

Striking and Fielding Masterclass with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand the tactical principles, terminology, and skills required for striking and fielding games in line with the Year 4 PE curriculum.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of how to play effectively as a batter and a fielder. Max the Monkey has prepared these to help you think like a tactical athlete!

What is the primary role of a 'Striker' in a game?

A striker is the player who hits the ball into the field to score runs or points while trying to avoid being caught or out.

Explain why communication is vital for the fielding team.

Communication helps fielders decide who will catch a ball, where to throw it next, and helps coordinate players to cover space efficiently.

Define 'Intercepting' in the context of fielding.

Intercepting is the act of moving quickly to stop or catch the ball before it reaches a specific target or rolls past the fielder.

What is the tactical purpose of 'bowling' with varying speed or direction?

To challenge the striker's timing and accuracy, making it harder for them to hit the ball into a space where no fielders are standing.

Compare and contrast a 'deep fielder' and a 'close fielder'.

A deep fielder stands far away to stop long hits and catch high balls, while a close fielder stands near the striker to stop short, quick hits.

Justify why a batter should look at the field before striking the ball.

By observing where the fielders are standing, the batter can aim for 'gaps' or empty spaces to safely score more runs.

What might happen if a fielder fails to 'back up' their teammate?

If the ball gets past the primary fielder, there is no one behind them to stop it, potentially allowing the batter to score extra runs.

Describe the correct body position for receiving a ball thrown at speed.

Keep your eyes on the ball, hands cupped with fingers pointing up or down depending on the height, and cushion the impact by bringing your hands towards your body.

Explain the difference between 'fielding' and 'bowling'.

Bowling is the act of putting the ball into play towards the striker, while fielding is the act of retrieving or catching the ball after it has been struck.

Why is 'accuracy' more important than 'power' when throwing the ball back to a base?

An accurate throw reaches the target quickly and safely, whereas a powerful throw that is inaccurate may go wide, allowing the batter to score.