

ANALYSIS OF THE SUCCESS AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE BALL OF A FOOTBALL TEAM (U14)

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Introduction: Recent studies such as Casal et al. (2017) have showed how the disposition of the ball in different areas of the field is related to different indicators of collective performance in football. Although there are several studies in adult soccer (Silva et al., 2005), there are hardly any studies carried out during the child and youth stages. This research project aims to analyse the relationship between different indicators of success in football (shooting at goal and arrival into the scoring zone) and the game patterns that precede these situations in a U14 football team belonging to an elite academy of a Spanish LFP club.

Methods: A sample of N=10 regional league matches from a U14 team belonging to an elite academy of a Spanish LFP club will be coded using selected according three different levels of competitive requirement based on the position in the classification table (Sarmiento et al., 2014). An observational analysis will be carried out through a labelling panel where, following Reina & Hernández-Mendo (2012). We will use a follow up/ nomothetic/multidimensional design based on the observational methodology models described by Anguera, Blanco, & Losada (2001). Firstly, all the relevant sequences of play from digitized video files will be coded applying the observation instrument. Pitch position will be classified according to the criteria described by Pino (2000) of 20 areas through which the ball passed. Two different levels of success will be defined: a) Shooting at goal (goal, shoot on goal and outside shot) and b) Arrival at scoring zone (z17,z18,z19). The primary event categories for data collection will be: 1) number of passes preceding each successful action and 2) pitch areas through which the ball passed. Results will be analysed according the criteria established by Clemente et al. (2015). The reliability of intra-observer data will be checked by coefficient analysis Kappa Cohen. Univariate and bivariate analysis with contingency tables will be performed to analyse the influence of independent variables on both performance indicators.

Results: Since present study is performing yet and we are collecting the data, our presentation will show the results related to the distribution of successful actions (shooting at goal: goal, shoot on goal and outside shot) and arrival at scoring zone) and the predictors of success that precede them (number of passes and pitch areas through which the ball passed).

Discussion & Conclusions: Our pattern of results about the selected variables, beyond looking for short-term performances, are intended to improve the knowledge about the specificity level of the training sessions in relation to the competition in these ages. Our results will make it possible the identification of game patterns offensive in competition in order to verify whether the use of competition as a tool for the player's development is consistent with the training objectives set during youth stages.

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