

STRIKING & FIELDING

Rounders and Cricket

KEY RULES

Game Basics: Striking and Fielding games such as Rounders and Cricket help children develop coordination, timing, accuracy, and teamwork. Players score by hitting a moving ball and running between bases or wickets while the opposing team tries to field the ball and stop play. Both sports encourage communication, positioning, and tactical decision-making.

Rounders: is played between two teams of nine. One team bats while the other fields. The bowler bowls an underarm ball between the batter's knee and shoulder height. The batter strikes the ball and runs around four posts to score. A full rounder is scored if the player completes the circuit in one go; half a rounder is awarded for reaching halfway. Fielders must work together to catch, stump, or return the ball to the post before the batter arrives. Batters can be out if the ball is caught, a post is stumped, or they run outside the post line. Players must wait for their turn to bat, and teamwork is vital in both batting and fielding roles. Safety is key — bats should be carried low and swings should only happen in the batting box.

Cricket

Cricket: is played between two teams of eleven, but smaller groups are used in school games. Each team bats and bowls in turn. The bowler bowls overarm, aiming to hit the stumps or force mistakes. The batter defends the stumps and tries to score runs by hitting the ball and running between wickets.

Batters can be out if bowled, caught, or run out. The fielding team works together to retrieve the ball quickly and throw accurately. In school formats such as Kwik Cricket, plastic bats and balls are used for safety, and rules are simplified to ensure maximum participation and fun. Children learn key skills such as bowling with a straight arm, batting side-on, and catching with two hands.

Teamwork and Tactics: In both games, children learn to communicate, plan, and support one another. Batters decide when to run or stay, while fielders position themselves to cover space and back each other up. Understanding when to attack, defend, and stay calm under pressure builds confidence and sportsmanship.

Fair Play and Safety: Fair play is essential — respect for umpires, opponents, and teammates must always be shown. Safety rules include awareness of bats, appropriate spacing, and calling for catches. Encouragement and inclusion ensure that every player feels valued and part of the team.

USEFUL LINKS

Rounders England: roundersengland.co.uk

Rounders Scotland: roundersscotland.org

Rounders Wales: rounderswales.org.uk

Irish Rounders Association: gaarounders.ie

Your School Games Rounders: yourschoolgames.com/taking-part/our-sports/rounders

England and Wales Cricket Board: ecb.co.uk

Cricket Scotland: cricketscotland.com

Cricket Ireland: cricketireland.ie

Your School Games Cricket: yourschoolgames.com/taking-part/our-sports/cricket