



Basketball Positions: The Players on the Court

Basketball has five main positions, each with a special job on the team. Think of it like everyone having a different role in a video game.

Point Guard (PG): This is the team's leader on the court, like the quarterback in football. They bring the ball up the court and call plays. Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors is one of the best point guards today. He's known for his amazing three-point shooting and ball-handling skills.

Shooting Guard (SG): These players are usually great shooters who score a lot. They play alongside the point guard in what's called "the backcourt." Devin Booker of the Phoenix Suns is a shooting guard who can put up tons of points when he gets hot.

Small Forward (SF): These players aren't actually small! They're called "small" only compared to power forwards and centers. LeBron James is probably the most famous small forward ever. At 6'9" and 250+ pounds, he's bigger than most players but has the skills to play this position.

Power Forward (PF): These players are bigger and stronger than small forwards but usually not as tall as centers. They grab rebounds and play near the basket but can also shoot from outside. Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks is a power forward who's nearly impossible to stop when he drives to the hoop.

Center (C): The tallest and strongest players on the team are the centers who are usually 6'10" to 7'+ tall. Their main jobs are to block shots, grab rebounds, and score close to the basket. Traditional centers like Shaquille O'Neal were dominant inside but rarely passed or shot from outside. Modern centers like Nikola Jokić of the Denver Nuggets are changing the game. Jokić, or the Joker as he's called, can shoot from anywhere and passes like a guard!