

Offensive

Penetration

- The ability to dribble around (doesn't attempt to dribble through) the defending players.
- Plays the ball into open space to allow for advancing the ball.
- Passes the ball to teammates in a leading manner as to allow forward motion of the receiver.
- Accurate shooting skills (consider form, power and placement of shot)
- Dribbles using all surfaces of the foot with exception of toe.

Mobility

- Players can effectively change positions on the field (fill in for one another when necessary)
- Can communicate with teammates during transitions (attacking and defending) to create numerical advantages, which create scoring opportunities.
- Players do not gravitate towards the ball unnecessarily
- Players are continuously moving within their areas of responsibility (not standing around watching the play, but getting involved)

Width

- Players maintain their spacing on the field
- Players attack on a broad front spreading the defense out and create open space in which to advance

Depth

- Players use knowledge of triangular spacing to allow for passing options
- Players read the game and communicate the need for support of teammates.
- Players position themselves in a supporting position to players with the ball.

Creativity

- The ability to create opportunities for advancing, possessing and scoring using personal skills.
- Can perform fakes and feints while dribbling.

Defensive

Delay

- Players position themselves to prevent advancement of the ball, while allowing teammates time to get into supporting positions.
- Denies opponents the space to advance the ball.
- Forces attacking player to make mistake then take the ball vs. being overly aggressive in defending and getting beat.

Depth

- Players use knowledge of triangular spacing to allow for effective delay.
- Players read the game and communicate the need for support of teammates.
- Players position themselves in a supporting position to players attacking the ball

Balance

- Players can read the attack and recognize the need for additional support in the defense
- Players ensure that an equal or greater number of players are available to defend by communicating and effectively and efficiently position themselves on the field
- Players ensure that the vital areas of the field (near the goal) are covered

Concentration

- Defending players condense the attack into a smaller area limiting the number of defenders needed to cover the attack
- Players position themselves to cutoff passing lanes, thereby covering two players at once.

Composure

- Players maintain calm and collected in the face of an attack.
- Players maintain proper techniques and positioning to "break-down" an attacker and regain possession of the ball.

Mastery is a word that should not be used lightly to describe a player's abilities. There are very few players who should be rated a 10, yet some players do possess the necessary skills to achieve this level of play.

For a complete glossary of soccer terms and definitions see www.firstbasesports.com/soccer_glossary.html