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Observational Methodology in soccer: Development of goalkeeper behaviour in the defensive process observational instrument - SOFGr1

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Despite an extensive technical bibliography about soccer goalkeepers, this position has been somewhat neglected by scientific literature. The analysis for pattern detection in the most critical or representative game actions, tend to be more profitable than adding more quantitative data.

The main purpose of this study was the development and reliability analysis of an observational instrument (to detect behavioural patterns) of the goalkeeper behaviour during the defensive process in soccer. This research focused on the binomial attempt to score/GK, and on GK actions in the defensive process (DF).

To collect data was created an "ad hoc" observational instrument (SOFGr1) combining field formats and categorical systems. Four criteria were observed: 1) offensive process (OP) characteristics; 2) attempt to score; 3) Gk actions in the defensive process; 4) OP efficiency.

The sample was composed by one full game of the Korea/Japan 2002 FIFA World Cup and the reliability observed trough Cohen's K (SDIS-GSEQ software).

The reliability analysis of this instrument showed a high Cohen's K coefficient (values above 0.975 for all criteria). The observational instrument revealed an adequate discriminative power this study requests, allowing subsequent studies with this instrument.

Key words: observational methodology, goalkeeper, observational instrument, reliability analysis