

Tactical Teamwork with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To understand and apply tactical strategies in competitive team games, including positioning, communication, and sportsmanship.

Leo the Lion is coaching a team of young animals for the Great Meadow Tournament. Read the scenario for each game situation below. For each, choose the best tactical decision from the word bank and justify your answer based on team communication and positioning. Remember, in Year 4 PE, a successful team relies on working together, not just individual skill!

Word bank: Supportive positioning · Clear communication · Defensive transition · Strategic spacing · Active listening · Fair play

1. Scenario 1: Your teammate has the ball but is surrounded by three opponents. What tactical action should you take to help them, and why? (2 marks)

2. Scenario 2: Your team has just lost possession of the ball near the opponent's goal. Explain why an immediate 'defensive transition' is necessary to protect your own goal. (2 marks)

3. Scenario 3: Compare and contrast 'strategic spacing' with 'bunching up' near the ball. Why is spreading out more effective for a team? (2 marks)

4. Scenario 4: Justify why 'clear communication' is vital when two teammates are going for the same ball at the same time. (2 marks)

5. Scenario 5: What might happen if a team prioritises individual goals rather than working together as a unit? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

6. Scenario 6: If you were the captain, how would you use 'fair play' to influence the atmosphere of a challenging match? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a playing field showing a team of animals using 'strategic spacing'. Use arrows to show how players move to support the person with the ball.



Extension challenge: Design a new team game that requires at least three different skills (e.g., throwing, dodging, and spatial awareness). Write a set of rules and explain how your game encourages teamwork rather than individual competition.