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مجلة علمية محكمة تصدرها كلية التربية البدنية وعلوم الرياضة



The Competence of Professional Behavior as a Determinant of the Effectiveness of the Football Referees of the Iraqi Professional League in Southern Iraq

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ABSTRACT

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The success of the game of football depends on all elements, including the players and the referees, and the great role played by the referee has a special and distinct importance in the process of organizing and controlling the course of any match, regardless of its identity. The ruling in an era of sport was nothing but a symbol of justice, carrying an obelisk of a clearly defined and dimensioned law and framed by controls and legislation that made it the judicial authority, which has the decisive word inside the green rectangle. Since the game depends on the immediate and quick decisions made by the referee and his assistants, it is necessary to work on this aspect, whether it is in development and raising levels or in the aspect of measurement through their leadership of the matches to achieve success. It has become inevitable that every referee must perform his real duties using his own abilities, and the referee is always interacting inside the stadium with the events of the match and requires him to know its nature in order to be able to adapt to it and invest it to achieve justice by giving him the right decisions and the accuracy of his follow-up with the assistant referees, and he must be aware of all these things in order to be able to influence and control them physically, i.e. having a physical level that qualifies him to follow the course of the match with all its variables.

1- Introducing the research

1-1 Introduction and Importance of Research

The modern era has been characterized by rapid scientific and technical developments in all fields of scientific life, including the sports field, which requires many studies and researches in order to reach the solution of mathematical problems that require a scientific and practical solution to them.

The sport of football has reached a level of development and fame that no other sport in the world has reached, as it has woven its threads within the different layers of society, and has received wide attention from the practitioners of the game, viewers and the media, and this interest has aroused many researchers in the field of physical education to study and analyze in order to also contribute to the development and success of the game. Some of them were interested in studying the development of referees and improving their performance level in various matches, whether local, continental or international, and that the success of the game of football depends on all elements, including players and referees, and that the great role played by the referee has a special and distinct importance in the process of organizing and controlling the course of any match, regardless of its identity. The ruling in an era of sport was nothing but a symbol of justice, carrying an obelisk of a clearly defined and dimensioned law and framed by controls and legislation that made it the judicial authority, which has the decisive word inside the green rectangle. Since the game depends on the immediate and quick decisions made by the referee and his assistants, it is necessary to work on this aspect, whether it is in development and raising levels or in the aspect of measurement through their leadership of the matches to achieve success. It has become inevitable that every referee must perform his real duties using his own abilities, and the referee is always interacting inside the stadium with the events of the match and requires him to know its nature in order to be able to adapt to it and invest it to achieve justice by giving him the right decisions and the accuracy of his follow-up with the assistant referees, and he must be aware of all these things in order to be able to influence and control them physically, i.e. having a physical level that qualifies him to follow the course of the match with all its variables.

Hence the importance of researching the efficiency of professional behavior as a determinant of the effectiveness of the referee inside the match and what things should be taken inside the field of play because the effects of the match vary from one to another.

1.2 Research Problem

Professional behavior has a very important impact on the referees, especially the target group, which is the elite referees, because this behavior directly affects the match referees, because it is common knowledge that the decisions of the referees are in the fractions of a second to make a judgment on the case, and it may be so, the conditions of the match may be comfortable and influential, and at other times, it is a mass match and needs behavior and emotions that are in line with the course of the matches, because the effects are wider, so the researchers thought to know:

- ❖ Is professional behavior needed by football referees?
- ❖ Is professional behavior specific to the effectiveness of elite referees?

1-3 Research Objective:

1. Applying the professional behavior scale as a determinant of the effectiveness of the referees of the Iraqi Professional League in the southern region of football.

1-4 Research Areas:

- 1- Human Field : First Division Football Referees in the Southern Region
- 2- Spatial Field : Sports Federation Halls
- 3- Temporal Domain : Period from 2/10/2024 to 10/4/2025.
- 3- Research methodology and field procedures

3.1 Research Methodology

In the field of scientific research, the choice of research method to solve the problem depends on the nature of the problem, so the descriptive method was adopted in the survey method to suit the nature of the research problem, and the descriptive method is the accurate perception of the mutual relations between society, trends, tendencies, desires, and development so that the research gives a picture of the reality of life, the development of indicators and future predictions.

3-2 Research Population and its Sample:

The research community is "the sum of the vocabulary that the researcher aims to study to achieve the results of the study and can generalize the results of the study to all his vocabulary". The researchers identified the (57) referees of the Iraqi Professional League football in the southern region of Iraq for the year 2024/2025, and the sample was selected randomly by means of (47) referees, where the percentage of the sample was (82.46) and (10) referees were selected to conduct the exploratory experiment.

Table (1)

Shows the research community and research sample

Percentage	Number	Governorate	t
63.16%	36	Dhi Qar	1
21.05%	12	Basra	2
15.78%	9	Maysan	3
100%	56	Total	

3-3 Means of collecting information, devices and tools used in the research:

3.3.1 Means of Information Collection:

- Observation.
- Interview.
- Questionnaires.
- Arab and foreign sources and references.
- International Information Network (Internet).

