

Powered by **InStat**

# Player Analysis Reports

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Where does the player performance data come from?

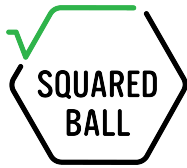
*The background data for Squared Ball's Player Analysis Reports is provided by InStat, a leading sports performance analysis company. Through InStat's dashboard, detailed player information is available in a point-and-click setting.*

### How do Squared Ball Player Analysis Reports differ from what's available in InStat?

*Our Player Analysis Reports are complementary to the InStat platform. We take the InStat data, review and clean any errors, calculate additional performance measures, and rank players according to their league peers. We also apply filters to the rankings, with players requiring at least three appearances and around 170 minutes match time to qualify for the "per 90 minutes" rankings, and at least ten of the relevant actions for the success rankings (e.g. a player would need to lay ten tackles for their tackle success % to be eligible for a league ranking). Our reports are designed to have immediate strategic value to players and coaches, without the need to interpret or interrogate the InStat data directly.*

### What kind of errors are in the InStat data?

*In large data sources, errors are inevitable and can affect the quality of the insights drawn. At the individual level, players can be duplicated - with some of their matches assigned to one player code and the rest with another. Squared Ball has identified and combined these records. On the flipside, some players with the same name have been merged to the one player code, when in fact they are two separate people. With respect to the competitions, if a player plays in a different position in a different league, e.g. as a defender in the A-League, but a midfielder in the National Premier League, then often their higher level position will be applied to the lower league, resulting in incorrect position comparisons. There are also other miscodings, such as a player being assigned to the wrong team, or a team that they play for in a different league - this is common where a player has appeared in both an international as well as a local competition. Squared Ball is providing quality assurance feedback to InStat, but in the meantime we provide this data cleaning as a service to the football community.*



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### **How is a player's position assigned?**

For each match, InStat will assign a position to the player based on the location of their interactions with game play. For pitch players, there are only eight options: Central Defender, Left Defender, Right Defender, Defensive Midfielder, Central Midfielder, Left Midfielder, Right Midfielder and Forward. If the player is filling the role of an attacking wing back, for example, InStat may code them as a Wide Midfielder instead. Or a "false nine" may be coded as a Central Midfielder, rather than a Forward.

### **How do you deal with utility players - those that play multiple positions?**

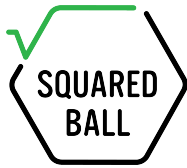
The statistics presented for individual players are for ALL games played in the relevant league, regardless of the position played. Some positions are grouped for the Player Analysis Reports. For example, a Central Midfielder will be ranked amongst all players with substantial game time as a Central or Defensive Midfielder. Similarly, a Right Defender will be ranked amongst all players with substantial game time as a Right or Left Defender. If a player has multiple positions beyond these groupings, then multiple position comparison reports are available through the online store. The player's statistics will be the same, but the rankings in the position comparison table will be different.

### **A player has a 100% tackle success rate, yet is ranked really lowly, how is this possible?**

A player must have at least ten of the relevant actions in order to be ranked. E.g. to be eligible for a tackle success rate ranking, they must have laid at least ten tackles. If not, the success rate will be presented as an indicative figure (what the player MAY be capable of) but they will be ranked equal last for their position / league.

### **How do you deal with less positive measures, such as offsides or fouls committed?**

All rankings are from highest measure to lowest measure. So whomever has the most offsides per 90 minutes, for example, will be ranked Number 1 in the league. There are two reasons for this. First, is simplicity. If all measures are ranked in the same way, it is easier to understand the reports. Secondly, very few measures have a strictly negative or positive implication. For example, a Defensive Midfielder in a low-ranked team SHOULD have a reasonable foul rate - say one foul per match - in shutting down counter-attacks. A Forward with no offside calls is either extremely good at timing their runs, or is not providing enough options.



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**Can I assume that a player with a high tackle success rate, for example, is a great tackler?**

*The short answer is .. maybe. A high success rate of an action tells you that, when a player makes that action, they are successful at it. The ideal in this case would be a player with a high rate of successful tackles per 90 minutes, and a high tackle success rate. This tells you that they are laying a lot of tackles, and they are usually winning them. A player with a low tackle success rate, but a high number of successful tackles per 90 minutes is a PROLIFIC tackler. They might not be very successful, but they will keep working hard to lay more tackles, such that eventually they win the ball. On the flipside, a player with a high tackle success rate, but a low number of successful tackles per 90 minutes is a RISK AVERSE tackler. They won't tackle often - only when they know they have a very high chance of succeeding - otherwise they may stick to jockeying / applying pressure, or just not be in the frame at all. There is a balance between these two styles of play, and the ideal balance depends a lot on factors such as their position, and the team tactics.*

**Any other questions, please send them through via the Contact page on our website, or email [emma@squaredball.com](mailto:emma@squaredball.com).**