

Blood, sweat and Football



A coming of age scenario where childhood friends, forming a friendship while playing in the same football team, explore their feelings and relationships with each other and themselves through their training, tournaments, injuries and team spirit.

*Were you a team when it counted?
Did you love to play, or loved a player?
How did your past shape your relationship to sport?*

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Start up

Welcome all players and ask the players to introduce themselves.

You can use a soft football to pass between the players while you talk if you want.

Ask the players to introduce themselves, and to share;

- i. Why did they sign up to this larp?
- ii. What are their expectations?
- iii. How did the player feel about sport when they was a kid?
- iv. How do they feel about sport/ exercise/ football?
- v. Are there any themes to not play on? Any themes they enjoy to play?

Briefing

- i. It is in no way necessary to be a football fan to play, but to overall understand the rules of football is helpful but also something the roles (and the players) can learn in game. Pass out the Handout (rules of football, last two pages)
- ii. There will be three main phases, and in these phases the players can choose their scenes. They choose silently together, and all must agree to their scene by placing their finger on the chosen scene.

No scene is necessary to bring forward the game. If the players can't decide, GM will decide for them. The time line is not linear unless the players says so.

If any player would feel the need to cut the scene they can X-out (cross arms and say "rewind") and then the players replay scene differently from agreed point.

The players can shortly discuss set up, eg place and situation before playing.

- iii. The setting is in the 2000-2020's. The team need to decide gender, more usual with girls/ boys only team but mixed team are no unheard of in small communities.
- iv. The GM will **cut the** scene at an appropriate time (*or after 15 minutes*) by crossing hands and say **Cut**. 4-6 scenes/ phase will be played.

Let the players pick their characters and gender for the team, or let it be randomized.

Sasha: Talent, energy big family with big expectations to love football (Forward)

Morgan: Stubborn, lone child, love football and hate to loose (Goalkeeper)

Ariel: Restless, loyal, adrenaline junkie, trouble is always near (Midfielder)

Alex: Social, hardworking, empathic, calm and back bone of the team (Defender)

Let the players tell us about their characters, and share memories to connect with each other and create team spirit. Eg. where did they meet for the first time and how do they feel about sport and in particular football?

Phase #1 - 9-11 years old

Looking at expensive football boots <i>(Any/ all players, npc clerk)</i>	You lost the game <i>(All players)</i>
Walking home after first practice <i>(All players)</i>	Asking for new football boots <i>(Sasha + parents)</i>
Seeing posters for new football team <i>(Alex + Morgan)</i>	Looking at new term team list <i>(All players)</i>
You need a new hobby <i>(Ariel + parents)</i>	T-shirts with <u>your</u> name <i>(All players + npc coach)</i>
Watching the world cup final <i>(All players)</i>	The referee is unfair! <i>(Any/ all player/s + npc parent)</i>
You won the game <i>(All players)</i>	"When I am like Zlatan..." <i>(All players)</i>
"I only do this so I can join you" <i>(Any two players)</i>	You... want to play football? <i>(Morgan + parents)</i>

Phase #2 - 13-17 years old

<p>Training to be stronger</p> <p><i>(Morgan, Sasha)</i></p>	<p>Sleep over</p> <p><i>(Any two/ all players)</i></p>
<p>At a party</p> <p><i>(Sasha, Alex, Ariel, npc party goer)</i></p>	<p>Getting a warning by the coach</p> <p><i>(Ariel + npc coach)</i></p>
<p>Competition in locker room</p> <p><i>(All players, npc team mate)</i></p>	<p>Sharing a secret</p> <p><i>(Sasha, Alex)</i></p>
<p>Pressured by parents</p> <p><i>(Any player + npc parents)</i></p>	<p>Argument about priorities</p> <p><i>(Alex, Ariel)</i></p>
<p>Drafting try out</p> <p><i>(Any players + npc scout)</i></p>	<p>Benched</p> <p><i>(Morgan, Ariel)</i></p>
<p>Deciding between training and party</p> <p><i>(Any two, three or all players)</i></p>	<p>In the gym together</p> <p><i>(Alex + Morgan/ All players)</i></p>
<p>You won a game</p> <p><i>(All players)</i></p>	<p>You lost a game</p> <p><i>(All players)</i></p>

