

Mastering the Field: Striking and Fielding Tactics

Learning objective: To analyse and apply strategic decision-making in striking and fielding games, focusing on spatial awareness, communication, and tactical positioning.

Max the monkey has been observing a game of rounders. He has noticed that the best players don't just hit the ball hard; they think like mathematicians! Read the tactical scenarios below and decide which action provides the most effective outcome for the fielding team. For each scenario, justify your choice using your knowledge of spatial awareness and team communication.

Word bank: backstop · interception · spatial awareness · communication · tactical · trajectory · velocity · fielding

1. Scenario 1: The batter hits a low, fast ball towards the deep field. Two fielders are nearby. Explain why shouting 'MINE!' is more effective than both fielders running to the ball. (2 marks)

2. Scenario 2: The opposing team has a very strong hitter who consistently strikes the ball towards the left side of the field. Justify why the fielding team should adjust their positions before the next ball is bowled. (2 marks)

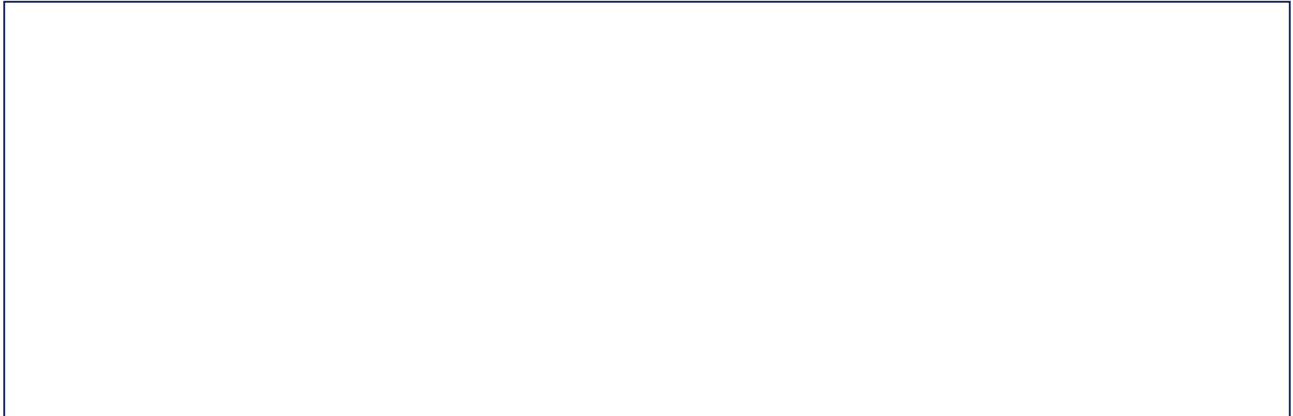
3. Scenario 3: Compare and contrast the role of a 'deep fielder' versus a 'base fielder'. Why might the deep fielder need to prioritise stopping the ball rather than catching it? (2 marks)

4. Scenario 4: What might happen if the fielding team ignores the 'backstop' position during a game? How does this influence the opposition's scoring potential? (2 marks)

5. Scenario 5: If you are the captain, how would you organise your team to ensure every area of the 'pitch' is covered? Use the term 'spatial awareness' in your answer. (2 marks)

6. Scenario 6: If a ball is struck with high velocity directly between two fielders, what tactical communication should occur immediately? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view diagram of a rounders pitch. Mark an 'X' where you would place five fielders to prevent the most runs, and draw arrows showing the 'lanes' or zones each fielder is responsible for covering.



Extension challenge: Design a new rule for a striking and fielding game that encourages better teamwork. Write a short paragraph justifying how your rule forces players to improve their communication and tactical thinking during a match.