The influence of positional role on the offensive tactical performance index of U-13 youth soccer players

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Abstract

In soccer, the tactical component is considered the main aspect for expert performance. However, within a team, players have different tactical tasks according to their positional roles. Thus, this study aims to examine the influence of positional role on the offensive tactical performance index (OTPI) of U-13 youth soccer players. The sample comprised 1005 offensive tactical actions, performed by 25 U-13 male soccer players from a Brazilian club, classified as defenders (n=11), midfielders (n=7) and forwards (n=7). For data collection and analysis, FUT-SAT (Teoldo, Garganta, Greco, & Mesquita, 2011) was used. It enables the assessment of players’ performance based on the ten core tactical principles of soccer (Teoldo, Garganta, Greco, & Mesquita, 2009). Descriptive analyses (means and standard deviation) were performed. To compare offensive tactical performance between the groups, one-way ANOVA and Kruskall-Wallis tests were performed (p<0.05). Significant differences were found between all the groups for the principle of Depth Mobility (p=0.04), whereas midfielders displayed higher mean values of OTPI (61.78/SD=27.54). This result is probably due to the fact that midfielders within this team displayed more offensive characteristics, thus being able to easier perform actions that are specific from other positions. It is concluded that positional role influenced the Offensive Tactical Performance Index (for the principle of Depth Mobility) of U-13 of youth soccer players.

Keywords: Soccer; Positional Role; Offensive Tactical Performance

References


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