



POSITIONS EXPLAINED





1

Position: Goalkeeper

- The most defensive position in soccer
- Main job to stop opposition goals
- Also, organizes the defense and builds play from the back
- Wears gloves, and a different colored jersey from teammates
- Only player who can use their hands in their 18-yard box (apart from throw-ins!)



2

Position: Wing-back

- Modern variation of the full-back
- Overlaps and sends crosses into the opposition box
- Still marks opposition wingers when needed
- Expected to stay on their touchline
- One of the most physically demanding positions



3

Position: Full-back

- Lines up either side of the defense
- Marks opposition wingers
- Provides support for the wide midfielder ahead of them
- May overlap and send crosses into the opposition box
- Often takes throw-ins



4

Position: Center-back [Centre-back] (sweeper)

- A safety net for the stopper(s) alongside them
- Races to cover gaps when defense is breached
- Less concerned with man-marking
- Reads the game from deep
- Joins midfield build-up when in possession



5a

Position: Center-back [Centre-back] (stopper)

- Shuts down opposition attackers
- May employ zonal or man-marking strategies
- Brings the ball out from the back
- Often tall and physically strong
- Bravery and heading ability desirable, for use in either box

5b

Position: Center-back [Centre-back] (quarter-back)

- Same, central defensive position as the stopper
 - Also, more likely to be used in a back three
 - Keeping the ball as important as winning it back
 - Confident in possession
 - Greater onus on long, accurate passes
- >>Used mainly in a back-3 (such as 3-5-2 formation)

6a

Position: Defensive midfielder (ball-winner)

- Sits in front of the defense
- Wins the ball back with tackles and interceptions
- Covers teammates when they go forward
- Harries opposition attackers
- Physically fit and tenacious

6b

Position: Defensive midfielder (deep-lying playmaker)

- Sits in front of the defense
- Creative playmaker from deep
- Distributes to teammates, near and far
- Sets the team's tempo
- Capable of tackling, though a secondary task

8

Position: Box-to-box midfielder

- Lines up in the middle of the field
- Equally adept at attacking and defending
- Maintains possession
- Tracks back to tackle and block shots
- Breaks into the opponent's box and tries to score

10a

Position: Attacking midfielder

- Dictates play from behind the strikers
- Creates goalscoring chances for the attackers
- Technique and creativity crucial
- Ability to shoot from range an advantage
- Historically associated with the No.10 jersey

7

Position: Winger

- The widest attacking player
- Takes on opposition defenders
- Provides crosses into the box
- Meets crosses from the opposite wing
- Often the fastest player on the field

11a

Position: Wide midfielder

- Provides width in midfield
- Gives full-backs defensive protection
- Compresses play in opponents' half
- May cross from deeper positions than wingers
- Combines speed and stamina

11b

Position: Forward

- Plays between midfield and attack
- Assists the striker in scoring goals
- Elusive and difficult to mark
- More versatile than the target-man
- Vision, technical skill and creativity

11c

Position: False 9

- Starts up front near the opposition goal
- Replaces the traditional striker in most formations
- Drops deep to pull opposition defenders out of position
- Often a converted midfielder
- Dribbles and creates chances

9

Position: Striker

- Closest player to the opponent's goal
- Responsible for scoring goals
- Holds the ball up until teammates can join the attack
- Harries opposition defenders
- Physically strong