

Mastering the Pitch: Tactics in Invasion Games

Learning objective: To analyse and apply tactical strategies, including spatial awareness and team communication, within competitive invasion games.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of movement, space, and teamwork to provide detailed, tactical answers. Max the monkey is looking for your most logical solutions!

N/A

Word bank: possession · spatial awareness · intercept · transition · communication · defensive formation · width · tactical · support play

1. Max is currently in possession of the ball, but he is surrounded by two opponents. Explain why using 'width' and 'support play' is the most effective tactical solution to maintain possession. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast a 'man-to-man' marking system with a 'zonal' defensive formation. Under what specific circumstances would you justify using one over the other? (3 marks)

3. What might happen to your team's success if communication between the attack and defence breaks down during a rapid transition from defence to attack? (2 marks)

4. Identify two ways that an attacking player without the ball can create space for a teammate who is being closely marked. (2 marks)

5. Justify why 'spatial awareness' is considered the most important skill for a player who is transitioning from a defensive role to an attacking role. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a tactical diagram showing a team of four players (use X for your team and O for the opponents) moving the ball up the pitch. Use arrows to show the 'support' runs your players are making to create width.



Extension challenge: Design a new invasion game that requires players to use a specific piece of equipment (e.g., a hoop or a beanbag). Write a set of three 'Golden Rules' for your game that ensure fair play, cooperation, and tactical depth.