

## Performance of different groups of positional soccer players in basic soccer skills

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### Abstract

In soccer game eleven players of a team are arranged in different positions in the field of play with specific responsibilities. During game the players use different basic soccer skills according to the need of the situation. In modern times the concept of 'Total Football' has been more emphasized than the concept of traditional football. Present study was planned to analysed the performance of different groups of positional soccer players in basic soccer skills. One hundred twenty Inter-University level soccer players (Goal Keepers -25, Defenders -39, Mid-fielders – 26, and Forwards – 30) were selected as subjects as per their availability. Passing, dribbling and kicking were selected as the basic soccer skills. The performance of different groups of subjects for the selected soccer skills was measured using standard tests. Results indicated that the performance of the groups of Goal Keepers was significantly lower than all other groups of positional soccer players. There was no significant difference among the groups in the performances of other soccer skills.

**Keywords:** game of soccer, basic soccer skills, positional soccer players

### Introduction

Soccer is the most popular team game of the world. Each team involves eleven players arranged in different positions of the play field with specific responsibility. Each soccer player needs to learn and develop proficiency in the basic soccer skills like passing, kicking, dribbling, shooting, heading etc. But, according to the specific demand of the position of play, the respective group of players need to be very efficient in some of the basic soccer skills than others. In modern soccer the concept of 'Total Football' has been an important development. According to this concept, the players will not be confined to a specific position of play rigidly. They require to change the positions as and when demanded during game. This change of concept had put the demand on all the soccer players to learn and develop

proficiency in all the basic soccer skills.

Under this background present study was planned to analyse the performance of different groups of positional soccer players in basic soccer skills.

### Methodology

A total of 120 subjects were selected for the present study from a pool of soccer players with level of participation at East zone and all India Inter- University Football Tournament: 2017-2018 and Kolkata premiere league 1st Division and 2nd Division clubs as per availability. The subjects ranged between 18 years to 25 year of age. The total group of subjects consisted of four groups of positional soccer players (Goal Keepers -25, Defenders - 39, Mid-fielders – 26, and Forwards – 30).



Fig 1: Picture during data collection

Selected Basic Soccer skills were in a) Passing (No. of accuracy), b) Dribbling (in Second) and c) Kicking for distance (in Metre). Performance of the subjects in each of these soccer skills was measured using standardized test and

following standard protocol. Performance ability for Passing and Dribbling was assessed using Mor-Christian Soccer Skill test Battery and ability of kicking was measured by Warner Soccer Skill test.

**Results and Discussion**

Collected data were analysed using appropriate statistical procedures. Mean and standard deviation of performance in

different soccer skills of different groups of subjects have been presented in Table-1 below.

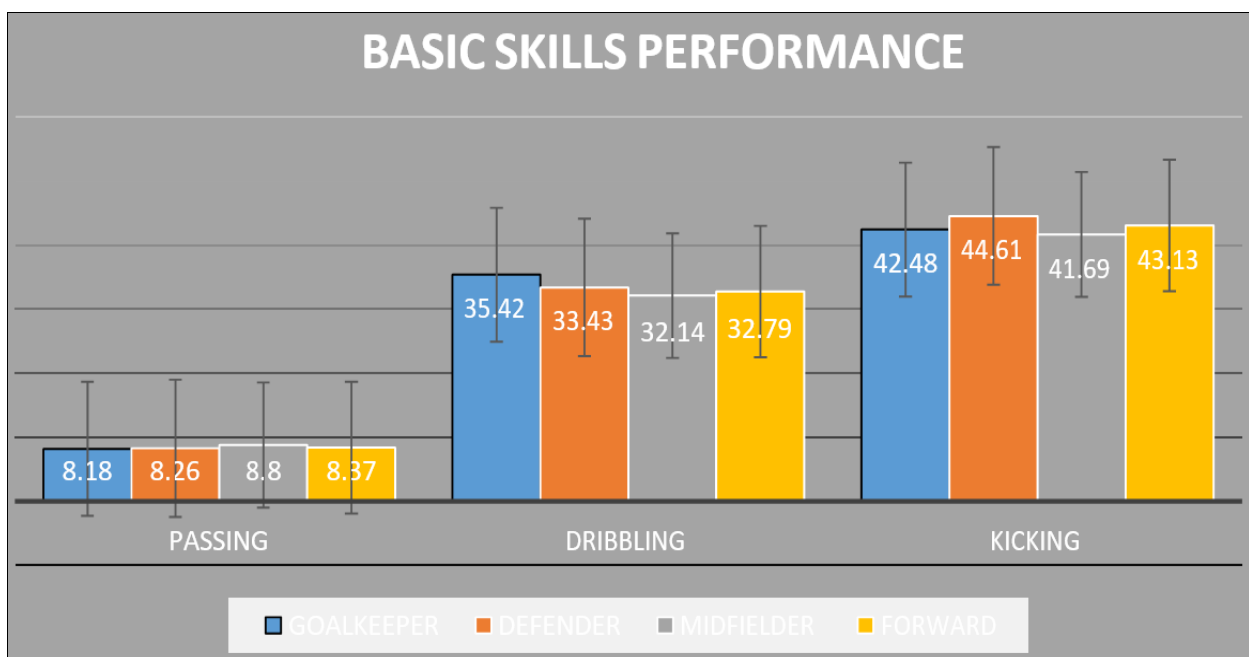
**Table 1:** Mean and Standard deviation of performance in different soccer skills of different groups of subjects

