



## Flagstaff Revolution Striker Position Guide

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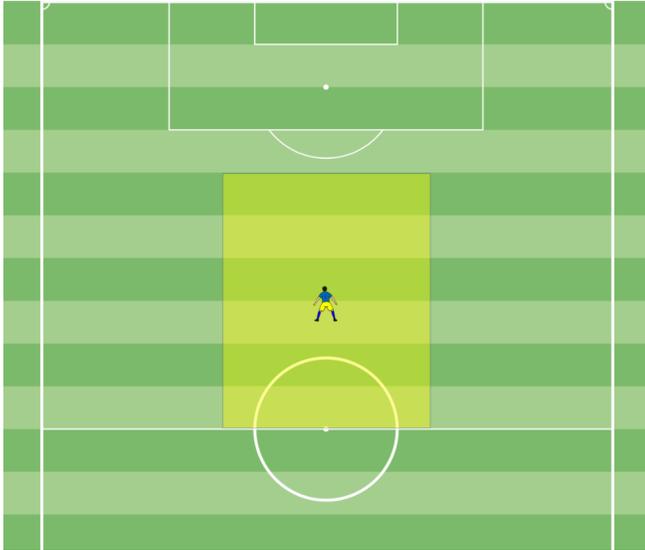
The purpose of this guide is to help parents and players better understand the roles and responsibilities of a Flagstaff Revolution striker. Many players love playing this position because “it’s the one that scores goals”. While true, the striker has a wide variety of responsibilities on the field and must be able to defend in space well, intelligently pressure opponents when the team is out of possession, and receive the ball and pass well so that other teammates may advance up the field and have scoring chances as well. Simply put, playing striker well is much more than simply putting the ball in the back of the net.

### **With great power, comes great responsibility**

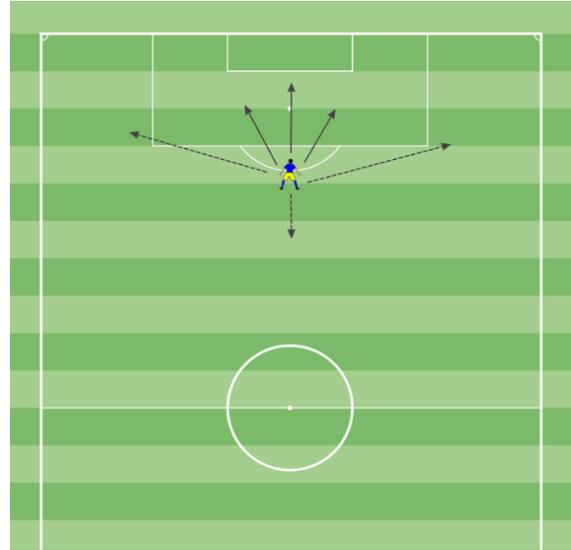
As the most advanced player on the field, the striker is frequently the player best positioned to score goals. This prime positioning comes with a lot of responsibility. The striker must be active in the press, leading his teammates to try and win the ball back high up the field. The striker also must be in constant motion when the team is in possession of the ball. He should be actively searching pockets of space within which he can receive the ball and either shoot or hold up play long enough for his teammates to advance and carry out the attack. The striker may come into the midfield to provide a numerical superiority. The striker must be both a good shooter and a good finisher. When given time to shoot, his shots should be accurate and struck at the right velocity. To be a good finisher he must be capable of finding open space in the penalty area and redirecting crosses and passes first time using both feet and his head as well.

### **Basic Positioning**

Teams will often change exactly what they want their striker to do based on game state and the opponent’s tactical setup. Against teams that employ a high defensive line, a striker might be tasked with waiting between the center backs or on the halfway line to magnify the threat of a counter attack. A coach may ask the striker to wait between the opponent’s back line and the midfield in order to get the ball in space and then dribble at defenders. In general though, the striker will play centrally and in the opponent’s half when the team is on the ball.



When defending, the striker is frequently tasked with being the first player to press ball carriers when in the opponent's half. This allows for teammates to cover passing options and lanes. Based on the coach's instruction, the striker may press either toward the touchline or centrally.



When attacking and not on the ball, the striker must look to get into positions where he can have both the time and space to shoot. Often this takes the form of making runs through opposition defenses or losing a man in the penalty area. When on the ball, the striker should look to create enough space to allow for an accurate shot or to find an open teammate in a dangerous area.

In this graphic, the dotted lines represent where the striker may go when off the ball to either get into space to receive the ball or to lure defenders away. This kind of movement not only creates new passing lanes for teammates but also can create more space in front of goal for teammates to use to shoot.



## Required Skills

- Able to shoot with both power and accuracy—preferably with both feet
- Able to “finish” given any situation (e.g. one touch finishes on crosses, chipping the goal keeper, heading the ball, shoot while off balance)
- Physical stamina to cover large portions of the field in both the attack and defense
- Use both feet to play accurate, well-weighted passes
- Clean and productive first touch that enables them to receive passes calmly and evade pressure
- Skill on the ball to create shooting opportunities in crowded areas
- Ability to identify and quickly move into space within the opposing penalty area
- Strength to ride opponent challenges and either shoot or pass
- Ability to effectively shield the ball from opponents and maintain individual possession of the ball while allowing teammates to advance on the field.



## Video Analysis

What is a False 9?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8jPSUQzyBE>

Sergio Agüero: The DNA of a Goalscorer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=et03spNkq-Y>

## Online Soccer Academy Breakdowns (Beginners)

Shoot with Power

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrzfmkGtnYE>

Shooting with Height

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivk7VwOpWqE>

## F2 Freestylers (Advanced Shooting)

Advanced Shooting Techniques

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54nXqu2aYWw>

Increase Power

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMFyAijWub4>

## Striker Highlights

These strikers are all world class yet have different styles and physical characteristics. Emulate what inspires you. Some of these players may play on the wings in addition to playing centrally as a striker and/or center forward.

Sergio Agüero

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STPvRNhC5rl>

Zlatan Ibrahimovic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cR2cu79gZII>

Robert Lewandowski

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4tJZOpj3f0>

Cristiano Ronaldo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VU8mz7C7Ddw>

Karim Benzema

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4ZQMqj-QVY>



**Ronaldo Nazario**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S84vy\\_Zz2O0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S84vy_Zz2O0)

**Clint Dempsey**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=974tMW7MBB4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-W-lsTbcOY>