Scenes #3 20-30 years old

Alex's wedding <i>(All players)</i>	Visting Sasha's football game <i>(Morgan + Alex + Ariel)</i>
Ariels' funeral <i>(Morgan + Sasha + Alex)</i>	Watch your kids' football game <i>(Any/ all players)</i>
Seeing posters for the football team <i>(Any/ all players)</i>	Drinking together <i>(Any/ all players)</i>
Visiting Morgan at hospital <i>(Morgan + any player/s)</i>	Morgan is injured <i>(Morgan + any player/s)</i>
Birthday party <i>(Any/ all players)</i>	Conflict with coach <i>(Any player + npc coach)</i>
Christmas home visit <i>(Any/ all players)</i>	Watching the world cup final <i>(Any/ all players)</i>
School reunion party <i>(Any/ all players)</i>	Sasha is exposed on Youtube <i>(Sasha + any/ all players)</i>

Debriefing

After 3rd phase, it is time for regroup.

You can use a soft football to pass between the players while you talk if you want.

Going around, discuss the following questions

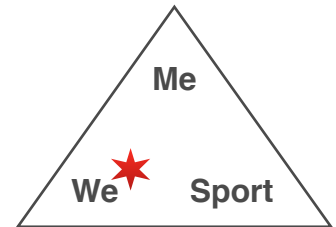
- vi. Where their expectations meet?
- vii. Where there any scenes they want to share which affected them?
- viii. Do they have anything else they want to share?

Thank you for playing this scenario. This scenario have been created since I noticed that a lot of my larper/ rpg friends (and myself) have conflicting feelings about sport and especially football. As I child, I hated exercise and sport. Today, as an adult thirty years later I love weight lifting, orientation and running.

This game would not be here without my friends. Thank you for letting me ask you about your experiences. You know who you are.

Alex Hansen, Defender

Defenders play behind the midfielders and their primary responsibility is to provide support to the team and to prevent the opposition from scoring a goal.



Hansen was the guy who made it and came back to give back. Before you were born, your father played for the national team and after a successful career he settled down with your mother to work as the local PE teacher.

This background have earned you a fair popularity in school, and also a fair bit of pressure to inherit your fathers talent. You may not have inherited as much of it as people wished, but you work really hard to keep up. The community also root for your younger sister which shows great promise.

The hard working trait has also made you socially perceptive and emphatic. You are good at spotting talent, see people's feelings and make them relate to you and your are great on keeping people happy to be around you (and even be around people they don't really like). You really like when people start to work together and bury their axes. Why waste breath on fighting each other when we can work together?

You really enjoy to be the defender to provide support and prevent the opposition. A large part of the team that play today is thanks to you calmly persuading them to join.

Who would you be without your team identity?

Will a new Hansen be on National team one day?

Sasha: Talent, energy big family with big expectations to love football (Forward)

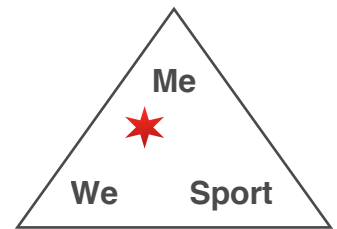
Morgan: Stubborn, lone child, love football and hate to loose (Goalkeeper)

Ariel: Restless, loyal, adrenaline junkie, trouble is always near (Midfielder)

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Ariel Lindberg, Midfielder

Midfielder (originally called halfbacks) are players whose position of play is midway between the attacking forwards and the defenders. Their main duties are to maintain possession of the ball, taking the ball from defenders and feeding it to the strikers, as well as dispossessing opposing players.



