

The correlation between the speed parameters of the youth footballers with the sport talent identification

Balázs Deli, Éva Tékus, Tamás Atlasz

PTE TTK, Institute of Sport Science and Physical Education, Pécs

delibalazs93@gmail.com

Introduction

In football, permanent, objective observation and monitoring of athletes is an evidence. The data set of sport-specific surveys is constantly changing in youth, and there is no regularity in the measurements. The aim of this study was to create a new selection system for youth footballers, where only speed parameters (sprinting, agility with ball and without ball) were considered.

Material and methods

In our 4-year follow-up (2015-2018), we examined 26 young footballers (born in 2007) who regularly participated in football training. In the course of our research, following the association protocol, we examined the 5m-10m-30m sprint run, agility test with ball and without ball as well as the football-specific technical elements. According to our data, footballers were marked with a complex score and then divided into two categories (competition or catch-up group). Photocell measurements were used every time in our research. In terms of the dynamic development of football, we have created a new fictitious group that has only been tested for speed factors (sprintability, agility). By re-examining the data of the U9 age group, we found significant differences between the speed rating and the total score. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, ANOVA test for statistical analysis, was used to determine the normality of the data.

Results

Based on our results, we saw significant differences between the speed rating and the total score in the initial selection system. The average of the aggregate points of the technical elements and the speed parameters was compared with the black (108.42 ± 37.56) and red (80.08 ± 42.01) groups, however, no significant difference was found between the two groups ($p = 0.08$). There were no significant differences between the mean scores of the two groups' speed parameters (black = 19.23 ± 8.16 points; red = 18.85 ± 7.66 points), which confirms the incorrect determination of sports talent in the selection system ($p = 0.902$). Our fictitious group (25.69 ± 2.29 points) achieved significantly higher total score based on our speed selection than the original black (19.23 ± 8.16 points) group ($p = 0.01$). We concluded that the previous selection criteria showed predominantly technical dominance, pushing down the speed parameters, the sensitive period of which was also observed at this age.

Discussion

Based on our results, it can be said that the early developmental characteristics of the young age fundamentally influence the later sport-specific development, but the previous selection criteria showed predominantly technical dominance, pushing down the speed parameters, thus identifying the sport talent with the technical talent, incorrectly.

Keywords: youth, football, talent, identification, speed, agility