

Module 2. Structure and Characteristics of Reports

1. Structure and Characteristics of Reports

1.1. Structure

The structure of a football report can vary depending on the specific purpose of the report and the preferences of the club or team. However, it is essential that reports have a clear and organized structure so that the responsible individuals for whom the report is intended can access the information easily and efficiently. The writing should be clear and precise to facilitate understanding, and thus, the use of jargon or ambiguous terms should be avoided (Tenga and Bergkamp, 2015; Tenga and Bergkamp, 2019).

A well-structured football report should include the following main sections:

1. **General Information about the Player:**
 - Full name of the player.
 - Age.
 - Nationality.
 - Position(s) played.
 - Height, weight, and footedness (right-footed, left-footed, or ambidextrous).
 - Contact information (if relevant for the club).
2. **Performance and Statistics:**
 - Key player statistics in recent matches (goals, assists, completed passes, interceptions, etc.).
 - Player's history at club level, teams, and categories they have played in during the past seasons, including matches played, goals, cards, etc.
 - Injury history, type, and number of days off, as long as this information is available.
 - Comparison of statistics with other players in the same position or level.
3. **Physical Analysis: Structural and Functional**
 - Physical structure and physique.
 - Observed physical performance in various physical capacities applied to football.
4. **Technical Analysis:**
 - Specific technical skills of the player (ball control, passing, shooting, etc.).



- Details about how the player handles different situations on the field (e.g., attack, defense, transitions).
5. **Tactical Analysis:**
 - Main position or role usually occupied. If they also have a secondary position, it should be mentioned. The scout's opinion on which position they think the player would fit in within the club.
 - The player's ability to adapt to different playing systems and tactical roles.
 - Tactical understanding of the game, such as the ability to read the game and make quick decisions.
 6. **Psychological Analysis:**
 - Attitude, mindset, and behavior of the player off the field, including their ability to handle stress, adapt to new situations, and attitude with teammates, coach, referee, family, etc.
 7. **Analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses:**
 - Detailed evaluation of the player's strengths and weaknesses.
 - Recommendations on how to improve areas of weakness.
 - Recommendations on areas to enhance.
 8. **Scout Observations:**
 - Subjective information based on the scout's observations during live matches.
 - Notes on behavior off the field, attitude, work ethic, etc.
 - Personal opinions of the observer.
 - Contractual, family, etc. matters.
 9. **Potential and Future Projection:**
 - Insights on the player's potential to improve and develop.
 - Forecast of how the player might adapt to a specific team or playing system in the future.
 10. **Conclusions and Recommendations:**
 - General summary of the report and final recommendations regarding the player's suitability for the team.

It is important to remember that the exact structure of the report may vary depending on the context and preferences of the team. Some reports may be more detailed or include additional sections, while others may be more concise. What is essential is that the report provides useful and relevant information for decision-making in the sporting field.

1.2. Characteristics

Player reports consist of several sections, each focused on specific aspects of a player's performance and characteristics. A good report combines quantitative data, based on objective and statistical facts, and qualitative data, based on the scout's observations. The combination of these elements enables clubs to obtain a comprehensive and detailed



view of each player evaluated, facilitating informed decision-making in the recruitment and development process (Hughes and Franks, 2004).

The key characteristics of a football report may vary depending on the report's purpose and the needs of the club or team. The main characteristics can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. The main characteristics of reports

Feature	Explanation
Organized Structure	The report should have a clear and organized structure, with well-defined sections addressing different aspects of the player or tactical analysis.
Relevant and Detailed Information	It should include detailed and relevant information about the evaluated player, such as technical skills, tactical abilities, performance in matches, and key statistics.
Objectivity	It is essential that the report is impartial and based on objective observations. Evaluations should be supported by concrete data and objective analysis.
Clarity in Writing	The report's writing should be clear and concise, avoiding excessive jargon or ambiguous terms. It should be easy to understand for those who read it.
Spelling and Grammar	The text must be written correctly, following writing guidelines, as this adds professionalism and seriousness to the report. A report with good content but poor writing and spelling errors can give an impression of unprofessionalism.
Analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses	The report should provide a detailed analysis of the player's strengths and weaknesses, identifying areas where they can improve and develop.