3.3.2 Devices and Tools Used:

- Statistical Means (SPSS Software).
- 2 HP laptops.

- Manual calculator.
- Papers and pens of different types.

3.4 Field Research Procedures

3.4.1 Procedures for testing the Professional Conduct Competency Scale

The researchers adopted the Professional Behavior Competence Scale of the researcher Mohamed Rahim Fa'il, where the scale consists of (58) items, and there are five alternatives to answer in front of each paragraph, which are (always, often, sometimes, rarely, never), and the paragraphs of the scale were distributed over three areas, and since the scale is designed on a sample of university students, the researchers made modifications to some of the paragraphs of the scale to suit the nature of the sample, the environment, and the effectiveness used, which are (the judges).

In order to apply the scale (Appendix No. 1), the researchers presented the scale to a group of experts and specialists in the field of sports psychology, football, testing and measurement in the field of sports, for the purpose of evaluating it and judging it in terms of its validity in what it was designed for, and after reviewing the paragraphs of the scale and the test, the researchers set the instructions for answering the paragraphs of the scale, as the correct answer is by setting instructions that facilitate the correct answer, where the simplicity of words and clarity of meanings are ensured. Ensuring the accuracy and honesty of the answer, hiding the real hypothesis from the scale, and informing the examinee that their answer will be confidential and for the purpose of scientific research only.

3.4.2 Exploratory Experience of the Professional Conduct Competency Scale

After setting the instructions for the scale, the researchers conducted the exploratory experiment on Tuesday, 22/10/2024.

- To reveal the following:
 - To ensure that the instructions and paragraphs of the scale are clear for the trainers.
 - Recognize the time it takes to answer the scale.
 - Identify the conditions for the application of the scale and the difficulties that accompany it.
 - Ensure the clarity of the scale of the sample.
 - Researchers will have practical training to identify the pros and cons that they encounter during the

Main test.

The exploratory experiment was applied to (10) referees, and the experiment revealed the following:

- The instructions were clear by the sample members.
- The paragraphs were clear and unambiguous.
- The scale was suitable for the sample.
- The answer alternatives were appropriate for the level of the sample members.

The answer to the scale took (10-14 minutes).

The scale is now ready for application.

3.4.3 Key experience of the Professional Conduct Competency Scale:

The researchers applied the scale to the (47) sample members, who are the football referees of the Iraqi Professional League in southern Iraq, on Tuesday 24/12/2024, and the main purpose of the main experiment is to apply the paragraphs of the scale used to the research sample.

3.4.4 Scientific Foundations of the Scale:

Honesty and consistency are among the most important psychometric characteristics that must be available in the psychological scale, regardless of the purpose of its use, and therefore these characteristics must be verified in order to ensure the quality and validity of the scale used in measurement and evaluation.

1.3.4.4 Validity of the scale:

Honesty is one of the basic characteristics of psychological scales, as it refers to their ability to measure what they are described in order to measure: "The truthfulness of a test is the ability of the test to measure what it was designed for or the trait to be measured."

The researchers have verified the validity of the scale through the effect of the truth of the content or content, which is often done by logical judgment on the existence of the attribute, attribute or ability in question to verify whether the proposed measurement method actually measures it or not, then it is presented to a group of experts and specialists, to confirm the validity of the scale.

2.3.4.4 Stability of the scale:

Consistency is one of the basic elements in the preparation of scales and questionnaires and relying on their results, and in order to verify the stability of the resolution, there are multiple ways through which the stability coefficient can be extracted, and the researchers calculated the stability coefficient of the test by testing and re-testing on the scientific sample (10 judges), as the test was conducted on Sunday, 10/11/2024, and the test was re-tested on 20/11/2024 on Wednesday, and the correlation ratio of the first and second tests was high, 0.87. The researchers used the Pearson link.

3-5 Statistical Methods:

The researchers used the statistical package (SPSS) to extract the following methods:

- Arithmetic mean

- Percentage
- Standard deviation
- Simple correlation coefficient (Pearson)

4. Present, analyze and discuss the results

This chapter includes the presentation and analysis of the results reached by the researchers by analyzing the responses of the individual sample and according to the objectives stated in it, as follows:

Table (2)

Shows the standard levels, categories, and frequency of the research sample members

Iteration	Categories	Levels	t
20	45.456-52.521	Very good	1
9	41.061-46,452	Good	2
10	34.721_ 41.054	medium	3
7	22.403-28.645	Acceptable	4

The researchers believe that the reason for the presence of referees at the two levels is very good and good, and this number is due to the fact that they are characterized by having balanced professional behavior, which is characterized by behaviors that show the extent of their knowledge of the nature of what is required of them in terms of behaviors that reflect the sophistication of dealing with matches in various conditions and training situations.

