A Comparative Study on the concentration of attention for the first-degree field referees and the assistant referees in the outdoor football fields

Muhnnad Abdulhassn Abood

Middle Technical University, Al_Rusaffa Administration Institute, Baghdad, Iraq
Email: Dr.Muhnnadsport@yahoo.com

Abstract

In the introduction, the researcher tackles importance of research on the game of football, as it ranks first in terms of its popularity because of its characteristics and qualities that increase the enthusiasm of the public, and since this game is refereed by team referees, then referees is considered as an integral part of the game of football. Therefore, it is necessary to take care of them and raise their level. The aim of the study is to recognize the degree of the concentration attention of the first degree field referees and the assistant referees in the outdoor football fields. While the assumption of the study is that there are differences with statistical reference in the degree of the attention concentration. The human domain includes the first degree field referees and the assistant referees in the outdoor football fields in all of the Iraqi governorates. As for the time domain, it is the period of (2020-2021). The place domain includes Al-Shaab International Stadium and the building of the Iraqi Football Federation in the governorate of Baghdad. The method of the study is the descriptive comparative method. The community of the study are chosen deliberately, who are the first degree field referees and the assistant referees in the outdoor football fields from all the Iraqi governorates. They are (120) referees. In the main experiment the researcher works on (50) field referees and (50) assistant referee. The pilot study includes (20) referees. In order to collect data a questionnaire is used as a study achievement tool. The questionnaire includes (15) statements to be answered by the referee. Results are treated statistically. Results of the study are displayed, analyzed and discussed by the researcher. Results show that the math mean of field referees and the assistant referees is lower than assumed. Results also showed that the degree of the concentration of attention for the field referees is higher than that of the assistant referees. The significance of the study comes from comparing the concentration of attention of the first degree field referees and the assistant referees in the outdoor football fields. Recognizing the degree of the concentration attention, of the first degree field referees and the assistant referees in the outdoor football fields, is also referred to in the problem of the study.

The researcher recommends that the Iraqi Football Federation Administration to take such a result in consideration. In addition, it is also recommended that, the aforementioned federation, may concentrate on both financial and moral aspects to stimulate referees in general, and specially the assistant referees, to increase their Psychological capabilities

Keywords: Attention, concentration, referee.

INTRODUCTION

The football game ranks first in terms of its popularity because of its characteristics and qualities that increase the enthusiasm of the public. Thus, the countries of the world have been interested in this game, and Iraq is among these countries whose teams have been able to go a long way in achieving impressive results, whether at the Arab, continental or international level.
The Iraqi team achieved successive victories despite all the difficulties at that time, when it reached The World Cup Finals in 1986, as well as his fourth place in the Athens Olympics (2004), in addition to his first place in the Asian Continental Cup (2007). And since the game of football is led by a refereeing staff, then refereeing is an integral part of the football game, and for this it was necessary to pay attention to them and raise their levels. Referees are to be considered as the main element to direct the match in a proper way, as the role of the referee in the match is very important, and the football match is managed by the referee of the field, and this has the absolute authority to implement the law of the game in cooperation with two assistant referees and a fourth referee outside the field of play. And that the refereeing process is a difficult profession in which the referee bears many burdens and troubles, in addition to the physical and technical aspect that the referees enjoy to reach the location of the legal error. This requires parts of a second of time from here. The process of concentrating attention is part of the mental processes that play an important role in the performance of judgment in the arena. It helps to know things and quickly understand them.

It is also considered one of the psychological processes that occur in a certain part of the performance of grants through activity. The ability to concentration attention varies among the referees. Some have a great ability to concentration, and others are more prone to disturbance, due to the weak ability to select and concentration attention, but the feature of concentrating attention is constantly changing because it is linked to changing situations in the field while playing. Hence the importance of the research, which could be one of the first research, according to the limits of the researcher’s knowledge, who deals with the comparison in the degree of concentration of attention for the first degree field and assistant referees in the outdoor football fields.

**Methods**

**Participants**

The community of the study was deliberately selected from first degree field referees and the assistant referees in the outdoor football fields; from all the governorates of Iraq.