Potential and Adaptability Perspective	It should include an evaluation of the player's potential and their ability to adapt to different playing systems and tactical roles.
Subjective Observations	In addition to objective data, the report may include subjective observations based on the scout's personal evaluation during live matches.
Clear Recommendations	The report should conclude with clear and specific recommendations about the player's suitability for the team, as well as suggestions for their development.
Signing Arguments	Arguments supporting the recommendation for or against signing the player, based on the features, level, and profile explained in the report.

Source: own creation.

These characteristics help ensure the usefulness of the information for decision-making.

1.3. The Evolution of Report Structure

The evolution of reports in the world of football scouting has been remarkable over time. In the past, reports were often simpler and more subjective, largely depending on the personal observations and subjective impressions of the scouts. These reports were based on more general and less quantifiable criteria, such as the scout's intuition and experience on the field (Hughes & Franks, 2004).

With advances in technology and the availability of more detailed statistical data, scouting reports have evolved towards a broader and more objective approach (Tenga & Bergkamp, 2019). Nowadays, reports include a variety of specific metrics and statistics that allow for a more precise evaluation of player performance. Additionally, current reports incorporate psychological and personality aspects of the player, offering a more comprehensive view of the player's profile beyond purely footballing skills. In this regard, "the days when scouts relied solely on their observational skills and gut feelings are behind us. Modern football demands a more data-driven approach. Clubs now leverage the power of technology and data analysis to recruit players effectively. This evolution has led to a new generation of football analysts specializing in creating detailed scouting



reports that leave no detail unchecked” (Brandsen Sports, 2023, <https://n9.cl/f2kkkr> [own translation]).

In summary, the evolution of scouting reports in football has been marked by a transition from subjective and simplified reports to broader, more objective, and technologically advanced reports, providing a detailed and multidimensional view of the players being evaluated.

2. Parts of the Reports As mentioned earlier, the structure of reports may vary. In this section, you will learn about each part of a standard model report, which is the most common in the football world.

2.1. Cover Page

The cover page of a football report is the first impression the reader receives, and for this reason, it is important that it is professional and appealing. The cover should include key information such as the title of the report, the name of the evaluated player, as well as their birth year or age, primary position, and current club. It is also common to include the club or team logo to reinforce the visual identity. Additionally, the date the report was created should be included.

It is important for the cover to be professional and well-designed to convey credibility and seriousness. It should be informative but not overloaded with details, maintaining a clean and organized design. The quality and presentation of the cover significantly contribute to the overall perception of the report and may influence how it is received and used by the recipients.

2.2. Personal Information

The personal information section is essential for uniquely identifying the evaluated player and providing basic context about their profile. This information allows teams to better understand the player, their adaptability, and potential risks, as well as providing relevant information about their cultural background.

The data that should be included in this section are:

- Full name of the player
- Date of birth
- Nationality
- Height and weight
- Etc.

These physical details are important for understanding the player's physical characteristics and their suitability for certain positions on the field.



In addition to basic information, it is also useful to include the player's contact details and the name of their agent, if applicable. This information facilitates communication with the player or their representative in case of interest from the evaluating club or team.

As can be seen, the personal information section serves as an initial introduction to the player before delving into other aspects of the report, such as their technical, tactical, and psychological skills. It is essential that this information be accurate, updated, and relevant to ensure the integrity and utility of the report as a whole.

