



U14 Goalkeeper Role Canvas

Academy goalkeeper: be brave with your feet, protect the goal, and organize the team.

What we want to see

- Be brave with the ball and help build attacks.
- Organize the back line with your voice.
- Protect the space behind the defense.
- Deal confidently with crosses and loose balls.
- Stay switched on every moment.

Touches and skills to master

- Open-body first touch with both feet.
- Firm pass to center backs, fullbacks, and midfield.
- Longer distribution when the short pass is not on.
- Handling, diving, and set-position footwork.
- 1v1 shape, spreading, and recovery movement.

In-possession job

- Support build-out as an extra player.
- Choose short, wide, or longer distribution wisely.
- Play through or around the press.
- Reset play if the risk is too high.
- Stay alert for transition after distribution.

Pro models / video study

- Ederson: calm use of the ball.
- Alisson: sweeping and decision making.
- Mike Maignan: command and personality.
- Manuel Neuer: sweeper-keeper detail.
- Study body shape, handling, set position, and distribution.

How to have success

- Scan before the ball arrives.
- Stay calm and make clear decisions.
- Talk early and loudly to defenders.
- Be aggressive on crosses and loose balls.
- Recover quickly after every action.

Team patterns

- GK supports the back line in build-out.
- If the middle is blocked, play to the fullback or wider target.
- Use the GK to switch the point of attack.
- Sweep behind the line if the team pushes up.

Out-of-possession role

- Protect the space behind the back line.
- Be ready for shots, rebounds, and second balls.
- Come for crosses with conviction.
- Recover position quickly if the first save is made.
- Organize the line and restart positively.

Scan & study