- They are (120). The main experiment comprised (50) field referees and (50) assistant referees.

- Whereas (20) referees are included in the pilot study.

**Protocol**

The researcher uses the comparative scanning descriptive method, which is according to (Ismael, 2004, p1), “the comparison between two or more phenomenon in recognizing the similarities and differences”; for its suitability to the nature of the study.

**Statistical Analysis**

1. The researcher made the pilot study to know:

2. The extent of clarity of the paragraphs of the scale.

3. The accuracy of answering the questionnaire items.

4. The time needed to answer the questionnaire.

It was found that the sample members had clear answers and did not accept any doubt nor any other type of interpretation, in addition to that the time taken to answer the questionnaire items was from (30-25) minutes.

**Field Procedures:**

The researcher distributed questionnaire forms to the sample members, with a brief explanation of the form and how to answer it and to make sure that no statement was left without an answer. This process was conducted with the help of the work team. After collecting the questionnaire forms from the sample members, the researcher unloaded the data based on the weights of the scale items, as shown in Table (1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive Statements</th>
<th>Answers substitutes</th>
<th>Never occurs</th>
<th>Rarely occurs</th>
<th>Occurs sometimes</th>
<th>Occurs often</th>
<th>Always occurs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weigh of the Item</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative Statements</th>
<th>Answers substitutes</th>
<th>Never occurs</th>
<th>Rarely occurs</th>
<th>Occurs sometimes</th>
<th>Occurs often</th>
<th>Almost always occurs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weigh of the Item</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After that, data has been treated statistically.

**Statistical Means**

Researcher used statistical methods according to the ready-made statistical package (SPSS).

- The statistical program (SPSS)
- Simple Pearson Coefficient
- Standard deviation
- Mean
- Spearman equation
- The value of (T) for the identical samples

**Results**

1. Results showed that the degree of concentration of the field referees is higher than that of the assistant referees.

2. Results showed that the arithmetic mean of the field referees and the assistant referees is less than the hypothetical mean.
3. Results showed that the arithmetic mean of the assistant referees is less than the arithmetic mean of the field referees and less than the hypothetical mean.

4. Results showed that there were no differences between the first degree field and assistant referees of the outdoor football fields.

**DISCUSSION**

It is evident from the above table that the focus of attention reached the hypothetical mean of (45) and the arithmetic mean of the field referees was (41.693) and the standard deviation reached (23.237). For the assistant referees, the arithmetic mean reached (40.215), as for the standard deviation, it reached (21.792), and the value of the table (T) is (1.671) with the reference level of (0.05) and the degree of freedom is (98), as there are no statistically significant differences between the field and the assistant referees.

From table (2), It is obvious that there are no statistically significant differences in the degree of the concentration of attention between the field and assistant referees in the outdoor football fields. The accounted (T) was more than the table (T)

The researcher explains the reason why there are no differences between the outdoor field referees, despite the difference in duties and types of stress they undergo, saying that it belongs to the idea that they all receive the same care and attention from the football association; in that all of them receive the same training sessions under the supervision of the football association.

Such sessions improve their level of technical, cognitive and physical fitness, in addition, there will be more positive environment that may develop the referees' performance which leads to increasing the self-confidence and thus reinforces their attention concentration in the match to make the suitable decisions.

Table (2) shows that the field and the assistant referees had a similar level of concentration, and the researcher believes that this is logical, because they face the same circumstances and circumstances that occur during the course of the football match, whether such actions or circumstances made by players or coaches under the same degree of Arbitration is the first degree, and here the researcher analyzes the experience of both of them is almost equal, which may affect their abilities.

If we look at Table (2), we notice that there is a difference in the arithmetic circles and that the assistant referees are of a lower degree than that of the field referees, and this is the result when comparing the arithmetic means with the hypothetical means. This is perhaps according to (Ali, 2006, pp36-37) the result of the personality of the assistant referee and the psychological pressures he is exposed to, in addition to the lack of financial return for the assistant referee compared to the financial return of the field referee and the neglect of the availability of moral stimuli.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Researcher is grateful for all those who helped in this work

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