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Passing technical skill executions comparison between playing position soccer players in the U17 male youth league of Ethiopia, 2015/16 game season

Laake Reda Hailu and Dr. A Pallavi

Abstract

Different scholars explain the soccer passing technique. Sam S. (2010) explained that passing techniques plays a multi-function in the soccer game and it is the action of giving the ball to a team-mate. It allows a team to keep ball possession, set up attacks, change the direction of play, counter-attack and provide a decisive or final pass.

As a result, soccer passing technical skill plays a variety functions in the different playing positions of the field. Successful passing is the performance of giving the ball to a team-mate player. This study was done to look any significant differences between the selected soccer playing position players regarding the passing technical skill execution variables of on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempt frequency ball count in the league, league zones, and find out whether defenders, midfielders, and attackers players differed in passing technical skill execution frequency ball count because of their playing positions in the U17 male youth soccer tournament league season of 2015/16, Ethiopia. In the league, 126 games were conducted in three zones (central, south-east, and qualified) during 1st, 2nd and final rounds. Data were obtained from 96 games, which were sampled from each zones of the league using stratified random sampling method and chosen using simple random sampling technique. The data was collected from every defender, midfielder, and attacker players who participate in the sampled games by recording videos of these games. Sample size was determined from each stratum of the league games using Yamane's (1967) [4] simplified formula ($n = N / [1 + N (e)^2]$) for proportions with 95% confidence level and $p=0.5$ assumed. Where, "n" is the sample size, in this study it is represented as "g", "N", represented here as "G", the population size (total games of the U17 male youth league), and "e" is the level of precision. IBM SPSS Statistics Version-22 was used to analyse the data statistically using inferential statistics (independent sample t-test to look any significant differences or similarities in the on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempt frequency ball count during the games of the U17 male youth soccer players based on their playing positions in the league and league zones of the 2015/16 tournament season of Ethiopia. As a result from the findings of the U17 male youth soccer players in the 2015/16 league season games of Ethiopia about the game condition passing technical skill execution frequency ball count of on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempts; there was a significant difference between defender and midfielder, defender and attacker, and midfielder and attacker players because of their playing positions in the games in their passing technical skill executions and this reveals that playing position have an effect in differing the technical skill executions frequency ball count of passing on target, passing off target and total passing attempt during games.

Keywords: Soccer, technique, on target pass, off target pass, total passing attempts, defender (DF), midfielder (MDF), attacker (ATTK), Ethiopia, U17 male soccer players

1. Introduction

According to Christopher (2005) [1], video recording of players performing technical skills such as passing, shooting and heading can be used to evaluate the technique, provide feedback and help design relevant practice sessions. And this helps coaches and players to re-process their coaching and training process.

In soccer, like the other coaching components, technical skills of players play a vital role in the effective execution of the game. Sam S. (2010) [2] strengthened this as, soccer techniques are one of the four components of soccer; fitness, tactic, and psychology. The actual execution of a movement is always in the realm of technique.

From this we can comprehend that soccer techniques are the tools to play the game which we apply using the mind and the physical body. Passing technique plays a multi-function in the soccer game and it is the action of giving the ball to a teammate. It is an essential part of team play. Sam (2010) [2] explained also that passing technique is the core of the soccer game; it allows a team to keep possession of the ball, set up attacks, change the direction of play, counter-attack and provide a decisive or final pass. Crosses are a type of short or long pass, usually leading to a shot.

In order to execute effective pass, the physical body should develop physically and to implement the mind decision regarding the ball on the foot of the player, when to pass, to whom to pass and which part of the body will use to pass.

Sam S. (2010) [2] supports this as technique is the body's mechanical execution to affect the ball; for example receiving, catching, shooting, dribbling, deflecting, etc. It is one of the four components of the game and leads to ball skill. Skill is being able to execute a technique under the pressure of opponents in tight space and most likely on the move. Without ball skill a player cannot execute tactics. Some players will be able to do a technique in an activity but fail to apply it as skill when under pressure from opponents, be competent with the ball but not outstanding, be technical but not skilful, while others will be skilful but not technical, and be capable of executing some skills against one level of opponent but not another.

