



2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing

Fast play and active defence

The first matchday of the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing definitely shows a clear increase of quality regarding the technical-tactical profiles of the participating teams compared to the first Youth Olympic Games in Singapore. Especially in view of the individual repertoire of variations of shots and passes and the 1 on 1 game on the different positions in attack, an enormous development has taken place.

The following picture rows exemplify two performance-determining factors:

Picture row 1: Egypt's consistent fast play

Egypt – winner of the first Youth Olympic Games in Singapore – shows a consistent fast play in all phases throughout the entire match against Norway (28:27). It is particularly striking that all players change very fast from defence to offence after retrieving the ball or conceding a goal (with a fast throw-off).

The picture row shows a fast throw-off, followed by a direct break-through of the centre back-court player (1st wave immediately after fast throw-off).



Fast throw-off by the pivot who immediately passes the ball to the centre back-court player. Norway's player substitution during the throw-off is clearly visible.





The defence is not organized and the centre back-court player, dribbling the ball, is not attacked.





The centre back-court player recognizes the gap in defence and now immediately starts a break-through to the non-throwing arm side.









Both defending players cannot close the gap in time. The centre back-court player can, despite being attacked, still throw the ball between both defenders into the far corner of the goal (score 20:15).

Picture row 2: Sweden with an active 6-0 defence

In the area of individual and cooperative play, however, the gaps between the different teams of the girls' and boys' tournaments are bigger.

In their first match, the Sweden women's youth played their usual 6-0 defence against host China. The picture row shows the excellent basic movements and cooperation between the individual players. But the active-aggressive defensive systems, which are clearly aimed to retrieve the ball, were used as well.



The left back-court player is in possession of the ball and aggressively attacks the right half defender. Both inside defenders defend in front of the pivot.



Good cooperation in the centre of defence: the left inside defender attacks the centre back-court player, while the right inside defender (no. 5) runs around the pivot and moves towards the ball.



The left inside defender (no. 10) immediately moves towards the ball when the ball is passed to the right back-court player. In cooperation with the left half defender, the player in possession of the ball is stopped by two players.







The right back-court player ran in the zone between the goal area line and the free-throw line. There, she wants to pass the ball back to the centre back-court player.



The right half defender (no. 11), far from the ball, recognizes this advantageous situation (centre back-court player too close in front of the defence and moves backwards), succeeds in intercepting the pass and starts a counter attack.