

Players Roles and Responsibilities

Goalkeeper – No. 1

Key Responsibilities:

Defending:

- Keep the opponent from scoring a goal
- Control and defend the space between you and the central defenders to reduce the chances of opposition penetration (starting position)
- Work with fellow defenders to keep the defensive security and structure, both centrally and in the wide areas
- Organize the defensive shape while the team attacks to prevent counterattacks
- Provide good angles and distances to protect the goal effectively
- Organize efficiently and effectively at set pieces
- Use correct handling and diving techniques
- Collect crosses using the correct action and decision making skills
- Demonstrate bravery in all actions and decisions

Attacking:

- Commence attacks with swift and effective distribution
- Provide good support angles for defenders to help them with possession
- To operate as a “sweeper” as the team progresses up the field
- Communicate with the team to keep balance when attacking

Skills:

- Handling and diving
- Receiving skills – both feet
- Passing skills over all ranges, including from the hands (both feet)
- Throwing
- Cross Taking
- Set Position

Outside Backs – No. 2 & 5

Key Responsibilities:

Defending:

- Control and defend the space between you and the central defenders/goalkeeper to stop opposition penetration
- Work with fellow defenders to keep the defensive security and structure in wide areas
- Act as the last line of defense in the flank Position
- Prevent crosses
- Organize and direct fellow defenders as necessary
- Organize/direct/assist the winger in his defensive responsibilities
- Move to a more central position, supporting and covering the central defender when the ball is on the opposite side

Attacking:

- Provide a wide passing outlet, usually in the defending (receiving from GK) and midfield areas of the field

- Progress possession in the flank areas in all phases of the field
- Create crossing positions, alone or in combination with others
- Deliver accurate and timely crosses

Skills:

- Marking, tracking and backtracking
- Intercepting, challenging and tackling
- Supporting and covering
- Heading
- Efficient receiving
- Passing skills over all ranges (variety and with both feet)
- Combination play (especially overlaps and wall passes)
- Running in the ball near the attacking 18 yard box

Center Backs – No. 3 & 4

Key Responsibilities:

Defending:

- Along with the goalkeeper, control and defend the space between you and the other central defender to stop opposition penetration
- Combine with fellow defenders to maintain the defensive security and structure of the team, especially centrally
- Organize and direct other team members when defending
- Support and cover fellow central and flank defenders
- Mark, track and “control” forwards in dangerous positions
- Combine with other defenders in marking and “passing on” attacking players
- Mark opponents or space in order to be first to the ball on crosses

Attacking:

- Give a passing outlet for the goalkeeper and other players in defending and midfield areas
- Retain possession, progressing where possible
- Move into midfield areas when appropriate, with or without the ball, to create overload situations
- Make sure the team has sound defensive structure and balance as the ball goes forward

Skills:

- Marking, tracking and backtracking
- Intercepting, challenging and tackling
- Supporting and covering
- Containing 1 v 1 situations – pressing, showing, delaying
- Heading
- Efficient receiving
- Passing skills over all ranges
- Combination play (especially wall passes)

Defensive Midfield – No. 6

Key Responsibilities:

Defending:

- Support forward players when defending in midfield areas by marking, pressing, intercepting and challenging for the ball
- Organize and coach players in front and to the side to ensure that the lines of the team are close together (team compactness)

- Mark and take control of opposing central midfielders in your zone and cover and support as necessary
- When passes are made beyond our midfield, recover, track your man, and assist or replace defenders when necessary

Attacking:

- Provide the back players with passing outlets
- Move opponents away from areas which back players may run through
- Retain possession and provide penetration passes for players moving into goal scoring or goal creating positions
- Move into goal scoring positions as much as possible with the aim of striking at goal from build-up play or through retained possession
- Work with fellow central midfield players to give sound structure and balance while attacking
- Support forward players on receiving the ball

Skills:

- Good support angles
- 360 degree awareness
- Receiving skills- light feet, clever touches (all surfaces)
- Turning with the ball
- Ball protection on receiving
- Quality passing- short and long
- Long range shooting
- One touch finishing – striking in the box (including the head)
- Marking, pressuring, intercepting, tackling, challenging
- Stay of feet as long as possible when defending

Attacking Midfield – No. 8 and 10

Key Responsibilities:

Attacking:

- Play in between the midfield and forward players, usually within the width of the penalty area (don't drop too deep)
- Get available/free to receive the ball
- Create space and scoring chances for others
- "Provide" for the forwards and wingers, especially behind the defense
- Score goals – from distance and within the penalty area
- Make runs to the 12 yd spot when the ball is wide near the penalty area
- Be a forward runner where appropriate

Defending:

- Understand and apply pressing. Always have contact with the striker (communicate with him and also listen to the players from behind)
- Prevent forward passing outlets of the opposition – "screening"
- Assess the "numbers" of your team and the other team in the central midfield space
- Mark and control the defensive midfielder of the opponent
- Recover into a deeper position to assist central midfielders when necessary

Skills:

- Positioning and knowledge of how to find and create space
- 360 degree awareness on and off the ball

- Tight control and receiving skills
- Play on the turn
- Turning and protecting/shielding skills
- Passing ability – often in one touch (disguise)
- Combination player (through 360 degrees)
- Pass “off the run”
- Penetrate with quality forward passing
- Intelligence/awareness
- Attack the penalty area – score with both feet inside and outside the box – one touch finishing

Striker – No. 9

Key Responsibilities:

Attacking:

- Score goals
- Operate as the most advanced attacking player, both in front and behind the opposition’s defensive lines, usually within the width of the box
- Assess and move in to goal scoring positions whenever there is a chance of the ball being delivered (e.g. attack crosses at the first or second post with effective timing and speed)
- Create goal scoring opportunities for others through intelligent movement, support play and accurate distribution
- Attack the spaces behind and to the side of defenders
- Be a persistent outlet for defensive and midfield players
- Control and retain possession, making sure that attacking play continues with momentum (if possible) by linking the play

Defending:

- Understand and apply principles of pressing. Prevent forward passing outlets of the opposition – “screening”
- Delay and contain attacking build-up play
- Initial pressure to ball in transition when ball is lost close to opponent’s goal

Skills:

- Lose tight marking defenders
- Move defenders away from high priority defending positions
- Efficient ball receiving and holding skills under pressure
- Turning
- Movement and timing, especially to exploit space behind defenses
- Effective 1 v 1 attacker
- Efficient and imaginative distribution (with 1 touch where appropriate), including wall passes
- Goal scoring, using 1 touch on demand
- Pressing and containing

Wings – No. 7 & 11

Key Responsibilities:

Attacking:

- Provide wide outlets, usually in the middle and attacking thirds
- Create individual space using dummy and feinting movements (run defenders off) or by rotating with others
- Deliver accurate and timely crosses

- Help with attacking play in central positions, with and without the ball
- Move in to goal scoring positions when not involved in play (e.g. arriving at the back post for crosses)
- Score Goals

Defending:

- React, recover and play as the first defensive barrier in wide areas (listen to communication from behind)
- Look to step, win ball, or deny penetrating pass from opponent wide back
- Assist other defenders in flank positions
- Move to a more central and covering position when the ball is on the opposite side

Skills:

- Efficient and varied receiving skills (ground/aerial control)
- Effective passing, including 1 touch
- Deceptive body movement with and without the ball
- Dribbling and ball manipulation
- Running with the ball and combination play, e.g. wall passes, overlaps
- Crossing the ball with both feet, using 1 touch where necessary (usually on the run)
- Understand the need for and how to create width
- Scoring with both head and feet
- Marking, tracking, pressing, showing and covering
- Supporting and balancing