This study was done to look any significant differences between the selected soccer playing position players passing technical skill execution frequency ball count in the league, league zones in the U17 male youth soccer tournament league of the 2015/16 season during game condition, and find out whether defenders, midfielders, and attackers players differed in passing technical skill execution frequency ball count because of their playing positions in the league.

As Thierry *et al.* (n.d) explained, the game soccer has developed "Faster, stronger, higher, and more technical". This succinct formula perfectly sums up the development of soccer over the last few years.

From this explanation, it is possible to say that the technical skill executions of soccer players have a deep view and impact in performance during the game in integration with the other soccer coaching components; fitness, tactics, and psychology.

It is necessary to compare players technical skill executions during games in order to understand their differences in technical skill execution performance quantitatively and to work on it if need to increase or decrease the quantity of the technical skill executions as necessarily and also to compare among different playing position players, and league zones so as to give strong evidence about players for coaches, soccer federation and offices, soccer technical directors, scout teams, clubs and players.

1.1 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to compare the U17 male youth soccer players passing technical skill executions, specifically; on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempt frequency ball count in the league season based on the players playing positions (defender, midfielder, and attacker) in the league as a whole and in the different league zones (central, south-east, and qualified) of Ethiopia, in the 2015/16 league season.

This study delivers information for coaches, technical scout teams, Ethiopian football federation, and players to see the

comparisons based on the players playing positions in the league, and also in the different league zones regarding the players passing technical skill execution frequency ball counts of on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempts.

1.2 Objectives

The general objectives of this study were to about the U17 male youth soccer defender, midfielder, and attacker players of Ethiopian in the 2015/16 regarding the passing technical skill execution in the league season games.

And the Specific objectives were:

1. Looking any significant differences or not between defender and midfielder players regarding on target pass technical skill execution frequency ball count during games
2. Finding any significant differences or not between defender and midfielder players regarding off target pass technical skill execution frequency ball count during games
3. Finding any significant differences or not between defender and midfielder players regarding the total passing attempt technical skill execution frequency ball count during games
4. Looking any significant differences or not between defender and attacker players regarding on target pass technical skill execution frequency ball count during games
5. Finding any significant differences or not between defender and attacker players regarding off target pass technical skill execution frequency ball count during games
6. Finding any significant differences or not between defender and attacker players regarding the total passing attempt technical skill execution frequency ball count during games
7. Looking any significant differences or not between midfielder and attacker players regarding on target pass technical skill execution frequency ball count during games
8. Finding any significant differences or not between midfielder and attacker players regarding off target pass technical skill execution frequency ball count during games
9. Finding any significant differences or not between midfielder and attacker players regarding the total passing attempt technical skill execution frequency ball count during games

1.3 Scope of the Study

This study was scoped to the games and the players of the U17 male youth soccer clubs in the 2015/16 league season of Ethiopia. Study variables of on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempt frequency ball count in the games was used to compare in the players based on their playing position (defenders, midfielders, and attackers) in the league.

1.4 Study Data Source/s

The core data sources of this study were the U17 male youth soccer tournament games, clubs and players of the 2015/16 league season. According to the Ethiopian football federation (EFF) U17 male youth premier league clubs competition legislation (2015/16) the competitor clubs was grouped in to two zones, central zone and south-east zones, based on the geographical setup of the clubs. There was no participant clubs from the other zones or areas of the country. As the profile of the clubs, indicate most of the central zone clubs

were from Addis Ababa surrounding and the south-east zone participating clubs was from south part of Ethiopia and few from east part of the country.

In the U17 male youth soccer tournament competition the competitions were held in two zones. Namely, central zone (which includes premier league clubs around the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa) and south-east zone (which includes south and east parts of Ethiopia premier league clubs from south nation nationalities people (SNNP), Oromiya and Harar). The reason behind here is because these parts of Ethiopia had well organized main male premier league competition representatives.

1.6 Under17 (U17) Male Youth Soccer in Ethiopia

According to the Ethiopian football federation, U17 male youth soccer tournament legislation (EFF U17, legislation, 2015/16), the U17 male youth soccer league clubs tournament, the clubs address their match games in home and away basis with two league zones and three rounds (1st, 2nd, and final). The league was started for the first time in the league season of 2013/14. The U17 teams was formed by the main premier league participant clubs of Ethiopia as obliged to form U17 male youth soccer teams in addition to the main premier league clubs with the purpose of thinking that to be the source of talented players for the main premier league clubs of the country.