2.3. Basic Information

This section should include relevant information about the player's football career and footballing data. It covers aspects such as the player's career path, highlighting previous teams, leagues they have participated in, and achievements obtained, such as titles or individual awards (Hughes & Franks, 2004). It is important to include key footballing data to identify the player on the field, particularly:

- Team and category they play in
- Position(s) they play
- Jersey number
- History of teams they have played for in the last few seasons
- Injury history
- International appearances, if applicable

In addition to the career path, it is essential to provide key footballing data that identifies the player on the field. Among these data are the current team and category they play in, which provide context regarding the player's competitive environment. It is also important to specify the positions the player plays, which offers information about their skills and roles in the team. Another relevant detail is the jersey number the player uses, which can be significant for their identification during matches and reflect their status within the team.

In conclusion, these details provide a solid framework for understanding the player's career and sports context, facilitating their identification and evaluation on the field.

2.4. Data and Statistics

The inclusion of statistics in reports is an essential component that provides a quantitative view of player performance. The key performance statistics for a player include a wide range of metrics that are fundamental for understanding their impact on the field. Some key performance statistics to include in a report are:

- Matches and minutes played
- Goals scored



- Assists
- Interceptions
- Number of yellow/red cards
- Distance covered

These football data offer an overview of the player's experience and skills in real competitions. For example, the number of goals scored and assists provide a clear measure of the player's offensive impact, showing their ability to contribute directly to the team's results. Pass accuracy is crucial for assessing the quality of the player's build-up and distribution game, while interceptions indicate their defensive ability and capacity to break up the opponent's plays.

Additionally, the number of cards received may reveal aspects such as the player's discipline and aggressiveness on the field, offering important insights into their playing style. Finally, the distance covered during matches provides valuable information about the player's stamina and activity level on the pitch.

These are just some of the relevant statistics. The position should also be considered, as well as whether you have access to more detailed statistics. For example, it is common for youth football to have fewer statistics compared to professional football, or for very young players not to have information about goal scorers.

2.5. Profiles

2.5.1. Physical Profile

The physical profile section in a football report provides detailed information about the player's physical and athletic characteristics. This section covers aspects such as body composition, muscle strength, cardiovascular endurance, and speed. These data are important for understanding the player's physical capacity and specific physical characteristics, which affect their performance on the field. For example, you could describe whether the player is tall, agile, and wins duels.

In addition to basic measurements, the physical profile can include more detailed evaluations, such as fitness tests specific to football, such as short-distance sprint speed, aerobic and anaerobic endurance, agility, and jump capacity.

The physical profile section may also include information about the player's past injury history and relevant medical treatments, which are essential for assessing the player's health and durability on the field (Raya-González et al., 2016).

It is always important to describe the player's physical attributes, but keeping in mind that the physical preparation should be adapted to playing football and also consider the position they occupy. A very tall player is not useful if they do not win aerial duels or are



not coordinated enough for technical actions. Similarly, a player who can run 100 meters in 10 seconds is not useful if they lack technical ability or acceleration/deceleration in small spaces. In summary, the physical analysis should consider that the player is a footballer, so the physical aspect must be evaluated with regard to their ability to play football.

2.5.2. Technical Profile

The technical profile section provides a detailed evaluation of the player's technical skills on the field. This section covers specific aspects related to the mastery of fundamental football skills, such as ball control, passing, dribbling, shooting, defensive ability, and other technical skills relevant to their position on the field.

It details the player's strengths and areas for improvement in each evaluated technical aspect. For example, observations could be made regarding short and long pass accuracy, the ability to execute effective dribbles in tight spaces, finishing ability in front of goal, and effectiveness in defensive situations, among others.

2.5.3. Tactical Profile

This section focuses on evaluating the player's understanding and execution of tactics and game strategies. It covers aspects related to tactical knowledge, positioning ability, decision-making, and adaptation to different game systems.

The tactical profile analyzes the player's ability to interpret the game and apply appropriate tactical strategies in different match situations. It assesses their ability to maintain correct positioning on the field, both in attack and defense, and to make intelligent movements that benefit the team.

