**31-DIFFERENCES IN DECISION-MAKING TIME BETWEEN SOCCER AGE GROUPS**

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**Introduction**
Soccer-related research indicates that decision-making is important for the quality of actions in a match (1). According to players' experience in a sport, there is some variability in decision-making time, as the higher a player's experience, the better and quicker his/her decisions will be over his/her soccer development years (2). Thus, the aim of this study is to examine decision-making time of soccer players from different age levels in a test of declarative knowledge.

**Methods**
The sample comprised 46 male soccer players, 25 from the U-15 and 21 from the U-17 age levels. The instrument used was the test of declarative knowledge developed by Mangas (1999). Tests were video recorded and players' decision-making times were obtained considering the interval between the scene pause and the start of players' verbalizations. Shapiro-Wilk's test and Mann-Whitney U were performed to verify data distribution and to examine differences between groups. This study had the approval of the Ethics Committee for Research with Human Beings from the Federal University of Viçosa, Brazil.

**Results & Discussion**
Significant differences were observed in the mean response time (P=0.039) and in the mean time for incorrect responses (P=0.008) between U-15 and U-17 levels. It is noted that U-17 level spent less time to make decisions, an important factor due to the specific sport's constraints. U-17 players were also quicker in making decisions when responses given were incorrect, thus indicating that players tend to make quick decisions, despite not being concerned with the quality of such decisions.

**Conclusion**
U-17 youth soccer players take less time in their decision-making even when such decisions are not the most appropriate.

**References**

**Keywords:** Soccer, Youth Levels and Decision-Making

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