The researcher interested with the U17 male youth premier league clubs from the daily discussions about the passing technical skill executions of the players in different playing position players during match or games of the country, which was to find a real answer for the players' passing technical skill execution frequency ball count in the defender, midfielder, and attacker players in the league, and league zones.

Particularly, the U17 male youth soccer league with the intention of recommending the soccer clubs, coaches, players, and other football institutions to work more in the essential talent identification strategy in the lower age players rather than lately in the premier leagues or national team levels by providing clear information about the players passing technical skill execution of frequency ball count regarding on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempts in the league and league zones, which can provide information for coaches about the passing technical skill execution of defender, midfielder, and attacker players.

1.7 Concept of Soccer Techniques

Soccer techniques are the means which help players to execute the game of soccer using allowed parts of the body according to their playing positions and roles assigned in the field.

Soccer technical skills are the skills of the players when executed the techniques. Soccer skills performed by players during game free/ training and game condition are the same except, there are more pressures of opponent player, timing factor and objective of the game during game.

Technical skills are skills during the games executed by players in the field of soccer. The players apply these skills using the ball, once the ball allowed by the referee to play based on the rules of the game. But, the ball itself does not perform the skills. So players should be skilled and accurate with good technical quality to do that. Like the other techniques of soccer, players perform many on target passes, off target passes, and total passing attempts in each game, in the league, and league rounds based on their playing

positions.

Thierry *et al.* (n.d.) strengthened this as the basis of technique revolves above all around having good contact between the body and ball. The ball is there to serve the player, not vice versa.

According to Sam (2010) [2], the actual execution of a movement is always in the realm of technique. The challenge of "when and why" to use a movement is one of the tactics. Technique is the body's mechanical execution to affect the ball; for example receiving, catching, shooting, dribbling, deflecting, etc. It is one of the four components of the game and leads to ball skill. Skill is being able to execute a technique under the pressure of opponents in tight space and most likely on the move.

2. Methodology

2.1 Subjects

The study participants of this study was the U17 male youth soccer tournament league games and the players who participate these sampled games in the 2015/16 (2008E.C) league season of Ethiopia.

The U17 male youth soccer tournament clubs and the players who were registered for the league season of 2015/16 by the Ethiopian football federation competition department were included in this study. The total number of clubs participated in the sampled ninety six (96) games of the 2015/16 league season of the U17 male youth tournament were fourteen (14) from two league zones, namely; central zone and south-east zone leagues. The central zone clubs were Dedebeit, Defense (Mekelakeya), Ethio-Coffee (Ethiopia-Buna), Ethio-Bank (Ethiopia Nigid Bank), Ethio-Electric (Ethiopia Mebrat Hayl), Harar City, Addis Ababa City, Afrotsion Construction, Kidus Giorgis (St. Giorgis), and Ethiopian Youth Sport Academy (EYSA).

The south-east zone clubs were Adama City, Hawassa City, Wolayta Dicha, and Sidama Buna (Sidama Coffee) football/soccer clubs.

All players, except goal keepers, who lined up for any game in their respective zones and rounds of the games were included in this study, except, players who do not participate in the games because of illness, injury and any other reasons. Only passing technical skill executions (on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempt frequency ball counts) were considered in this study. Passing part of foot or body was not considered.

2.2 Procedure

At first, information regarding list and address of the U17 male youth soccer premier league clubs, total over view of the league, fixture schedule, and legislation of the league was taken from the competition department of Ethiopian football federation (EFF). Then after, list of defenders, midfielders, and attackers' players and their jersey number of every club was players was also taken from the clubs before competition date and also during the competition days from the refereeing officials.

In order to record the matches of the sampled games, six (6) video camera persons was hired and they were assigned to record videos of the games beginning from competitor's entry up to game finish. Direction was given to the video camera persons regarding how to take videos of the games. The camera persons were oriented to follow the movement of the ball and players around the ball in any circumstances whether the ball is in play or out of play. After, getting the video records of the game, the videos were replayed on a computer

monitor and a hand notation system was used to tally the frequency count of the passing executions of defender, midfielder, and attacker players within the ball, specifically, on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempts from all lined up defender, midfielder, and attacker player/s of in the sampled games.