"Success is measured by getting things done properly, and effectiveness is measured by optimizing the capacity of regulators to perform their tasks.

As for the intermediate level, the researchers believe that the referees at the intermediate level are the majority of the referees in their professional behavior, which is logical if we take the scientific view of the distribution of levels, and therefore these referees possess the knowledge that puts them at this level, and they need more knowledge of the nature of what professional behavior is supposed to be in terms of dealing with matches, administrators and everything that surrounds the sports process.

The referee is considered "the active element and the cornerstone of the success of the training process, so all the educational and educational requirements fall through his scientific knowledge of the competitions, so the referee must be understanding all aspects

of the game and have special attributes, abilities and knowledge that enable him to lead the training process with high efficiency.

As for the acceptable level, this gives an indication that those at this level of referees lacked many of the elements they needed to ensure professional behavior that is commensurate with the requirements of the refereeing profession, and therefore the lack of information in this aspect is reflected in the level of their professional performance in terms of the behaviors that they exhibit in different situations.

The task of referees is one of the difficult tasks in the field of human activity, so the person who has chosen this task should be an educator above all and lead the course of the match with all skill, and he must be a respected researcher and possess special information in the various practical fields that are closely related to his task as a referee, and it is considered the success of any referee in creating an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding in the group of athletes in which he works.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

1. Applying and codifying a measure of professional behavior as a determinant of the effectiveness of the referees of the southern region in football.

- 1- Benchmark scores and levels for each scale were found as objective evidence for judging the knowledge of balanced professional behavior.

5.2 Recommendations

1. Conducting similar studies and designing scales for referees as indicators to evaluate refereeing in terms of psychological and mental rehabilitation.
2. Emphasizing that the referees continue to attend courses and workshops that enable them to have a clear knowledge of the behaviors of individual players that are different and how to deal with them.

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At all	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	All the time	Paragraphs	t
					- He shall have the health and fitness necessary for the refereeing profession.	1
					Addresses the situations that face it.	2
					He is firm and owns the reins and inspires respect.	3
					He has a high sense of responsibility and the application of laws and regulations.	4-
					Respects the views of others when there is a difference.	5
					Diagnose patterns of behavior that indicate inattention and boredom and address them in appropriate ways.	6
					He gets rid of a coin and stays away from arrogance.	7
					Accepts constructive criticism directed at him.	8
					He is always ready to help the coaches.	9
					It contributes to solving problems.	10
					Wearing a sports uniform during the refereeing.	11
					He is interested in his external appearance.	12
					Influence in situations that call for irritation quickly.	13
					Be honest in his dealings with other players and people.	14
					He has a good spirit and good attitude towards the players and coaches.	15
					Defends the rights of players before the club's governing body.	16
					Appreciates and nurtures the conditions of players and coaches.	17
					He dictates his opinion and does not respect the opinion of others.	18

					He is characterized by courage in making decisions.	19
					He has the ability to keep secrets.	20
					It is characterized by being non-physical.	21
					He should be rational in his actions and behaviors.	22
					He does not hesitate to guide his players solo when needed.	23
					Adheres to the values and etiquette of game behavior.	24
					Able to organize his work.	25
					He cares and follows up on what is new in arbitration.	26
					Motivates and encourages all players to participate and interact during training.	27
					He is interested in discussion and dialogue between him and the players.	28
					It tracks relevant new research and studies in the field of the game.	29
					Identifies problems related to their work and tasks and shows their causes.	30
					The system shall be respected and adhered to in arbitration.	31
					Interested in material incentives.	32
					Able to follow the principle of gradation.	33
					Be familiar with the sporting developments.	34
					Able to develop psychological aspects in arousal situations.	35
					He guides the wrong players.	36
					Make sure to attend the competition venue before it starts.	37
					Acts solitary and without consulting the training staff.	38
					Pushes players to maintain training supplies.	39
					Takes directives seriously.	40
					It uses the technique of injuring players.	41
					He doesn't care to practice players when he shortens duty.	42
					Humor and laughter are allowed only at the right time.	43

					He is keen to create good athletes for the club.	44
					The players don't feel special.	45
					Lacks self-control when angry.	46
					It pushes its players to practice rough play.	47
					He can lose his temper if he experiences an incorrect reaction .	48
					He is lenient with players when they do not follow the law.	49
					He doesn't care when a player gets hurt during a match.	50
					He doesn't care to break the rules of sports.	51
					Others feel like an extraordinary coach when winning.	52
					He accepts criticism from the public during competitions and without emotion.	53
					It makes judging interesting.	54
					His constant expectation of all that is best is shown in the behavior of players.	55
					He avoids hypocrisy and costliness and shows respect and appreciation for the players.	56
					It accepts and reveals players' emotions in a way that doesn't intimidate or threaten them.	57
					His behavior is characterized by neutrality in dealing with him during training and in his relationship with the referees.	58