

Mastering Striking and Fielding: The Tactical Pitch

Learning objective: To understand the spatial awareness and tactical positioning required in striking and fielding games.

Follow the drawing prompts to design a tactical field layout. Use your knowledge of fielding positions to place your players effectively to prevent the striking team from scoring points.

Draw: Draw an aerial view of a rectangular or circular sports pitch. Use a clear, technical style. Include a central striking area, a 'bowling' point, and at least six fielding positions. Draw small stick-figure icons to represent the fielders. Use arrows to show the potential path of the ball if it is hit towards the deep field, and shade the areas where fielders are most likely to intercept the ball.



Label words: Bowler · Wicket-keeper · Deep fielder · Infield · Striker · Base · Boundary · Tactical zone

Steps:

1. Explain why it is important for a fielder to anticipate the direction of the ball before it is struck by the batter.
2. Label the 'Infield' and 'Boundary' areas on your drawing. Why do fielders often spread out towards the boundary?
3. Compare and contrast the role of a bowler and a deep fielder. How do their responsibilities differ in terms of movement?

4. Justify your choice of positioning for the wicket-keeper. Why must they be located directly behind the striking zone?
5. What might happen if the fielders fail to communicate during a high-speed play? Describe the impact on the game.
6. If you were the team captain, how would you adjust your fielding positions if the striker consistently hits the ball to the left side?