ANNALS OF RESEARCH IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Match analysis of elite and sub-elite official Italian male basketball games

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MATCH ANALYSIS OF ELITE AND SUB-ELITE OFFICIAL ITALIAN MALE BASKETBALL GAMES

INTRODUCTION

In literature, basketball performance has been mainly investigated to evaluate the players' individual movement patterns. Conversely, few studies analyzed the team movement patterns. Therefore, the aim of this study was to investigate the live (LT) and stoppage (ST) times and the transfer phases (TR) performed by the teams during elite and sub-elite Italian basketball games, in order to analyze differences between games and competitive levels.

METHOD

To this scope, both time-motion and notational analyses were carried out during 3 elite (1st division) and 3 sub-elite (3rd division) male official games.

The total LT and ST times were considered as the actual playing time and any stoppage in play, respectively. Moreover, both were also divided according to 5 classes of frequency of durations (1-20; 21-40; 41-60; 61-80; and >80 seconds). During LT actions were further classified as played on half or total court, respectively, in order to register one or more TR, according to 5 classes of frequency (n= 1; 2; 3; 4; >4). Chi square was applied to investigate differences between games of the same level, between elite and sub-elite games, and within the classes of frequency for each league. Furthermore, a descriptive statistic (frequency and percentage), and LT/ST ratio were calculated.

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RESULTS

No differences were found between games within same division and between elite and sub-elite games for LT, ST and actions played on half court. A significant difference was found for TR between the 3 elite games ($p<0.05$), and for LT, ST and TR within classes of frequency for each league ($p<0.001$). Regarding duration, higher values were found into 1-20s class for LT, $42.8\pm2.7\%$ and $48.1\pm1.6\%$, and ST, $42.8\pm2.7\%$ and $48.1\pm1.6\%$, for elite and sub-elite games, respectively. Regarding TR, higher values, $38.3\pm8.8\%$ and $49.8\pm4.9\%$,

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were registered for 1-TR class, while LT/ST ratios were 0.97 ± 0.12 and 0.93 ± 0.09 , for elite and sub-elite games, respectively.

DISCUSSION

This investigation showed a similar structure between elite and sub-elite games, characterized by short LT and ST, limited TR phases, and 1:1 LT/ST ratio. These findings can help coaches to set up specific basketball drills.