

PLAYER ATTRIBUTES:

GOALKEEPERS

Good hands. Collect at all 4 levels. Smooth drop down (collapse saves). Fast feet. Brave. Being willing to keep the ball out of the net! Authoritative. Loud. An organizer.

DEFENDERS

Good 1v1 (show signs of the **7 S's** of being a good 1st defender: Speed, Slow, Sideways, Stop, Shuffle, Surf, Sheppard). "Diving in is a no-no" Good in the air. Willing to tackle. Be safe when needed. With time...look to pass the ball. Range of passing should include short and long. Can they "back off" to give themselves time on the ball. Will they pass the ball to the goalkeeper (they should). Off the ball...can they mark? Goalside *first*. Compact as a group...reduce space (and holes) in-between them. Can they "add depth"...i.e. When one challenges-the other backs off (2nd defender position). Are they willing to block shots? Can wide defenders get forward at the right time?

CENTRAL MIDFIELD PLAYERS (Attacking)

Must be able to do most things. Must be fit. Box-to-box. *Defensively* must: mark, head, track back, tackle, stop counter attacks, be a good 1v1 defender. *Attacking* must: run beyond the forwards, shoot from distance, play through balls through holes, dribble at people in their half, look for 1-2s, overlap players in front of them, cross the ball.

CENTRAL MIDFIELD PLAYERS (Defensive)

Must **OWN** the middle of the field and *not* stray away from it. Number ONE focus to be a player that doesn't give the ball away. *Defensively* must: mark, head, track back, tackle, stop counter attacks, be a good 1v1 defender. With the ball, range of passing must be vast: short, diagonal, backwards, safe (long). Must be a great shielder of the ball. Physically difficult to knock off the ball. Long range shooting is a bonus. Potentially the most important position on the field.

WIDE MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Must be good attacking 1v1. Must understand that this position is very tactical...staying wide can make space for things to happen in the middle of the field (when your team has the ball). Must be able to cross the ball. Must want to get in the box and score goals when the ball is on the opposite side of the field. Must want to shoot. Must look to overlap the forwards. Must defend by tracking diagonally backwards. Must **HELP** wide defenders defend. Likely to be the fittest person on the team if done well.

FORWARDS

Must be good 1v1. Must want to shoot! Must be willing to play the ball backwards at the right time (this takes years). Understand that forwards will score more goals if they pass the ball backwards *first* during build up play. Must have a willingness or selfishness to be the leading scorer on the team (yes-all forwards must have that mentality). Range of shooting is important. Can they finish...1v1, from crosses etc.