

**Electronic Supplementary Information**

**Investigating Player Selection within UK Academy Soccer:  
The Application of Objective and Subjective Assessments  
in Detecting Talent**

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**Appendix 1.** Definitions of VAS items provided to coaches

**Psychological variables**

**Motivation** – Desire or willingness to do something.

**Concentration** – Action of focusing all of one's attention.

**Self-Confidence** – A trust in ones abilities, qualities and judgement.

**Team Emphasis** – Positive belief in co-operation within the team to work well together, over individually.

**Anxiety** – A feeling of worry, nervousness, apprehensions and unease towards something with an uncertain outcomes.

**Tactical Variables**

**Knowing About Ball Actions** – Having the knowledge of ball actions, regarding where and how to play the ball, when to receive the ball, and follow up actions.

**Knowing about others** – Reading the environment and my opponent, and being able to predict the play of my opponent ahead of it happening.

**Positioning and Deciding** – Being able to get open for offensive plays, or being positioned well in defensive play. Reading the oppositions movement and being able to adapt to the environment to defend and attack.

**Acting in Changing Situations** – Understanding how to read between offensive and defensive situations, and being able to create opportunities to intercept the ball.

## **Physical Variables**

***Speed*** – The rate of change of which someone moves.

***Change of Direction*** – The ability to refocus speed in an alternative direction, in the least time possible, in order to change direction of travel

## **Additional Variables**

***Game Understanding*** – A personal belief of a players tactical understanding and execution within game environments

***Overall Performance*** – A personal belief of a players abilities to impact games positively, in consideration of technical, tactical, physical and psychological skills.

***Selection/Deselection*** – A personal belief as to whether the player has demonstrated the standards expected to progress or be removed from the academy programme.