Additionally, the tactical profile includes observations about the player's ability to communicate effectively with teammates, coordinate collective plays, and adapt to the coach's tactical instructions during the match.

The tactical profile analysis is essential for evaluating the player's ability to adapt to different playing systems and contribute effectively to the team's performance on the field. A player may be technically very good, but if they do not make the right decisions, position themselves correctly, or communicate with their teammates, they will not perform adequately. After all, football is a team sport.

2.5.4. Psychological

The psychological profile evaluates the mental and emotional characteristics of the player that influence their sports performance. This section covers aspects related to motivation, self-confidence, emotional control, resilience, and other relevant psychological qualities.



In the psychological profile, the player's strengths and areas for improvement in terms of their sports mindset are analyzed. It evaluates their ability to maintain motivation in adverse situations, their level of self-confidence in facing challenges, their ability to control emotions under pressure, and their ability to recover quickly from setbacks or mistakes during the game.

Additionally, the psychological profile may include observations on the player's ability to work in a team, their attitude toward training and competition, their ability to manage stress, and their willingness to learn and improve constantly. According to Alfermann and Seiler (2018), motivation, self-confidence, emotional control, and resilience are identified as psychological traits that predict success in football.

This section can also include information about the player's behavior with those around them, their personality with teammates and family, as well as the maturity they show in interpersonal relationships.

2.6. Conclusions

The conclusions section summarizes and synthesizes the information obtained by the scout during the evaluation of the player. In this section, the most relevant observations and key points derived from the analysis of the different sections of the report are presented. Conclusions typically include a general evaluation of the player's performance, highlighting their strengths and potential areas for improvement. Specific recommendations for the player's development, based on the scout's opinion, can also be offered.

Furthermore, the conclusions can analyze how suitable the player may be for a specific team or system of play, considering their characteristics and abilities. Sometimes, as a scout, you must be able to perceive the skills the player has, even if you don't observe them in that particular match or moment due to the style of play the team is executing. For example, a right-back player with good attacking qualities, great forward runs, and a good final pass; however, in that match, the team prioritizes offensive play and doesn't allow the player to reach the attacking zone. You must infer that the player is good in that offensive aspect.

In summary, the conclusions section concisely and meaningfully summarizes the results and evaluations from the report, providing an overall view and useful recommendations for clubs looking to make informed decisions about the evaluated player.

2.7. Video

The video section is very useful to complement and support the observations made about the player. This section includes video clips showing key moments of the player during actual matches or training sessions.

The selected videos typically focus on the player's technical and tactical skills, allowing for direct visualization of their performance, and supporting the comments made in the report. These clips can showcase actions such as dribbles, accurate passes, shots on goal, off-the-ball runs, or defensive situations, depending on the specific areas of



evaluation.

The use of video in the report provides a more detailed and objective perspective on the player’s performance, as clubs can see for themselves the player’s abilities mentioned throughout the report.

In summary, the video section in a football report is a valuable tool that improves the objectivity and quality of evaluations.

The video must highlight the player’s key characteristics and should be adapted to the position. Depending on the position, certain actions will be more relevant than others. For example, in a forward’s video, you’ll highlight some of the key goals you want to emphasize, whereas for a full-back, it might not be necessary to include goals.

Additionally, attention must be paid to the video length—neither too long nor too short. A minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 6 minutes is recommended, as this duration allows for a clear understanding of the player. The video can also support your explanation to those making the decision regarding the player’s signing, providing them with a basic idea of the player.

To conclude this module, we provide a summary of the contents covered.

Table 2: Characteristics and Parts of the Reports

The Report		
Features and content	Structure	
Organized Structure	Cover	
Relevant Information	Personal data	
Objectivity	Basic information	
Clarity in Writing	Data and Statistics	
Analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses	Profiles	Physical
Potential Perspective		Technical
		Tactical
		Psychological
Observations	Conclusions	
Clear Recommendations	Miscellaneous	



Signing Arguments	Video
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Source: own creation.



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