who could support future activities

**Remember:** This isn't about rushing. The Ignition Phase is about paying attention, planting seeds, and creating the conditions where young people feel excited, supported and ready to lead.