

Mastering Striking and Fielding Tactics

Learning objective: To develop tactical awareness, refine striking technique, and apply strategic fielding positions to gain a competitive advantage in a game.

Read each question carefully. Max the monkey needs your help to solve these sporting puzzles. Use your knowledge of movement, spatial awareness, and game tactics to provide detailed responses.

In a game of rounders or cricket, success depends on the synergy between the striker and the fielders. A striker must consider the trajectory and velocity of the ball to find gaps in the field. Conversely, fielders must utilise spatial awareness to anticipate where the ball will land and communicate effectively to minimise the opponent's scoring opportunities.

Word bank: backstop · trajectory · foul · interception · spatial awareness · force · velocity · strategic positioning

1. Explain why a striker might choose to hit the ball into a space between two fielders rather than aiming for the boundary. How does this demonstrate tactical decision-making? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the roles of the 'bowler' (or server) and the 'backstop'. Why is it vital for these two players to communicate effectively during a rally? (2 marks)

3. If a ball is travelling at high velocity towards the boundary, justify why a fielder should move towards the line of the ball rather than waiting for it to reach them. (2 marks)

4. Max the monkey notices that the opposition's striker always hits the ball towards the right side of the field. How should the fielding team adjust their strategic positioning to counter this? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if a fielder fails to maintain spatial awareness when chasing a high-trajectory ball? Discuss the potential impact on both safety and game outcome. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw an overhead diagram of a playing field. Label the positions of five fielders using their names, and draw an 'X' to mark the 'gap' where a striker should aim to hit the ball to maximise their chance of scoring.



Extension challenge: Design a new training drill that focuses specifically on long-distance throwing accuracy. Write a set of instructions for your classmates explaining how to set up the drill and what criteria you will use to measure success.