

Football coaches' reliance on morphological characteristics in selecting players under 13 years old a field study in Chlef

اعتماد مدربي كرة القدم على المواصفات المورفولوجية في عملية انتقاء اللاعبين فئة أقل من 13 سنة
دراسة ميدانية على مستوى ولاية الشلف

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Abstract:

The study aimed to identify "the extent to which soccer coaches rely on morphological characteristics in the process of selecting players (under 13 years old)" The study was conducted on a sample of soccer coaches of academies and schools in the state of Chlef, which amounted to (30) coaches who were randomly selected, and the descriptive method was followed by distributing questionnaires to the sample members, and after collecting the information, it was dealt with by the appropriate statistical method through percentages and k-squared test "k(2)".

Finally, it was found that soccer coaches in different schools and academies rely heavily on anthropometric characteristics in the selection process of players for different positions in different lines of play in soccer (under 13 years old).

Keywords: Morphological characteristics; selection; football.

ملخص:

هدفت الدراسة إلى التعرف على مدى اعتماد مدربي كرة القدم على المواصفات المورفولوجية في عملية انتقاء اللاعبين (فئة أقل من 13 سنة)، حيث أجريت الدراسة على عينة تمثلت في مكوبي كرة القدم لأكاديميات و مدارس ولاية الشلف و التي بلغت (30) مدرب تم اختيارهم بطريقة عشوائية، كما تم إتباع المنهج الوصفي من خلال توزيع استمارات استبيان على أفراد العينة، وبعد جمع المعلومات تم التعامل معها بالأسلوب الإحصائي المناسب من خلال النسب المئوية واختبار كاف تريبع "ك²"، وتم التوصل إلى أن مدربي كرة القدم في مختلف المدارس والأكاديميات يعتمدون بشكل كبير على المواصفات والمواصفات المورفولوجية في عملية إنتقاء اللاعبين بمختلف مراكز لعبهم في مختلف الخطوط في كرة القدم (فئة أقل من 13 سنة).
الكلمات المفتاحية: المواصفات المورفولوجية؛ الانتقاء؛ كرة القدم.

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I -Introduction:

Football is one of the most widespread and popular games in the world in terms of the number of players and viewers, a game characterized by the ease of theoretical skills and the difficulty of implementing them during competition. In addition, it is characterized by its vitality and its ability to attract audiences, so people practiced it with great passion and gave it special importance and made it part of the military training curriculum because of its spirit of competition and struggle.

The human athlete's body in terms of its shape and size, as well as the interest of many scientists and specialists in the field of sports, since a long time ago, with the aim of identifying what characterizes this body of specifications, called morphological specifications, which are specific and specific specifications that make it distinct from others and are of great importance in the process of selecting players, especially football players. The issue facing all coaches and specialists today is the preparation of juniors to reach the highest levels, and the process of caring for juniors for the purpose of relying on them in the future requires selection and good selection in all respects, but we must note before this selection that there are some measurements and specifications that the junior must pass in order to be eligible to continue in the training process without leaving room for chance in our selection, Because this is a complex process that needs a programmed work on scientific bases by specialists, and the selection of juniors in football is a continuous phenomenon that is not separate in the training workflow, but this process is complex and needs a programmed work on scientific bases by specialists (Mohammed Hazem and Mohammed Abu Youssef, 2005, page 43) .

Sports selection is the process of selecting the best players from among young players who have special aptitudes and abilities consistent with the requirements of the type of sports activity. It is an ongoing process through which players are differentiated according to certain parameters, which means selecting the best talented players to practice the type of activity that suits their readiness and different abilities. The talent selection process in the sports field aims to try to select the best elements in order to reach the highest levels of physical performance based on many aspects of

talent, whether physical, psychological or genetic. (Mounir Girgis Ibrahim, 1994, p. 33)

The selection of youngsters in football is a continuous phenomenon in the training process, but this phenomenon depends on many aspects, including the physiological aspect of the budding athlete.