And the ninety six (96) recorded video games were distributed randomly to the thirty two (32) data numerators, three recorded video games for each data numerator to tally every competitor team's defenders, midfielders, and attacker's technical skill execution frequency count of passing using frequent observation count/tally form.

2.2.1 Sampling Methods and Technique/S

The U17 male youth soccer premier league clubs and games in the three zones and rounds of the league was not similar (homogeneous) in players' age level, league zone, league round, games, playing date, players' playing experience, match time and club establishment years.

As C.R. Kothari (2004) explained, in order to obtain a representative sample from heterogeneous population, it is recommended to take sample from heterogenous groups based on some common attributes or characteristics and using stratified random sampling strategy to take representative samples by grouping the heterogeneous population in to different homogenous groups.

As a result, probability sampling with the sampling method of stratified sampling technique was chosen in this study by taking the games in three zones and league rounds of the U17 male youth soccer tournament of the 2015/16 season. Then after from each stratum (games in each league zones), simple random sampling (start with first game of every stratum and

then after, every second game to the selected one) method was used to select proportional sample games from every identified stratum (league zone and round).

2.2.2 Sample Size

2.2.2.1 Sample Games and Players

According to the Ethiopian Football Federation's U17 male youth soccer premier league clubs' competition legislation (EFF U17) (2015/16), the competition were held in two zones, namely, central zone, which includes premier league clubs around the capital city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and south-east zone, south and east parts of Ethiopia (premier league clubs from south nation nationalities and people (SNNP), Oromiya and Harar). As the data from the federation about the tournament schedule of the league indicates the total games addressed by the fourteen (14) clubs were one hundred twenty six (126) games by all league zone clubs.

Out of the total one hundred twenty six (126) games addressed in three league zones (central, south-east, and qualified zones) in first, second and final rounds; sample size was determined using Yamane's (1967) ^[4] simplified formula ($n = N / [1 + N (e)^2]$) for proportions with 95% confidence level and $p = 0.5$ assumed was used. Where, "n" is the sample size, in this study it is represented as "g", (total sampled U17 male youth soccer premier league games of the 2015/16 Ethiopian season), "N" represented here as "G", is the population size (total games of the U17 male youth soccer premier league games of the 2015/16 Ethiopian season), and "e" is the level of precision.

As a result the following sample games were determined using stratified sampling method from each stratum.

Table 1: Distribution of Sample Strata, total and sampled games of each stratum

S.N	Game round & Game zone	Number of clubs in each zone and round	Number of games in each zone and round	Sampled games using stratified sampling
1	Central Zone 1 st Round	10 clubs	G ₁ =45 games	34 games
2	South-East Zone 1 st Round	4 clubs	G ₂ =6 games	5 games
3	Central Zone 2 nd Round	10 clubs	G ₃ =45 games	34 games
4	South-East Zone 2 nd Round	4 clubs	G ₄ =6 games	5 games
5	Qualified zone Final round games	10 clubs	G ₅ =24 games	18 games
	Total	14 Clubs	126 Games	96 games

Source: Authors' compute to determine the sample games using the stratified sampling method, 2015/16

The U17 male youth soccer players of Ethiopia who have been played in the ninety six (96) sampled games were considered as study sample players.

2.3 Data Collection

The data was collected from the U17 male youth soccer clubs of Ethiopia in the 2015/16 league season games and the players who participate in the games. The data regarding game situation passing technical skill executions was collected by recording the games of the sampled games and observing the recorded games by displaying in laptop computer screen to take data regarding defender, midfielder, and attacker players passing technical skill executions of on target pass, off target

pass, and total passing attempt frequency ball counts in the games and based on the players league zones.

2.3.1 Collection of Soccer Players Game Conditioned Technical Skill Execution Data

The soccer game conditioned technical skill execution data of the variables of this paper in the sampled games of the U17 male youth soccer tournament players was recorded as follow for defender, midfielder and attacker players (selected playing positions) in the league zones and league rounds separately as number of on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempt frequency ball counts in the U17 male youth soccer tournament of the 2015/16 season.

