



Individual Player's Role, Responsibility and Key Skills

Defending, attacking and skills for each player position.

Goalkeeper

Defending

- Control and defend the space between them and the central defenders to reduce the chances of penetration by opponents (starting position).
- Combine and cooperate with fellow defenders to maintain the defensive security and structure of defending play both centrally and in wide areas.
- Organize, encourage and direct fellow defenders within the team defensive structure
- Organize efficiently and effectively at set piece situations (including marking opposition)
- Provide good angles and distances in order to protect the goal
- Use correct handling and diving techniques when required
- To collect crosses using the correct action and decision making skills
- To demonstrate bravery in all actions and decisions

Attacking

- Commence attacks with swift and effective distribution techniques
- Provide good support angles for defenders to aid them in possession of the soccer ball
- To operate as a sweeper – as the team progresses up the field of play
- Communicate with the team to ensure correct balance is achieved whilst attacking

Skills/Techniques

- Handling and diving
- Receiving skills (both feet)
- Passing skills over all ranges, from the hands (both feet)
- Throwing
- Set position
- Communication and organization

Examples: Tim Howard (Pictured), David De Gea and Manuel Neuer





Central Defenders

Defending

- Along with the goalkeeper, control and defend the space between them and the central defenders to reduce the chance of penetration by the opponents
- Combine and co-operate with fellow defenders to maintain the defensive security and structure of defending play especially centrally
- Combine with fellow central defenders in marking and passing on attacking players
- Mark, track and control forwards in goal scoring positions
- Organize, encourage and direct fellow defenders within the team defensive structure
- Support and cover fellow central and flank defenders as necessary
- Mark opponents of space in order to be the first in crossing situations

Attacking

- Provide a central passing outlet for the goalkeeper and other players usually in the defending and midfield area of the field
- Retain and progress possession creatively usually in the defending and middle third of the field
- Set play attacking options

Skills

- Marking, tracking and back tracking skills
- Intercepting, challenging and tackling skills
- Containing skills in 1v1 situations – 4 P's (Pressure, Position, Patience, Poke)
- Heading skills
- Efficient receiving skills
- Passing skills over all ranges
- Combination play (especially wall passes)
- Support skills
- Running with the ball

Examples: John Terry (Pictured), Gerard Pique and Vincent Kompany





Full Backs

Defending

- Control and defend the space between him/her and the CD's and GK to reduce the chances of penetration by the opponents.
- Combine and cooperate with fellow defenders to maintain a defensive security and structure of defending play in wide areas.
- To move to a more central position when the ball is on the opposite flank.
- Support and cover the central defender when the ball is on the opposite side of the pitch.
- To act as the last line of defense in the flank position.
- To prevent crosses by the opposition.
- Organize and direct fellow defenders as necessary
- Organize/direct/assist the winger in his defensive duties.

Attacking

- Provide a wide passing outlet for the goalkeeper and other players usually in the defending and midfield areas of the field.
- Progress possession creatively in the flank areas in all phases of the field.
- Create crossing positions alone or in combination with others.
- To deliver accurate and timely crosses from flank positions.

Skills

- Marking, tracking and back tracking skills
- Intercepting, challenging and tackling skills
- Supporting and covering skills
- Heading
- Efficient receiving skills
- Passing skills over all ranges (variety)
- Combination play (especially overlap[s and wall passes).
- Running with the ball

Examples: Dani Alves (Pictured), Branislav Ivanovic and Jordi Alba





Central midfielders

Attacking

- To provide and present the back players with passing options
- To support back players by moving opponents away from areas through which they may run with the ball
- Retain possession and provide penetrative passes for players moving into goal scoring or goal creating positions
- To move into goalscoring positions as frequently as possible with a view to striking at goal
- Support forward players on receiving the ball

Defending

- Support forward players when defending direct opponent attacks through midfield areas by marking, pressing, intercepting and challenging for the ball
- When passes are made beyond the midfield to goal, recover, track, and assist or replace defenders in their defending duties when necessary

