

Mastering Striking and Fielding with Max and Kit

Learning objective: To understand the tactical and technical principles of striking and fielding games, focusing on teamwork, precision, and spatial awareness.

Read the front of each card to challenge your knowledge. Flip to the back to check your answer. Use these cards to improve your understanding of how Max the monkey and Kit the fox approach their favourite team sports.

What is the primary goal of the 'fielding' team in a striking and fielding game?

To restrict the number of runs scored by the batting team by catching the ball, stopping it from travelling, or returning it quickly to a target area.

Explain why communication between fielders is vital when a ball is hit into the 'gap'.

Communication prevents collisions and ensures that the player with the best opportunity to intercept the ball takes the lead, reducing the chance of error.

What is meant by the term 'tactical awareness' in the context of the fielding team?

It refers to the ability to position players based on the strengths and weaknesses of the striker, such as moving fielders to protect areas where the striker frequently hits the ball.

Compare and contrast a 'long barrier' technique with a 'one-handed catch'.

The long barrier is a defensive technique used to stop a ball rolling along the ground to prevent runs, whereas a one-handed catch is an offensive technique used to dismiss a striker.

How can a striker use 'spatial awareness' to improve their scoring potential?

By observing where the fielders are positioned and deliberately striking the ball into empty spaces or gaps where no fielders are currently standing.

Justify why it is important for the 'backstop' or wicket-keeper to stay focused on the ball at all times.

They are positioned to retrieve balls that miss the target or the striker, and their constant focus ensures they can quickly return the ball to the centre, preventing extra runs.

What might happen if a fielder stands too close to the striker during a game?

The fielder might not have enough reaction time to stop a powerful strike, and they may be unable to cover a wider area of the field, leaving gaps for the striker to exploit.

Define 'bowling accuracy' and explain its impact on the game.

Bowling accuracy is the ability to consistently deliver the ball to a specific target area. High accuracy puts pressure on the striker and limits their ability to choose which shots to play.

Describe the 'ready position' that a fielder should adopt when the ball is about to be struck.

A balanced stance with knees slightly bent, weight on the balls of the feet, and eyes fixed on the striker, allowing for a quick movement in any direction.

If you were captaining a team, how would you organise your fielders to defend against a powerful hitter?

You would position fielders further back towards the boundary to intercept long hits, while keeping agile players closer to the centre to stop quick, shorter strikes.

Why is 'anticipation' considered a high-level skill in fielding?

It allows a player to predict where the ball will go based on the striker's body language and the angle of the bat, giving the fielder a head start to reach the ball.

Evaluate the importance of the 'follow-through' in striking.

The follow-through ensures a smooth, controlled motion that helps direct the ball accurately and provides more power to the strike.