Morphology is defined as the science that studies the shape and structure of the organs of the body or the study of the external form, and if the description extends to measurement, it is called anthropology, which is part or branch of the science of morphology. (Bouloufa Boujmaa, 2006, page 06) , and morphological specifications mean the external specifications of the body, which are quantified by anthropometric measurements, which aim to portray and describe the body structure and its components, is the general shape of the body determined by set of standard and reference measurements that determine the belonging of the body structure, thinness, overweight, obesity, or muscularity. (Al-Azouti, 2022, page 160)

Morphological characteristics are important factors that determine the shape and composition of the body (Mohammed Hazem and Mohammed Abu Youssef, 2005, page 28) , and determining them according to the requirements of football, especially body composition and body type plays a big role in the success of the game and also plays a big role in long-term training This is at the level of the lower categories, as through morphological measurements we can predict the early prediction of the physical structure of the future athlete, which facilitates the process of good selection with high levels of accuracy and we can be guided by the bodies of high-level players to take from them the form of morpho-physiological suitability. Many also point out that the size and dimensions of the player's body are considered one of the factors influencing athletic performance because there is a strong relationship between athletic motor performance and physical aspects, and the efficiency of performance is determined by the degree of skill and that body construction and its final measurements of athletic achievement. Most researchers and specialists in the field of football believe that there is a close relationship between the morphological specifications of players and the method of play or tactical plan adopted by the coach, and the player's morphological specifications and his playing area or even the position he occupies (W Duquet & Carter, 2001, p 163)

The study aimed at highlighting the reality of assessing physical and skill abilities as a criterion for selecting football players under 15 years old, by revealing the role of physical tests in assessing the abilities of players as a basis for correct selection and avoiding randomness, in addition to correcting the mistakes that coaches make by relying on traditional methods and moving away from the scientific aspect during the selection process, and showing the actual picture adopted in the process of selecting and evaluating players as a basis for correct selection and avoiding randomness. In addition to correcting the mistakes that coaches make by relying on traditional methods and moving away from the scientific aspect during the selection process, and showing the actual picture adopted in the process of selecting and evaluating football players under 15 years old in a scientific manner in line with the requirements of modern football. The results obtained revealed that the process of selecting and evaluating players is subject to scientific methods through the reliance on the battery of physical and skill tests that effectively contribute to the detection of the level of physical and skill abilities in scientific and standardized ways in line with the age group, as Shasho Sadawi et al, (2018) Comparison of some morpho-functional indicators in football to select players by lines of play, and the study aimed to The results revealed that there is a difference in the morpho-functional indicators between U-18 players according to the different lines of play in the height index, while no significant differences were found between the other morphological indicators, and there is a difference in the functional index at the retrieval ability, while there was no difference in the level of significance of the morphological indicators, and there is a difference in the functional index at the retrieval ability, while there was no difference in the level of significance.

Azzeddine Rami and Khaled Baouch (2017) addressed the importance of using physical and skill tests in the selection process of soccer players , and the study aimed to highlight the importance of using physical and skill tests in the selection of U17 soccer players, and the researcher reached results that confirmed that most coaches use abstract observation and competitive interviews during the selection process, neglecting the use of a test battery despite their knowledge of its importance, and revealed the reality of the contribution of using physical and skill tests to the success of the selection process for the "u17" soccer cubs.

(Lawati Abdul Salaand m and Sadira Saad, 2020) Specialized selection by playing positions according to physical abilities and its impact on the mastery of some basic offensive linear skills among handball players (17-19) years, and this study aimed to know the impact of selection according to physical abilities on the mastery of some basic linear skills in handball, this was based on the experimental method with an experimental and control group design with pre- and post-measurement This is based on the experimental method with an experimental and control group design with pre- and post-measurement, and the researcher found that specialized selection according to playing positions according to physical level has an impact on the mastery of some offensive linear skills in handball players (17- 19 years old).

