

Name _____

Softball Strategy: Tactics and Techniques on the Field

Short Answer Key

1. Defensive shifts involve adjusting fielders' positions based on a batter's tendencies, such as hitting to a particular side of the field. They are commonly used when a batter consistently hits in one direction, with fielders shifting to that side to increase the chances of making an out.
2. Pitchers choose their pitches based on the batter's weaknesses, the count, and the game situation. Pitch selection is crucial because it can deceive or challenge the batter, increasing the chances of an out or a favorable outcome for the defense.
3. "Small ball" involves sacrificing power hitting for better ball placement and base running. Its strategic purpose is to advance runners, create scoring opportunities, and increase the chances of manufacturing runs, especially in close games.
4. Effective communication in softball helps players coordinate defensive plays, relay signals from coaches, and stay aware of the game situation. It is crucial for ensuring that everyone is on the same page and can react quickly to changing circumstances.
5. Yes, an example would be when a runner is on first base, and the batter hits a solid line drive into the outfield. If the outfielder takes a moment to field the ball, the runner on first base can read the play and attempt to take an extra base (e.g., advance to third base). This aggressive base running can put the runner in scoring position, potentially leading to a run when the next batter hits.

