The purpose of this study was to examine coach leadership behaviors within the full-range leadership model using systematic observation. Seven male head coaches of youth soccer teams were observed over 2 training sessions and 1 competition, resulting in 9,760 recorded behaviors. Descriptive data revealed that the majority of coach behaviors in training and competition were neutral interactive behaviors. When displaying leadership (e.g., transformational, transactional), coaches more frequently displayed individualized consideration and inspirational motivation and less frequently displayed intellectual stimulation and idealized influence. These findings provide insight into the leadership behaviors employed by coaches, which can inform future leadership workshops focused on promoting athlete development.

In recent years, the full-range leadership model (Bass & Riggio, 2006) has been a common framework used by researchers to investigate how coaches’ leadership behaviors are associated with favorable outcomes in youth sport (e.g., Tucker, Turner, Barling, & McEvoy, 2010; Vella, Oades, & Crowe, 2013). Originating from organizational psychology, the full-range leadership model consists of three core leadership styles: laissez-faire, transactional, and Transformational Leadership (TFL). Starting with the least active approach, laissez-faire leadership—also termed nonleadership—characterizes leaders who operate with indifference toward followers and often delay or omit their responsibilities (Bass & Riggio, 2006). For instance, laissez-faire leaders might avoid decision-making, withhold feedback, or ignore followers’ requests for help. As a more active approach, transactional leaders exhibit behaviors characterized as contingent rewards and management by exception (active and passive). In other words, transactional leaders use rewards, punishment, and positive feedback to acknowledge and influence followers’ performances. Although transactional leadership has been demonstrated to be an effective leadership style, popular contentions argue that transactional alone is insufficient to extract the full potential of...