



Journal of Sports Sciences >

Volume 34, 2016 - [Issue 23](#)

1,207 | 19

Views | CrossRef citations to date | Altmetric

Talent Identification and Coaching

The relationship between game-based performance indicators and developmental level in junior Australian football: Implications for coaching

Carl T. Woods , Lyndell Bruce, James P. Veale & Sam Robertson

Pages 2165-2169 | Accepted 01 Jul 2016, Published online: 20 Jul 2016

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/02640414.2016.1210816>

Sample our
Sports and Leisure
Journals
>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

Full Article

Figures & data

References

Citations

Metrics

Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

Share

ABSTRACT

Identifying performance differences between juniors at different stages of a talent pathway may assist with the development of prospective talent. This study investigated the relationship between game-based performance indicators and developmental level in junior Australian football (AF). Players were categorised into 2 groups according to developmental level; U16 and U18. Physical and technical skill performance indicators were collated for all U16 ($n = 200$) and U18 ($n = 244$) participants of their respective 2014 national championships. Data were acquired from all 28 games (12 U16, 16 U18); resulting in 1360 player observations (568 U16, 792 U18). Microtechnology and a commercial provider facilitated the quantification of 15 performance indicators. Generalised estimating equations (GEEs) modelled the extent to which these

performance indicators were associated with developmental level. The GEE model revealed that “contested marks” and “contested possessions” had the strongest association with the U16 level, while “total marks” and “clearances” had the strongest association with the U18 level. The remaining performance indicators were not developmentally discriminant. These results indicate that there are distinctive features of gameplay more associated with the U16 and U18 levels in AF. Coaches may wish to consider these results when constructing training drills designed to minimise developmental gaps.

KEYWORDS:

Performance analysis

notational analytics

generalised estimating equations

youth

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the Australian Football League Talent Pathway for assistance during data collection. No financial support was required or provided for this study.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
19

Information for

Authors

R&D professionals

Editors

Librarians

Societies

Opportunities

Reprints and e-prints

Advertising solutions

Accelerated publication

Corporate access solutions

Open access

Overview

Open journals

Open Select

Dove Medical Press

F1000Research

Help and information

Help and contact

Newsroom

All journals

Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources
by email

 Sign me up

  

  

Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy Cookies Terms & conditions

Accessibility



Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG