Integrating Developmentally Appropriate Competition Structure & Talent Identification Programs

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What is Talent?
A special ability that allows someone to do something well

Hard work beats Talent when Talent doesn’t work hard
Development v Identification

**Development**
To provide the most appropriate learning environment to release the potential

**Identification**
The process of recognizing current participants with the potential to become elite players

Assessing Talent

Soccer compared to other US Sports

USA & Rest of the World

Finding talent, using sensible profiling to maximize time in high level programs with good teachers

Beware of he/she looks like a good player
Long Term Athlete Development

10,000 Hours of Practice
Specialization
Deliberate Play
Deliberate Practice
Current Performance
Future Potential

Later Bloomers versus Early Bloomers

Nature or Nurture?
Potential Predictors of Talent in Soccer

Physical
- Height
- Weight
- Body Size
- Bone Diameter
- Muscle Girth
- Somatotype
- Growth
- Body Fat

Sociological
- Parental Support
- Economic Background
- Education
- Coach-Child Interaction
- Hours in Practice
- Cultural Background

Psychological – Perceptual- Cognitive
- Attention
- Creativity
- Anxiety Control
- Intelligence
- Decision Making
- Confidence
- Anticipation
- Motor Skills
- Motivation

Physiological
- Aerobic Capacity
- Anaerobic Endurance
- Anaerobic Power

The role of science
Constantly evolving through the LTAD
Meet the demands of actual competition

FIFA U17 World Cup 2015
Average Height in 2015

Croatia: 182.1 cm
New Zealand: 181.2 cm
Belgium: 180.7
England: 180.4
Russia: 180.2

USA: 179.9
Nigeria: 175.0
Club Styles for Identifying Talent

What to Look for?

TIPS: Talent, Intelligence, Personality, Speed
TABS: Technical, Attitude, Balance, Speed
SUPS: Speed, Understanding, Personality, Skill
PAS: Pace, Attitude, Skill

What are you looking for?

Club Styles for Identifying Talent

What is your criteria?
> What are you looking to accomplish?

At what age do you profile your players?
> Does your club have a pathway?

Is it written down and recorded?
> Who views the data?

Are the coaches, players and parents aware of the structure?
Psychological Profiling
Personality, Attitude, Self Motivation

Self Regulation in learning & development
- Learners know which aspects the must improve & how to do this
- Learners are motivated to improve
- Learners take action in order to improve

Reflection  Planning  Monitoring  Evaluation

Psychological Profiling
Task versus Ego

Task Oriented
Ego Oriented

PERSONALITY AND ATTITUDE
Is he a team player, a winner (quiet or loud), coachable, a leader?
Does he have a positive influence on other players?

INTELLIGENCE
Does he understand his role, the game?
Does he read the game well? Can he adapt?
Technical Profiling

Position Specific

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Technique</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Technique</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 Goalkeeper</td>
<td>Shot Stopping Distribution Footwork</td>
<td>#8 Center Midfield</td>
<td>Dribbling Creative Passing Tracking Runs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 &amp; #3 Out-Side Backs</td>
<td>1v1 Defending Tackling Passing Range</td>
<td>#10 Attacking Midfield</td>
<td>Creativity/Improvisation Turning Transitional Player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4 &amp; #5 Centre Backs</td>
<td>1v1 Defending Heading Support Play</td>
<td>#9 Centre Forward</td>
<td>Shooting/Finishing Receiving Channeling Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6 Defensive Midfield</td>
<td>Receiving Under Pressure 360 Degree Passing Range Breaking Up Play</td>
<td>#7 &amp; #11 Wingers</td>
<td>Crossing Running with the Ball Immediate Pressure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Technical Profiling

Developing & Measuring the Performance

Individual Skills Test

Game related testing that is measurable

Create dual tasking throughout training
Physiological Profiling

**Athletic Skills Model**

Develop All Round Movers
Movers become athletes
Athletes become specialists
The specialists is an athlete

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Boys Years</th>
<th>Girls Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Athletic Skills</td>
<td>7-9 years old</td>
<td>6-7 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Athletic Skills</td>
<td>10-12 years old</td>
<td>8-10 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Athletic Skills</td>
<td>13-14 years old</td>
<td>11-12 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance Athletic Skills</td>
<td>15-18 years old</td>
<td>13-18 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elite Athletic Skills</td>
<td>19 plus</td>
<td>18 plus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Physiological Profiling

**Anthropometric Characteristics**

Energy Cost: Aerobic 80-90%
Aerobic 10-20%

Expert genes or familiarizing the player with the tasks.

Use of small sided games

Long Term Thinking

**Sessions per week**

- Under 11yrs: 3 + 1 game
- 12-14: 3/4 + 1 game
- 15-16: 4/5 + 1 game
- 17-19: 7+ 1 game
Integrating the Program

Weigh & Measure your players

Create Fitness & Technical Tests – Archive the results

Game related testing

Challenge the players:

- Girls play/train with boys
- Play/train with adults
- Offer Futsal
- Free/Deliberate Play
- Players keep journals

Bio Banding

“Bio-Banding” – the practice of grouping young players together according to their physical maturity, rather than their age.

Matching formula for opposed situations - height x weight divided by 1000

Players are placed in groups and play/practice with other groups across a two group band

Helps both the Early & Late Developers

It was first trialed in US high schools as far back as 1908. New Zealand schools have grouped rugby teams according to weight rather than age
Parent Education

Their roles & responsibilities

Realistic Goals

Providing Feedback

A balanced life style

Diet, Nutrition & Sleep

Managing disappointment

Managing success

WHAT IS THE CLUBS ROLE IN THE US YOUTH SOCCER MARKET FOR IDENTIFYING TALENT?

WHAT IS YOUR CLUB WILLING TO DO TO IDENTIFY TALENTED PLAYERS?

WHAT IS YOUR CLUBS GOALS FOR THE TALENTED ATHLETE?

IS YOUR CLUB GOING TO START OFFERING A TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM?

WHAT CAN STATE ASSOCIATIONS DO TO SUPPORT YOUR CLUB WITH TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMS?
Thank-You

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