

The 55 player shortlist, as voted by the professional players, is: (Home country/ Club 2009)

Goalkeepers: Gianluigi Buffon (Italy/ Juventus), Iker Casillas (Spain/ Real Madrid), Julio Cesar (Brazil/ Inter), José Manuel Reina (Spain/ Liverpool), Edwin van der Sar (Holland/ Manchester United)

Defenders: Daniel Alves (Brazil/ Barcelona), Fabio Cannavaro (Italy/ Juventus), Giorgio Chiellini (Italy/ Juventus), Gaël Clichy (France/ Arsenal), Ashley Cole (England/ Chelsea), Patrice Evra (France/ Manchester United) Rio Ferdinand (England/ Manchester United), Fabio Grosso (Italy/ Juventus), Glen Johnson (England/ Liverpool), Philipp Lahm (Germany/ Bayern Munich), Ferreira Lucio (Brazil/ Inter), Maicon Douglas Sisenando (Brazil/ Inter), Alessandro Nesta (Italy/ AC Milan), Képler Laveran Lima Ferreira 'Pepe' (Portugal/ Real Madrid), Gerard Piqué (Spain/ Barcelona), Carles Puyol (Spain/ Barcelona), Sergio Ramos (Spain/ Real Madrid), Walter Samuel (Argentina/ Inter), John Terry (England/ Chelsea), Nemanja Vidic (Serbia/ Manchester United)

Midfielders: Xabi Alonso (Spain/ Real Madrid), Michael Ballack (Germany/ Chelsea), Daniele De Rossi (Italy/ AS Roma), Diego Ribas da Cunha (Brazil/ Juventus), Michael Essien (Ghana/ Chelsea), Cesc Fabregas (Spain/ Arsenal), Steven Gerrard (England/ Liverpool), Ryan Giggs (Wales/ Manchester United), Andrés Iniesta (Spain/ Barcelona), Ricardo Kaká (Brazil/ Real Madrid), Frank Lampard (England/ Chelsea), Andrea Pirlo (Italy/ AC Milan), Franck Ribéry (France/ Bayern Munich), Yaya Touré (Ivory Coast/ Barcelona), Xavi (Spain/ Barcelona).

Forwards: Nicolas Anelka (France/ Chelsea), Andrei Arshavin (Russia/ Arsenal), Karim Benzema (France/ Real Madrid), Didier Drogba (Ivory Coast/ Chelsea), Samuel Eto'o (Cameroon/ Inter), Luís Fabiano Clemente (Brazil/ Sevilla), Thierry Henry (France/ Barcelona), Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Sweden/ Barcelona), Lionel Messi (Argentina/ Barcelona), Diego Milito (Argentina/ Inter), Alexandre Pato (Brazil/ AC Milan), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal/ Real Madrid), Wayne Rooney (England/ Manchester United), Fernando Torres (Spain/ Liverpool), David Villa (Spain/ Valencia).