Table 2: Technical skill execution variables and their concepts

SN	Variable/s	Definition of variable and variable measurement
1	On target pass balls frequency count	Passing technical skill executions done by defender (DF), midfielder (MDF) and attacker (ATTK) Players' during soccer game and game free designed test drills. And the executed pass was identified as On target Pass and finally counted. And the measure was done as if the pass ball arrives to the receiving-controlling player, the ball may be received-controlled or not received-controlled by the player, it was considered as on target pass.
2	Off target pass	Passing technical skill executions done by defender (DF), midfielder (MDF) and attacker (ATTK) Players'

	balls frequency count	during soccer game and game free designed test drills. And the executed pass was identified as Off target Pass and finally counted. And the measure was done as if the pass ball not arrived to the receiving-controlling player; it was considered as off target pass.
3	Total passing attempts frequency count	The sum of on target pass and off target pass by the DF, MDF, and ATTK players was recorded separately for each playing position players.

Where: DF= Defender player, MDF=Midfielder player, and ATTK= Attacker Player

Source: Author’s identified technical skill execution study variables, 2015/2016 season

3. Data Analysis

Data about passing technical skill execution frequency ball count of on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempts were statistically analysed using IBM SPSS Statistics software Version 22 for windows (SPSS, Chicago, IL. USA). Mean, standard deviation and Independent samples t-test were used to look any significant differences between the selected soccer playing position players about the passing technical skill execution variables of on target pass, off target

pass, and total passing attempt frequency ball count in the league, league zones, and to find out whether defenders, midfielders, and attackers players differed in passing technical skill execution frequency ball count because of their playing positions in the U17 male youth soccer tournament league season of 205/16, Ethiopia.

4. Result

Table 3: Independent Samples t-test between DF and MDF Players passing technical skill executions in the league

Group Statistics					
Passing technical skills executions	Players Playing Position in the Games	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
On Target Pass Balls count	Defender Player	96	18.7709	5.88840	.60098
	Midfield Player	96	26.5901	8.24459	.84146
Off Target pass Balls count	Defender Player	96	13.5557	3.39935	.34694
	Midfield Player	96	18.6788	3.19402	.32599
Total Passing Attempts Count	Defender Player	96	32.3279	5.64807	.57645
	Midfield Player	96	45.2696	8.87156	.90545

Independent Samples Test										
Passing technical skill variables during game (executed ball count)		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		T-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	T	DF	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
On Target Pass	Equal variances assumed	11.914	.001	-7.562	190	.000	-7.81915	1.03404	-9.85882	-5.77948
	Equal variances not assumed			-7.562	171.908	.000	-7.81915	1.03404	-9.86020	-5.77811
Off Target pass	Equal variances assumed	1.183	.278	-10.761	190	.000	-5.12312	.47607	-6.06217	-4.18406
	Equal variances not assumed			-10.761	189.267	.000	-5.12312	.47607	-6.06219	-4.18404
Total Passing Attempts	Equal variances assumed	10.923	.001	-12.057	190	.000	-12.94167	1.07338	-15.05893	-10.82440
	Equal variances not assumed			-12.057	161.145	.000	-12.94167	1.07338	-15.06137	-10.82197

Independent samples t-test was calculated to compare game condition technical skill executions of frequency ball counts for on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempts between DF and MDF players in the 2015/16 league season of Ethiopia, table 3.

The mean of on target pass frequency ball counts of DF players (M=18.7709, SD=5.88840) and MDF (M=26.5901, SD=8.24459) players $t(171.908)=-7.562$, $p=0.000$ which shows the calculated p-value in the independent samples t-test was greater than the significance level of levene’s 0.05. Then using the lower line and concluded that there was a significant difference in mean on target pass frequency ball counts between DF and MDF players of the U17 league in the 2015/16 league season of Ethiopia.

Regarding the mean of off target pass ball counts of DF players (M=13.5557, SD=3.39935) and MDF (M=18.6788, SD=3.19402) players $t(190)=-10.761$, $p=0.000$ which shows the calculated p-value in the independent samples t-test was less than the significance level of 0.05 and concluded that there was a significant difference in the mean of off target

pass ball counts between DF and MDF players of the U17 league in the 2015/16 league season of Ethiopia.

