

Table I. Comparison of physical and technical characteristics of match-play in professional soccer players in the FA Premier League (FAPL) and La Liga (LIGA)

	Central Defender		Full Back		Central Defensive Midfielder		Central Attacking Midfielder		Wide Midfielder		Forward	
	(CD)		(FB)		(CDM)		(CAM)		(WM)		(F)	
	LIGA n= 624	FAPL n= 1704	LIGA n= 212	FAPL n= 132	LIGA n= 616	FAPL n= 1356	LIGA n= 82	FAPL n= 76	LIGA n= 100	FAPL n= 50	LIGA n= 262	FAPL n= 724
<b>Total distance covered (m)</b>	10496.1	10617.3	10649.7	10775.3	11247.3	11555.6	11004.8	11779.5	11240.8	11040.8	10717.7	10802.8
	±772.0	±857.9	±786.2	±645.9	±913.8	±811.2	±1164.2	±705.9	±761.8	±757.0	±901.4	±991.8
<b>Total sprint distance covered (m)</b>	193.6	208.5	248.9	263.0	203.3	245.8	222.2	267.3	250.8	259.2	260.0	278.2
	±64.6	±69.4	±77.4	±69.9	±76.4	±77.9	±66.5	±64.2	±71.5	±84.9	±72.6	±78.0
<i>Total sprint distance: In possession</i>	47.0	62.1	99.3	127.1	93.3	122.2	138.1 <sup>\$\$\$</sup>	122.7	137.5 <sup>\$\$\$</sup>	169.0 <sup>\$\$\$</sup>	181.1 <sup>\$\$\$</sup>	183.0 <sup>\$\$\$</sup>
	±39.4	±44.4	±49.5	±51.0	±58.7	±59.9	±52.0	±46.4	±51.5	±78.5	±57.4	±63.3
<i>Total sprint distance: Out of possession</i>	133.4 <sup>###</sup>	136.7 <sup>###</sup>	140.7 <sup>###</sup>	129.3	103.3 <sup>#</sup>	116.4	71.9	126.6	105.1 <sup>#</sup>	84.3	68.1	84.8
	±44.1	±46.6	±50.7	±41.5	±41.5	±44.3	±35.0	±40.1	±41.9	±34.8	±30.2	±37.7
<i>Percentage of the total distance covered in sprint</i>	1.8	1.8	2.3*	2.5	1.8***	2.2	2.0***	2.5	2.2	2.2	2.4*	2.6
<b>Total distance covered in HIR (m)</b>	226.1	240.8	284.8	270.1	279.6	319.1	278.0	334.0	310.6	298.0	288.6	299.8
	±53.8	±63.9	±54.7	±55.0	±66.2	±67.7	±61.0	±60.7	±67.0	±62.4	±56.1	±63.7
<i>Total HIR distance: In possession</i>	51.3	67.5	93.0	106.2	106.3	143.0	170.8 <sup>\$\$\$</sup>	160.6	143.5	152.7 <sup>\$\$</sup>	178.2 <sup>\$\$\$</sup>	181.0 <sup>\$\$\$</sup>
	±29.8	±38.0	±35.1	±38.4	±46.4	±50.1	±52.7	±45.4	±48.2	±50.9	±40.0	±47.2
<i>Total HIR distance:</i>	144.1 <sup>###</sup>	157.0 <sup>###</sup>	175.0 <sup>###</sup>	150.0 <sup>###</sup>	157.4 <sup>###</sup>	162.5 <sup>##</sup>	94.2	160.8	152.7 <sup>#</sup>	137.5	93.0	101.4

<i>Out of possession</i>	±37.8	±40.6	±40.0	±39.4	±46.1	±41.9	±37.3	±43.5	±42.6	±40.7	±32.2	±37.9
<i>Percentage of the total distance covered in HIR</i>	2.1	2.2	2.5*	2.7	2.9***	2.5	3.1***	2.5	2.5**	2.8	2.8	2.7

HIR: High-Intensity Running

\*  $P \leq 0.05$  ; \*\*  $P < 0.01$  ; \*\*\*  $P < 0.001$

\*: significant difference between the Liga and FAPL

\$\$\$: significant higher value for the total distance covered in sprint when their team was in ball possession (attacking play)

\$  $P \leq 0.05$  ; \$\$\$  $P < 0.001$

#: significant higher value of the total distance covered in sprint when their team was out of ball possession (defensive play)

#  $P \leq 0.05$  ; ##  $P < 0.01$  ; ###  $P < 0.001$