

***Soccer Positions**

Forwards – Forwards are responsible for most of the team's scoring, so they usually play at the front of the offense where they can take most of the shots. They must possess great speed to get past defenders and the stamina to maintain an advantage throughout the game. Forwards also need to be agile dribblers (with both feet) to get around defenders and must have a strong and accurate shot from either foot to score goals.

Striker (Center Forward) – Plays towards the middle of the field so she is in front of the opposition's goal more often and has greater opportunities to shoot.

Wingers (Left and Right Forwards) – These are the outside forwards, playing to the sides or wings of the striker. Although they sometimes score, the wingers' job is to make accurate passes toward the middle of the field (called crossing passes or crosses) to the striker to set up scoring opportunities.

Midfielders (Halfbacks) – Midfielders play behind their team's forwards (closer to their own goal) and in front of their team's defenders. They may participate in an attack on the opposition's goal, but must remain prepared to help the defenders in their own half of the field. Since they play both offense and defense, midfielders must have the stamina and endurance of a long distance runner.

Defenders (Fullbacks) – The role of the defenders is to prevent the opposition from getting a good scoring opportunity. Taking the ball away from the attacking players is their primary goal, although just slowing the opposition's progress allows the defender's teammates time to help repel the attack.

Sweeper – The job of this player fits her name – she is responsible for clearing away the balls that have gotten away from the other defenders. She is the team's last line of defense in front of the goalkeeper.

Goalkeeper – The goalkeeper's job is to prevent any shots from getting into the net behind her. Because of the difficulty of this task, she is allowed to use her arms and hands as well as her feet and head. The goalie is only allowed to use her hands in the penalty area or she is called for a foul. Depending on the situation, the goalie rolls, throws or kicks the ball to her teammates.

*Definitions taken from the book:
"Soccer Made Simple" – A Spectator's Guide
\$11.95 at <http://www.firstbasesports.com/>