About the mean of total passing attempt pass ball counts of DF players (M=32.3279, SD=5.64807) and MDF (M=45.2696, SD=8.87156) players $t(161.145)=-12.057$, $p=0.000$ which shows the calculated p-value in the independent samples t-test was less than the significance level of 0.05 and concluded that there was a significant difference in mean total passing attempts ball counts between DF and MDF players of the U17 league in the 2015/16 league season of Ethiopia.

Finally, from the independent samples t-test, it is concluded that about the game condition technical skill execution ball count of on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempt frequency ball counts, there was a significant difference between DF and MDF players because of their playing positions and this reveals that playing position for DF and MDF players have an effect on the technical skill executions mentioned above during games. As a result coaches should consider the specific technical roles of the

defender and midfielder players during games and need to develop a variety of technical skill drills which can fulfil the

technical skill demand of the players in their specific playing positions.

Table 4: Independent Samples t-test between MDF and ATTK Players passing technical skill executions in the league

Game Condition Technical Skill Executions		Independent Samples Test								
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	T	DF	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
On Target Pass	Equal variances assumed	69.054	.000	22.456	190	.000	20.46163	.91119	18.66429	22.25897
	Equal variances not assumed			22.456	126.844				.000	20.46163
Off Target pass	Equal variances assumed	4.999	.027	26.826	190	.000	11.12745	.41479	10.30926	11.94564
	Equal variances not assumed			26.826	180.033				.000	11.12745
Total Passing Attempts	Equal variances assumed	26.372	.000	30.711	190	.000	31.58958	1.02860	29.56065	33.61852
	Equal variances not assumed			30.711	145.901				.000	31.58958

Group Statistics						
Game Condition Technical Skill Executions	Players Playing Position in the Game	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	
On Target Pass	Midfield Player	96	26.5901	8.24459	.84146	
	Attacker Player	96	6.1284	3.42517	.34958	
Off Target pass	Midfield Player	96	18.6788	3.19402	.32599	
	Attacker Player	96	7.5514	2.51305	.25649	
Total Passing Attempts	Midfield Player	96	45.2696	8.87156	.90545	
	Attacker Player	96	13.6800	4.78166	.48803	

As table4 shows, Independent samples t-test was conducted to relate the on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempts frequency ball counts between MDF and ATTK players in the U17 male youth soccer league tournament of Ethiopia in the 2015/16 league season.

As a result, there was a significant difference in the score of on target pass ball counts between MDF (M=26.5901, SD=8.24459) and ATTK (M=6.1284, SD=3.42517) players during games $t(126.844)=22.456$, $p=0.000$, and the result suggest that playing position for defender and attacker players have an effect on the ball counts of on target pass in the league.

Relating to the off target pass ball count between MDF and ATTK players, there was a significant difference in the score of off target pass ball counts between MDF (M=18.6788,

SD=3.19402) and ATTK (M=7.5514, SD=2.51305) players during games $t(180.033)=26.826$, $p=0.000$, and the result suggest that playing position for defender and attacker players have an effect on the ball counts of off target pass.

The total passing attempt ball counts between MDF and ATTK players, there was a significant difference in the score of total passing attempt between MDF (M=45.2696, SD=8.87156) and ATTK (M=13.6800, SD=4.78166) players during games $t(145.901)=30.711$, $p=0.000$, and the result suggest that playing position for midfielder and attacker players have an effect on the total passing attempt ball counts during games. This shows that when playing position differs the same is true on the total passing attempt ball count between the playing positions.

Table 5: Independent Samples t-test between DF and ATTK players in selected technical skill executions in the league during games

Group Statistics						
Game Condition Technical Skill Executions	Players Playing Position in the Game	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	
On Target Pass	Defender Player	96	18.7709	5.88840	.60098	
	Attacker Player	96	6.1284	3.42517	.34958	
Off Target pass	Defender Player	96	13.5557	3.39935	.34694	
	Attacker Player	96	7.5514	2.51305	.25649	
Total Passing Attempts	Defender Player	96	32.3279	5.64807	.57645	
	Attacker Player	96	13.6800	4.78166	.48803	

