74-POSITIONAL ROLE INFLUENCES SOCCER TACTICAL PERFORMANCE

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Introduction
Tactics are considered a key component for top performance in soccer (1). There are no shortly time that this capacity can be studied individually by researchers (2). For this reason, there is little information about this subject in literature. Understanding how players' positional roles are related to tactical performance can offer a sound basis of information for coaches and researchers. Therefore, this study aimed to examine how players' positional roles influence tactical performance in soccer.

Methods
The sample comprised 17927 tactical actions, performed by 268 U-17 youth soccer players. The instrument used to collect and analyze data was the System of Tactical Assessment in Soccer (FUT-SAT). This system was designed to assess the tactical actions performed by the players, according to ten core tactical principles of the soccer game. Players were grouped according to their positional roles, categorized in five groups: center-backs, full-backs, defensive midfielders, attacking midfielders and forwards. Data distribution was verified through Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. One-way ANOVA was performed to compare the values of these measures.

Results & Discussion
Results displayed significant differences in performance in the principle of defensive unity, with respect to players' positional role. The performance of such principle was able to influence the Defensive Tactical Performance Index, a tactical indicator of performance during the defensive phase. This principle is characterized by a unitary conception of defense, which directs the performance of cohesive moves by the players. This indicates that U-17 players' positional role influences the performance of the principle of defensive unity.

Conclusion
These data suggest that players' position is likely to influence soccer tactical performance of U-17 youth players.

References

Keywords: soccer, tactics, positional role

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