Comparison of declarative tactical knowledge between U-11 youth soccer players from different positions

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Abstract

In sports, declarative tactical knowledge is regarded as the athlete's ability to know "what to do" in situations within a specific domain (Garganta, 1998). In soccer this knowledge is essential so that the player can make suitable tactical decisions according to his/her positional role and tasks. Therefore, this study aimed to verify differences between the declarative tactical knowledge of U-11 players with different positional roles. The sample comprised 14 U-11 players categorized as follows: forwards (n=4), midfielders (n=5) and defenders (n=5). The instrument used was the test of declarative tactical knowledge developed by Mangas (1999). Responses given during the test were scored according to test's protocol, whereas the best answer was awarded 100 points, the second best, 75, the third, 50, the fourth, 25 and other responses were awarded 0 points. Descriptive analyses were conducted, as well as the Shapiro-Wilk's normality test. For inferential statistics one-way ANOVA was performed through SPSS v.18 (p<0.05). No significant differences were found between positions. Findings indicated that the level of declarative tactical knowledge of U-11 players is not a determinant aspect when positions is taken into account, suggesting that for this age group there is no need for players to be specialized in a certain position. Thus, within this age group players should experience and develop their capabilities, techniques and tactics by thinking about the game as a whole and not as position-specific fragments. It is concluded that declarative tactical knowledge does not differ across U-11 soccer players from different positions.

Keywords: Soccer; Declarative Tactical Knowledge; Positional Role.

References


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