Skills

- Good support angles
- Awareness of situations around you
- Receiving skills, good touch (on all surfaces)
- Turning with the ball
- Ball protection on receiving
- Quality range of passing
- Long range shooting
- One touch finishing
- Marking, pressing, intercepting, tracking and challenging

Examples: Steven Gerrard (Pictured), Xavi Hernandez and Yaya Toure





Attacking midfielder

Attacking

- To operate in between the midfield and forward players, usually within the width of the penalty area
- To get available/free to receive the ball
- To create space and scoring chances
- To provide for the forwards and wingers-especially behind in the space behind the opposition defense
- To score goals from distance and within the penalty area
- To be a forward runner

Defending

- Understand and be part of effective pressure
- To prevent forward passing outlets of the opponents
- To mark and control the holding midfielder
- To recover into a deeper position to assist central midfielders as and when needed

Skills

- Positioning and knowledge of how to find and make space
- Awareness of situations around you
- Can play on the half turn
- Good receiving skills
- Turning and protecting/shielding skills
- Passing ability with the need for one touch play
- Combination play
- Can penetrate with quality forward passing
- Intelligence/awareness
- Attacking the penalty area-scorer with both feet both inside and outside the box-one touch finishing

Examples: David Silva (Pictured), Lionel Messi and Mezut Ozil





Wingers

Attacking

- To provide wide outlets in flank positions usually in the middle and attacking third of the field.
- Create crossing positions alone or in combination with others
- To deliver accurate and timely crosses from flank positions
- Contribute to attacking play in central positions with and without the ball
- To move into goal scoring positions when not involved in play

To score goals

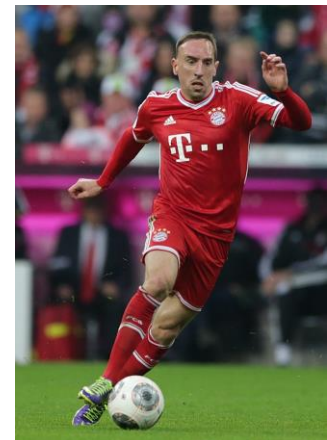
Defending

- To recover, react and act as a first defensive barrier in wide areas
- To assist other defenders in flank positions as appropriate
- Move to a more central covering position when the ball is on the opposite flank

Skills

- Efficient and varied receiving skills (ground/aerial control)
- Effective passing skills including 1 touch
- Deceptive body movement skills with and without the ball
- Dribbling and ball manipulation skills
- Running with the ball and combined player skills, e.g. wall passes and overlaps
- Crossing the ball with both feet using one touch when necessary (usually on the run)
- Understand the need for and how to create width
- Scoring skills with both head and feet
- Defending skills of marking. Tracking, pressing and covering
- Supporting and balancing skills

Examples: Franck Ribery (Pictured), Eden Hazard and Arjen Robben





Striker

Attacking

- To operate as a most forward of attacking players both in front and behind the rear defensive lines of the opposition.
- To assess and move into goal scoring positions, usually within the penalty box whenever there is a chance of the ball being delivered there.
- To score goals
- To create goal scoring opportunities for team mates through intelligent movement, support play and accurate distribution skills – attack the spaces behind and to the side of defenses and defenders
- To be a persistent outlet for defending and midfield players in possession
- To control and retain possession of the ball to ensure that the attacking play continues with momentum through efficient passing skills (link up play)

Defending

- To understand pressuring
- To delay and contain attacking build up play amongst opposition defenders

Skills

- Able to lose tight marking defenders
- To move defenders away from high priority defending positions
- Efficient ball receiving and holding skills under pressure
- Turning skills
- Movement and timing skills especially to exploit space behind defenses
- Effective 1v1 skills
- Efficient and imaginative distribution skills (with 1 touch when needed)
- All goal scoring skills using 1 touch on demand
- Pressing and containing skills

Examples: Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Pictured), Wayne Rooney and Diego Costa

