

# Analysis of hidden patterns in team sports: Is there transversality in interaction contexts?

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This study is part of a broader research project concerning various team sports and considers the interaction context as the core aspect that links team play.

In previous studies we have described the various instruments developed for soccer (SOF-5), handball (SOB-1), basketball (SOBL-2) and volleyball (SOV-1). All of these are combinations of field formats and category systems and they have been developed *ad hoc*, taking into account the characteristics of each one of them and their own rules; specifically, the use of field formats provides the instrument with dimensionality and flexibility, and makes it readily adaptable, whereas the category systems render it more consistent. In all these instruments a key role is played by the criterion corresponding to the *interaction context*, this being a core feature of the study of play due to its conceptual relevance, which is essential in terms of understanding better the mechanisms of interaction between opposing teams; here we analyse its potential transversality in the four sports studied, the obvious differences between them notwithstanding.

## Objectives

To detect the patterns which enable us to understand the behavior of the interaction context in the four sports studied, and to conduct a microanalysis of this context.

## Method

The observational design was nomothetic (because several teams are observed), point (because only one match is played between each pair of teams) and multidimensional (because there are various criteria in the respective observation instruments corresponding to football, handball, basketball and volleyball), and within-session monitoring was used. Ten matches for each of the studied sports were recorded. The recording instrument used was the *Match Vision Studio* software, which enabled us to code all the behaviors from the respective observation instruments indicated above. Using the *Theme 6* software (version beta) we conducted a microanalysis for the recordings of each of the four sports, studying patterns, sub-patterns and satellite behaviors, with special emphasis being placed on potential regularities between the various team sports studied and, above all, the behavior of the interaction context from a comparative perspective for these four team sports.

## Results

The results obtained will be integrated into the broader study of which they form a part and will constitute the results of the analyses performed and those of the microanalysis regarding the respective interaction contexts.

## Key words

T- Patterns, microanalysis, team sports, observation instrument, systematic observation.

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