You are a blast. Literally. The slightly younger of two egg siblings you are always compared to your older sibling whom is every bit neat, tidy, calm and well-behaved where you are not. You are loud and with so much energy in your legs you really wouldn't know what to do if you didn't have Sasha, Alex or your other friends to run around with. The only time it goes really quiet in your head is when you run. However, there is no running club where you live, and your family likes football so why not. Playing means you get more time with Sasha.

Loyalty are important to you and you have been in trouble in school when someone has teased your twin, or made fun of your dad that are on sick leave these days. Since your dad is home so much and need to rest it is also better if you are someplace else you reckon. This different background makes it hard to understand Morgan sometimes, but you appreciate Morgan's focus.

Either people are with you and your chosen circle of close people, or they are against you. Your ruthlessness on the field may earn you swear words from the other teams - but you know you do it to protect your own.

Do your friends need you need you as much as you need them?
What would be the end of you if you couldn't but all that energy towards football?

Sasha: Talent, energy big family with big expectations to love football (Forward)

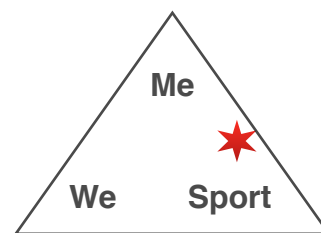
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Morgan Svensson, Goalkeeper

The goalkeeper's main job is to stop the other team from scoring by catching, palming or punching the ball from shots, headers and crosses.



You are thoughtful, well raised and silent (some think shy) unless the topic is about a subject you care about, that creates dreams and wonder in your mind. These subjects are, but not excluded to, history, knights, airplanes, thermodynamics - and soccer (to your parents' complete surprise).

Football has *angles*, *force* and *velocity*, and you can see *where the ball will go*, and *catch it*.

Raised by one archeologist and one history teacher, you are used to long walks on the weekends to see rune stones and dead king's mounds (*"there is no poor weather only poor clothing"*), but your parents are not interested in soccer, even if they support your newly discovered passion by (usually) remember to go to your games.

On the other hand, they are very happy that you finally found friends on the football team. They do not understand that people are usually stupid and mean, especially when they do not understand what you say. But your new friends make it easier in school because you are *dynamite* on the field. Especially since Alex started to brag about how good you were.

It is important for you to keep on and getting better and better.

What if you would be the best? Show them all.

Your intelligence combined with your stubbornness and hard work might get you there.

Will it be enough to be the best, if you are still alone?

Sasha: Talent, energy big family with big expectations to love football (Forward)

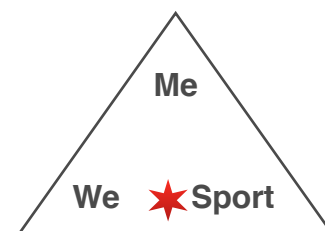
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Sasha Golov, Forward

Forwards (or strikers) are players who are positioned nearest to the opposing team's goal. The primary responsibility of forwards is to score goals and to create scoring chances for other players. Forwards may also contribute defensively by harrying opposition defenders and goalkeepers whilst not in possession.



Bold, energetic and fast, you carry both the fire of passion and the burden of expectation.

You are the youngest in a family of five siblings. When your parents, your aunt, uncle and grandma immigrated from Russia in 1990's they opened the local pizzeria and today they run both the pizzeria and a local grocery shop.

With your cousins, you and your siblings make up a almost a complete football team. When you are not supposed to help out in the restaurant/ shop do home work, take care of your elders or your younger ones, you argue or play football.

Football is something it seems everyone in your family have an opinion about, almost like a religion. Your daddy do not worship Jesus, he worships Maradona, Zlatan and Beckham. All of your siblings have played fotball at a time when he/ she was younger before they grew up and had to focus on work/ school because they were not good enough to go professional.

You really like to play with your friends, and you really like to win with them. Especially Alex and Ariel makes you laugh, and you can be envious of Morgans' passion for the sport.

