

# SOCCER POSITION TERMINOLOGY

## Soccer-for-Parents

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**Backs** – Refers to defenders.

**Defender** – A player who works mainly in the defensive third of the field. They are primarily focused on stopping the opposition's attackers from scoring.

**Forward** – A player who is responsible for most of a team's scoring. They play in front of the rest of their team (or in the attacking third of the field) where they can take most of the shots.

**Fullback** – a rear defender.

**Goalie** – Abbreviation for Goalkeeper.

**Goalkeeper** – I bet you know this one. The player positioned directly in front of the goal who tries to prevent shots from crossing the goalline; the only player allowed to use their hands and arms, though only within the 18-yard penalty area.

**Keeper** – Abbreviation for Goalkeeper.

**Midfielder** – A player generally positioned in the middle third of the field between the forwards and defenders. Their job is to link the defense and the offense through ball control and passing. They play both an attacking role and a defensive role.

**Striker** – Generally the same as a forward, though it sometimes refers to a forward that is his team's primary scoring threat.

**Sweeper** – Not always used. In some formations, a single defender that plays closest to their own goal behind the rest of the defenders; a team's last line of defense in front of the goalkeeper.