

TITLE

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AUTHOR

Afsar, Ali; Roca, André; Ford, Paul R.

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18. Scoping review of decision-making measurement tools in soccer

Afsar Ali¹, André Roca¹, Paul Ford¹

¹St Mary's, Twickenham, London, United Kingdom

Introduction

Several notational analysis tools exist for assessing in-game decision-making of soccer players, but an overview is required to determine best practice. Therefore, this scoping review aimed to assess the tools employed when measuring decision-making in soccer

Methods

Following the PRISMA-ScR guidelines (Tricco et al., 2018), we conducted a systematic search. Articles were screened for relevance, and full-text articles meeting inclusion criteria were charted, with relevant data extracted.

Results

Out of 3,824 articles found, 14 were included, with the majority published in the last decade ($n = 10$). Most tools addressed decision-making across all game phases ($n = 10$), whereas some focused solely on the offensive ($n = 3$) or defensive phase ($n = 1$). There were 131 technical and tactical decision-making types across studies and game phases, which were classified into 57 groups, such as penetrative pass and creating a passing option. Frequency counts of successful or unsuccessful decisions predominated, with greater success rates in more skilled and older players compared to less skilled or younger

Discussion & Conclusion

Variation in phases and categories used highlight difference in measuring decision-making, suggesting the potential for convergence towards a single tool that is applicable to both soccer research and practice.