Football can be your ticket out to a world with no pizza, no dishes and no vegetable piling. And when your are out there on the field, you feel like you are invincible, you are *the wind*.

But do you hate to lose enough to give everything you got?
Do you have other dreams?

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Handout 1 - Rules of Football

Source: <https://www.rulesofsport.com/sports/football.html>

- Minimum equipment for a soccer match is pitch and a football. Players can be found wearing studded football boots, shin pads and matching strips.
- A match consists of two 45 minutes halves + a 15 minute rest period.
- Each team can have a minimum of 11 players (including 1 goalkeeper who is the only player allowed to handle the ball within the 18 yard box) and a minimum of 7 players are needed to constitute a match. The goalkeepers will wear padded gloves as they are the only players allowed to handle the ball. Each team will have a designated captain.
- The field must be made of either artificial or natural grass. The size of pitches is allowed to vary but must be within 100-130 yards long and 50-100 yards wide. The pitch must also be marked with a rectangular shape around the outside showing out of bounds, two six yard boxes, two 18 yard boxes and a centre circle. A spot for a penalty placed 12 yards out of both goals and centre circle must also be visible.
- Each team can name up to 7 substitute players. Substitutions can be made at any time of the match with each team being able to make a maximum of 3 substitutions per side. In the event of all three substitutes being made and a player having to leave the field for injury the team will be forced to play without a replacement for that player.
- Each game must include one referee and two assistant referee's (linesmen). It's the job of the referee to act as time keeper and make any decisions which may need to be made such as fouls, free kicks, throw ins, penalties and added on time at the end of each half. The referee may consult the assistant referees at any time in the match regarding a decision. It's the assistant referee's job to spot offside's in the match (see below), throw ins for either team and also assist the referee in all decision making processes where appropriate.
- If the game needs to head to extra time as a result of both teams being level in a match then 30 minutes will be added in the form of two 15 minute halves after the allotted 90 minutes.
- If teams are still level after extra time then a penalty shootout must take place.
- The whole ball (circular, 58-61 cm) must cross the goal line for it to count as a goal.
- For fouls committed a player could receive either a yellow or red card depending on the severity of the foul; this comes down to the referee's discretion. The yellow is a warning and a red card is a dismissal of that player. Two yellow cards will equal one red. Once a player is sent off then they cannot be replaced.
- If a ball goes out of play off an opponent in either of the side lines then it is given as a throw in. If it goes out of play off an attacking player on the base line then it is a goal kick. If it comes off a defending player it is a corner kick.

The Offside Rule in Football

- Offside can be called when an attacking player is in front of the last defender when the pass is played through to them. The offside area is designed to discourage players from simply hanging around the opponent's goal waiting for a pass. To be onside they must be placed behind the last defender when the ball is played to them. If the player is in front of that last defender then he is deemed to be offside and free kick to the defending team will be called.
- A player cannot be caught offside in their own half. The goalkeeper does not count as a defender. If the ball is played backwards and the player is in front of the last defender then he is deemed to be not offside.

Roles in Football

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football_positions

■ Goalkeeper

The goalkeeper's main job is to stop the other team from scoring by catching, palming or punching the ball from shots, headers and crosses.

■ Defender (subroles; centre-back, sweeper, full-back, wing-back)

Defenders play behind the midfielders and their primary responsibility is to provide support to the team and to prevent the opposition from scoring a goal.

■ Midfielder (subroles; central/ defensive/ attacking/ wide midfielder)

Midfielder (originally called halfbacks) are players whose position of play is midway between the attacking forwards and the defenders. Their main duties are to maintain possession of the ball, taking the ball from defenders and feeding it to the strikers, as well as dispossessing opposing players.

■ Forward (subroles; second-striker, centre forward, winger)

Forwards (or strikers) are players who are positioned nearest to the opposing team's goal. The primary responsibility of forwards is to score goals and to create scoring chances for other players. Forwards may also contribute defensively by harrying opposition defenders and goalkeepers whilst not in possession.