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Competitive Engineering: Maximising Skill Development in Games

Outcomes

By the end of the session, you should be able to:

Describe Competitive Engineering (CE) and explain why you would use it.

Explore the uses of CE in a range of environments

Critically reflect on the experiences of athletes you coach and assess the potential for CE to enhance this...



JUST PLAY

Presentation Overview









List what Children and Young People get out of playing sport



What is Competitive Engineering?

- A structural-based approach to changing the competitive environment of youth sports to provide more nurturing competitive experiences.
- CE attempts to enhance a variety of psychosocial outcomes by making systematic changes to the competitive environment in perform



+ How does it work?

- Uses four strategies: modifying structure, rules, facilities and equipment
- To produce a number of psychosocial outcomes: increasing action and scoring, keeping scores close, enhancing personal involvement, and maintaining positive social relationships





BEGIN ENGINEERING





Promote intrinsic motivation

Increase skill opportunities

Investigate what's the most appropriate competitive setting for young people

Are there previous examples of CE?



Gaelic football



Netball



Soccer (FA)



<u>Flag Football</u> (Smaller ball & 3 second attack rule)

Increase in points scored: 745 to 1158
Increase from 27% to 47% of players scoring a goal



<u>Rugby Football Union</u> (Reduced ball size, space & players)

•55% more runs with the ball •Approx. twice as many successful passes and tries scored

+ CE or modified games?

CE

- Athlete- centred
- Systematically analysed
- Individual outcomes

Modified games

- Team-focussed
- Subjective outcomes
- Coach-driven



Poor retention rates

Games often favour physically developed child

Low skill opportunity within games



Games based on adult versions

+ What's the problem?



The 'traditional' game of RL

	Traditional
Number of players	9v9
Pitch	60 x 40 m
Time	2 x 15 mins
No. of tackles	6
Type of tackle	Tackle
Play the ball	1
Defending team retreat	5m
Passive marker	1
Errors penalised	1
Coach on pitch	1
Player rotation	X

How we used CE

	Traditional	Under 7s	Under 8s	Under 9s
Number of players	9v9	4v4	5v5	6v6
Pitch	60 x 40 m	20 x 12 m	20 x 15 m	25 x 18 m
Time	2 x 15 mins	8 x 5 mins	8 x 5 mins	8 x 6 mins
No. of tackles	6	6	6	6
Type of tackle	Tackle	Touch	Touch/ tackle	Tackle
Play the ball	1	×	×	\checkmark
Defending team retreat	5m	2m	2m	4m
Passive marker	1	×	×	\checkmark
Errors penalised	1	×	×	×
Coach on pitch	1	×	×	×
Player rotation	X	×	×	√



Extraordinary The players' early rugby

experiences: Before: Be

(Traditional)

Беюг е	3K111	Aitei
38	Skill Opps	112
1	Tries Scored	3
11	Passes	37
11	Catch es	35
13	Tackle s	32

THE RUGBY LEAGUE







Statistically significant advantages resulting from the modified game over the traditional game



Of 51 key outcome variables, 30 indicated a superiority over the traditional game



Stronger significance was found in the under 7s and under 8s where most rules changes were introduced



+ Impact?

Parental Workshop

Change to traditional game

Coach Education

Impact



Primary Rules: Define the way a ga



Define the way a game is played – Changing a primary rule alters the game fundamentally.

Secondary Rules:

Those rules that can be changed without changing the fundamental nature of the game.

+ What to engineer in team games?

Equipment	Gaining possession	Progression	Scoring
Use larger balls Use slower balls.	Do not allow direct stealing of	Allow players some steps in games where none is allowed (e.g.	Make a goal larger.
Use shorter	a ball from one player by another.	Frisbee).	Make a goal lower.
handles on		Increase the time an individual	Consider including
striking	Increase the ways	player can have possession without	the opportunity of
hockey sticks)	can actually gain	must make a pass.	progressing the ball (or object) across an
		Reduce the pressure on a player as she or he attempts to put the ball in play after an out-of-bounds play or a penalty (e.g. do not allow players to stand too close to the sideline).	end-line rather than into a specific goal.



ANALYSE ENGINEERING







- What worked/ didn't work well? How do you know?
- Which of the four engineering options are harder/easier to use? Why?
- Which Athlete Engagement Goals are easier/ harder to analyse? Why?
- Could CE have an impact on your future coaching practice? If so, how? If not, why?

What are the take home messages?

A CE based approach can increase the skill opportunities for young players

> It is necessary to review coach education if, as a result of CE, coach behaviour must change to become more childcentred

There is a positive relationship between skill opportunity and subsequent participation in PA and sport



Questions?