76-INFLUENCE OF FLOATERS PLAYER ON PLAYERS’ TACTICAL PERFORMANCE IN SOCCER SMALL-SIDED GAMES

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Introduction
The opposition between two teams, and the resulting interaction between players during soccer matches, produce situations in which frequency and chronological order of tactical actions are random and hard to predict (1). Nevertheless, complex situations during a soccer match demand from coaches the necessary stimuli to fulfils players' needs when trying to solve tactical issues. One of the stimuli that simulate actual match demands and help develop tactical performance is the utilization of floaters in small-sided games (2). Thus, the aim of this study is to examine the influence of floaters on players' soccer tactical performance.

Methods
The sample comprised 168 U-17 who performed 23,071 tactical actions. The instrument used was the System of Tactical Assessment in Soccer (FUT-SAT), which provides researchers with tactical performance data, through the Tactical Performance Index (TPI). Tests were conducted in a field of 36 m long by 27 m wide with the arrangement GK+3 vs. 3+GK, in two different situations. The first was designated as "Floaters On" and the second "Floaters Off". Wilcoxon's test was performed to examine differences in players' tactical performance between both situations (P<0.05).

Results & Discussion
Results showed that Tactical Performance Indexes (TPIs) displayed differences between both situations in the principles of width and length (Z=-3.925; P<0.001) and concentration (Z=-2.571; P=0.010). This indicates that during the offensive phase, floaters placed in the sidelines stimulated players in the search for better spaces within the playing field, through the occupation of the opponents' defensive half by having the whole team moving offensively, thus providing the player in possession with better passing options. In the defensive phase, the principle of concentration demonstrates that players aimed team packing and the protection of their own goal due to their numerical inferiority.

Conclusion
This study suggests that floaters influenced players' tactical performance in soccer small-sided games.

References

Keywords: soccer, tactical performance, floaters

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