78-INDIVIDUAL DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR DISCRIMINATES BETWEEN SOCCER PLAYERS WITH HIGH AND LOW TACTICAL PERFORMANCE VALUES

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Introduction
In soccer, players' behavior has been widely investigated with the aim of providing coaches with information about several aspects of the game that might support the training process, such as movement patterns, work rate and technical skills, among others (1). However, the importance of players' actions to the tactical context, and, in particular, to tactical performance, has not been clarified and apparently needs further analysis (2). Thus, the aim of this study is to examine the influence of tactical behavior efficiency on tactical performance of U-15 youth soccer players.

Methods
The sample comprised 100 U-15 youth soccer players from Brazilian soccer clubs. The System of Tactical Assessment in Soccer (FUT-SAT) was used to assess players' tactical behavior efficiency and tactical performance (3). The field test is conducted in a small-sided area with the following arrangement: GK+3 vs. 3+GK. The sample was grouped in tertiles according to players' Tactical Performance Indexes (TPIs). Independent-Samples t-tests was performed to compare offensive and defensive tactical behavior efficiency between players with high and low TPI values (P<0.05). SPSS v.21 was used for statistical procedures.

Results & Discussion
The high TPI group displayed superior defensive tactical behavior efficiency in comparison with the low TPI group (P=0.005). No significant differences were found between both groups with respect to offensive tactical behavior efficiency. These results suggest that defensive tactical skills play a major role in players' overall tactical performance and also that the focus on the development of such skills through practice routines might improve team's tactical performance (4).

Conclusion
Defensive tactical behavior efficiency affects players' overall tactical performance and discriminates between players with high and low tactical performance values.

References

Keywords: tactical performance, defensive tactical behavior

Acknowledgements
This study was funded by the State Department of Sport and Youth of Minas Gerais (SEEJ-MG) through the State Act of Incentive to Sports, by FAPEMIG, CAPES, CNPQ, FUNARBE, the Dean's Office for Graduate and Research Studies and the Centre of Life and Health Sciences from Universidade Federal de Viçosa, Brazil.