Independent samples t-test

Game Condition Technical Skill Executions		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		T-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	T	DF	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
										Lower
On Target Pass	Equal variances assumed	28.386	.000	18.184	190	.000	12.64248	.69526	11.27106	14.01389
	Equal variances not assumed			18.184	152.683				.000	12.64248
Off Target	Equal variances	12.267	.001	13.916	190	.000	6.00434	.43146	5.15327	6.85540

pass	assumed									
	Equal variances not assumed			13.916	174.957	.000	6.00434	.43146	5.15280	6.85587
Total Passing Attempts	Equal variances assumed	6.903	.009	24.690	190	.000	18.64792	.75529	17.15808	20.13776
	Equal variances not assumed			24.690	184.964	.000	18.64792	.75529	17.15782	20.13802

An independent samples t-test was conducted, table 5, to compare the on target pass, off target pass, total passing attempts, received-controlled, not received-controlled, on target shot, off target shot, and total shooting attempt ball counts between DF and ATTK players in the U17 male youth league tournament of Ethiopia in the 2015/16 league season.

There was a significant difference in the means score of on target pass frequency ball counts between DF ($M=18.7709$, $SD=5.88840$) and ATTK ($M=6.1284$, $SD=3.42517$) players during the games $t(152.683)=18.184$, $p=0.000$, and this result shows that playing position for defender and attacker players have an effect on the ball counts of on target pass.

Concerning the off target pass ball count between DF and ATTK players, there was a significant difference in the mean score of off target pass frequency ball counts between DF ($M=13.5557$, $SD=3.39935$) and ATTK ($M=7.5514$, $SD=2.51305$) players during games $t(174.957)=13.916$, $p=0.000$, and the result illustrates that playing position for defender and attacker players have an effect on the ball counts of off target pass.

About the total passing attempt ball counts between DF and ATTK players, there was a significant difference in the score of total passing attempt ball counts between DF ($M=32.3279$, $SD=5.64807$) and ATTK ($M=13.6800$, $SD=4.78166$) players during games $t(184.964)=24.690$, $p=0.000$, and the result indicates that playing position for defender and attacker players have an effect on the total passing attempt ball counts. This shows that when playing position differs the same is true on the total passing attempt ball count between the playing positions.

5. Summary, conclusion and recommendations

5.1 Summary

Regarding the on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempt frequency ball counts between the defender and midfielder, defender and attacker, midfielder and attacker players in the U17 male youth soccer tournament league games of the 2015/16 league season in Ethiopia, comparison test was done using independent samples t-test and as a result the following findings are summarized.

- there was a significant difference in mean on target pass frequency ball counts between defender and midfielder players in the league games
- there was a significant difference in the mean of off target pass ball counts between defender and midfielder players in the league games
- that there was a significant difference in mean total passing attempts in frequency ball count between defender and midfielder players in the league.
- There was a significant difference in the score of on target pass ball counts between midfielder and attacker players.
- There was a significant difference in the score of off target pass ball counts between midfielder and attacker players during the league games
- There was a significant difference in the score of total passing attempt between midfielder and attacker players during the league games.

- There was a significant difference in the means score of on target pass frequency ball counts between defender and attacker players during the league games.
- There was a significant difference in the mean score of off target pass frequency ball counts between defender and attacker players during the league games
- There was a significant difference in the score of total passing attempt ball counts between defender and attacker players during the league games

5.2 Conclusion

From the findings about the U17 male youth soccer players of the 2015/16 league season games of Ethiopia, about the game condition passing technical skill execution frequency ball count of on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempts, there was a significant difference between defender and midfielder, defender and attacker, and midfielder and attacker players because of their playing positions and this reveals that playing position have an effect in differing the technical skill executions frequency ball count of passing on target, passing off target and total passing attempt during games.

5.3 Recommendations

As the finding about the passing technical skill execution frequency ball count between defender and midfielder, defender and attacker, midfielder and attacker players regarding on target pass, off target pass, and total passing attempt technical skill execution reveals differences because of their playing positions, coaches and technical skill trainers of passing technical skill should consider this in providing roles to the players during games to the defender, midfielder, and attacker players based on specific the technical roles of the defender, midfielder and attacker players during games and need to develop a variety of technical skill drills which can fulfil the passing technical skill demand of the players in their specific playing positions.

- coaches can use this for further study about the passing technical skill execution of the players based on their playing positions as bench marks to set trainings and game tactics
- researcher can use this for further study about the passing technical skill execution frequency ball counts of soccer players based on their playing positions during games

6. Reference

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