

Mastering the Field: Invasion Games Tactics

Learning objective: To understand and apply tactical principles in invasion games, including creating space and defensive positioning.

Follow the steps below to illustrate an invasion game scenario. Use your knowledge of attacking and defending to place the players strategically on the pitch provided.

Draw: Draw a top-down view of a rectangular pitch. On one half, draw three attackers wearing striped jerseys and two defenders wearing solid jerseys. Position the attackers so they are creating 'space' and preparing to pass around the defenders. Use arrows to show the direction of movement for the attackers. Include a central ball. The style should be a clear, tactical diagram used by coaches, with neat labels pointing to the key components.



Label words: Attacker · Defender · Passing lane · Space · Interception · Pivot · Marking · Support player

Steps:

1. Explain why an attacker should move into 'space' rather than standing directly next to a defender.
2. Justify your choice of defensive formation. Why is it important for defenders to 'mark' players rather than chasing the ball?
3. What might happen if a team fails to communicate during an invasion game?
4. Compare and contrast the role of a player in possession versus a player without possession.

5. Label the 'Passing lane' on your diagram. Why must this lane be clear for a successful pass?
6. Design a short drill that helps teammates practise moving into space. Describe the movement of the players.