

Player Positions in American Football Worksheet

When two opposing American football teams meet on the gridiron (playing field), the player positions depend on whether the football team is playing offense or defense. Football pits the *offense*, the team with the ball, against the *defense*, which tries to prevent the offense from scoring. Each side lines up facing the other with the football in the middle.

Football offensive positions:

The offensive side is the side who has possession of the football. The offense's primary job, as a team, is to move the ball down the field towards the opponents end zone to score — either by touchdown or kicking a field goal. Within the offense, the functions are divided amongst key positions:

- **Quarterback:**
- **Center:**
- **Running back:**
- **Fullback:**
- **Wide receiver:**
- **Tight end:**
- **Guards:**
- **Tackles:**

Football defensive positions:

In American Football the defense's primary job, as a team, is to keep the offense from scoring points — by intercepting the ball, tackling members of the offense, and in general preventing the offense from moving the ball closer to their end zone to create a scoring opportunity. Within the defense, the functions are divided among key positions.

- **Defensive tackle:**
- **Defensive end:**
- **Linebacker:**
 - **Middle:**
 - **Outside:.**
- **Safety:**
 - **Free:**
 - **Strong:**
- **Cornerback:**