Different Groups of positional soccer players	Mean and Standard deviation of performance		
	Passing (No. of accuracy)	Dribbling (Time in Second)	Kicking for distance (in Metre)
Goal Keepers (N=25)	8.18±1.70	35.42±3.50	42.48±7.39
Defenders (N=39)	8.26±1.48	33.43±3.36	44.61±6.01
Mid fielders (N=26)	8.80±1.20	32.14±2.74	41.69±5.06
Forwards (N=30)	8.37±1.24	32.79±3.10	43.13±4.82

Above the table values indicate that the Goal keepers group had lowest performance in passing (No. of accuracy), (8.18±1.70), dribbling (in Second) (35.42±3.50) and Midfielders group had lowest performance in kicking for distance (41.69±5.06). Group of defenders was best of all groups in kicking for distance (44.61±6.01), Mid-fielders

group was best in dribbling (32.14±2.74) and passing (8.18±1.70).

Graphical representation of mean values of performance in Passing (No. of accuracy), Dribbling (in Second) and Kicking for distance (in Metre) different groups of football players have been presented in Fig 2.



**Fig 2:** Basic Skills Performance in Passing, Dribbling and Kicking.

The significance of difference among different groups of soccer players in different basic soccer skills was tested using the method of Analysis of Variance. The results have been presented in Table 2.

It appears from the above table values that there was statistically significant inter-group difference in performance of only one basic soccer skill – the dribbling. For other three selected basic soccer skills the inter-group difference in performance was not statistically significant. So, it was understood that different groups of positional soccer players as selected in the present study were almost similar in performance of the basic soccer skill – passing and kicking for distance.

**Table 2:** Testing significance of difference among means of different groups for different parameters

Soccer skill	F-value	p-value of F	Remarks
Passing	1.09	0.358	Not significant at 0.05 level
Dribbling	5.02	0.003	Significant at 0.01 level
Kicking	1.45	0.232	Not significant at 0.05 level

F- Value for 0.05 level of confidence with df (3, 116) - 2.68

The exact location of inter-group difference in performance in dribbling was further analysed using post-hoc test. The results have been presented in Table-3 below.

**Table 3:** Post-hoc test to analyse exact location of difference in performance of dribbling

Mean value of performance in dribbling (in sec)				Mean difference (s)	t-value	p-value
Goal keepers	Defenders	Mid- fielders	Forwards			
35.42	33.43			1.99	2.35	0.02
35.42		32.14		3.28	3.64	0.00
35.42			32.79	2.63	3.01	0.00
	33.43	32.14		1.29	1.65	0.10
	33.43		32.79	0.64	0.89	0.37
		32.14	32.79	0.65	0.75	0.44

It is seen that the performance of Goal Keepers group took significantly greater time for the task of dribbling. So, it was understood that the performance of Goal Keepers group was significantly lower than all other groups of positional soccer players. It is also seen that the inter group difference of all other three groups were not statistically significant in dribbling.

### Results and Discussion

Present study was conducted with the purpose for analysing the inter-group difference among the groups of Goal Keepers, Defenders, Mid-Fielders and Forwards in the performance of selected basic soccer skills- Passing, Dribbling and Kicking. Results of the study indicated that the performance of Goal Keepers group was significantly lower than all other groups of positional soccer players in dribbling. This might be due to the basic demand of performance excellence in different positions of soccer game. Among the groups of positional soccer players, the Goal Keepers did not require to dribble the ball much in the job of their position of play in comparison with that of other groups. But the other groups did require the proficiency in dribbling almost equally. So, there was no significant difference in performance of dribbling among them.

Results also indicated that there was no significant difference among the groups in other basic soccer skills – passing and kicking. This might be due the fact that the soccer players require satisfactory performance in these basic soccer skills irrespective of position of play. This may be due to the nature of modern concept of ‘Total Football’.

### Conclusion

On the basis of results obtained the following conclusions were drawn

1. Defenders, Mid-Fielders and Forwards are significantly better than Goal Keepers in dribbling. But these three groups are almost similar in performance of dribbling.
2. Goal Keepers, Defenders, Mid-Fielders and Forwards are similar in performance in basic soccer skills - passing and kicking.

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