75-MEAN LOCATION OF TACTICAL ACTIONS OF YOUTH SOCCER PLAYERS FROM DIFFERENT BIRTH PERIODS

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Introduction
Tactical actions are performed by the players on the field respecting the criteria of ball possession, performed with or without the ball. Tactical actions are important because they are performed with the purpose of managing playing space, in accordance with the organization and adaptation players' movements in the field (1). Thus, this study aims to examine the locations where tactical actions are performed within the field, according to the offensive and defensive tactical principles.

Methods
The sample comprised 100 soccer players. The instrument used to collect data was FUT-SAT that enables the analysis and assessment of tactical actions performed by players, with or without ball possession (2). The sample was grouped in birth quartiles. One-way ANOVA (with Tukey's HSD post hoc) and Kruskal-Wallis tests were performed to compare the percentage of the number of tactical actions performed in the inverse half of the field, between players from different birth periods (quartiles). SPSS for Windows, v. 18.0 was used for statistical procedures.

Results & Discussion
Statistically significant differences (P=0.021) were observed in the principle of offensive coverage between players from the fourth quartile. Therefore, we can infer that younger players, due to their physical disadvantage in relation to older ones, prefer to perform offensive actions in safer locations (within the defensive half), thus giving spatial support to players with possession.

Conclusion
It is concluded that players from the fourth quartile perform most of their tactical actions of the principle of offensive coverage within the defensive half.

References

Keywords: soccer, assessment, performance

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