From the previous studies, we see that morphological characteristics are one of the most important factors contributing to the success of football in general and facilitating the task of the coach in selecting players and juniors in particular, determining their playing positions and choosing the appropriate method of play for them.

Hence our main research question:

- Does the coach give a lot of importance to anatomical characteristics in the selection of soccer players (U13)?

-Partial questions:

-Do coaches base the selection of soccer goalkeepers on the specifications of the soccer facility (U13 category)?

-Do coaches base their selection of soccer defenders on certain physiological characteristics (U13)?

-Do coaches base their selection of soccer midfielders on certain physiological characteristics (U13 category)?

- Do coaches base their selection of strikers in soccer on certain morphological characteristics (U13 category)?

-Research hypotheses:

- General hypothesis:

The coach gives great importance to anatomical characteristics in the selection process of soccer players for the age group (U13)

Partial hypotheses:

- In selecting soccer goalkeepers, coaches rely on certain physiological characteristics of the age group (13-).

- Coaches base their selection of soccer defenders on certain physiological characteristics of the age group (U13).
- In selecting soccer midfielders, coaches rely on certain physiological characteristics of the age group (U13).
- Coaches select soccer strikers based on certain physiological characteristics of the age group (U13).

II –Method and Materials:

1- Research approach:

In our study, we relied on the use of the descriptive method due to its suitability to the nature of the study.

2- The population of the research sample:

The research sample consisted of the coaches of the Chlef governorate football clubs, by selecting a random sample of 30 coaches for the under 13 category.

3- Statistical processing:

In our research, we relied on the questionnaire that consisted of questions addressed to the coaches of the clubs of the state of Chlef in the form of open, closed and semi-open questions, and the results were calculated by percentage and χ^2 .

III- Results and discussion:

1- The first axis:

In selecting soccer goalkeepers, coaches rely on certain physiological characteristics of the age group (U13).

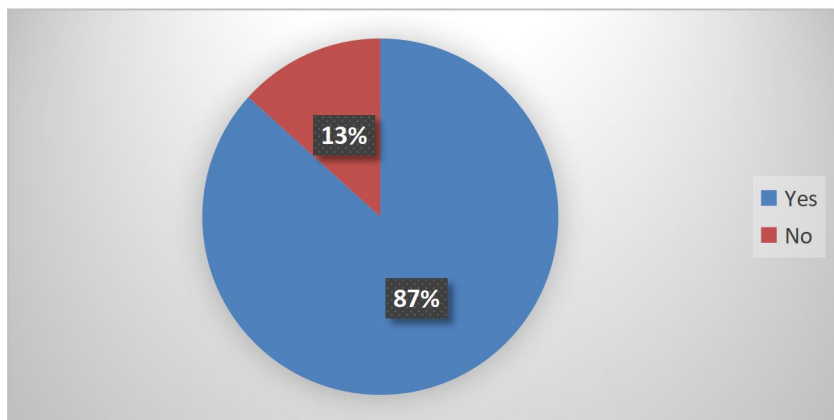
Question 01: Do coaches base their selection of soccer goalkeepers on specific physiological characteristics of the age group (U13)?

Purpose of the question: To find out if morphological characteristics play a role in the selection process of goalkeepers.

Table 01: The results of coaches' reliance on anthropometric characteristics in the goalkeeper selection process.

Suggestions	Repeats	Ratio	Calculated χ^2	Significance level	Degree of freedom	χ^2 Tabular	Statistical significance
Yes	26	86.7%	12.8	0.05	01	3.84	significant
No	04	13.3%					
Total	30	100%					

We can see from the answers to this question from the results of the blog above that most of the coaches answered yes, which amounted to 86%, and no, which amounted to 13.3%. This indicates that the majority of coaches rely on the morphological characteristics in the process of selecting goalkeepers in football, and in order to confirm this, we relied on the use of the significance of differences k^2 to process the raw results obtained, where we showed us after tabulating the result in table (01) that the calculated $k(2)$ value of 12.8, which is greater than the tabular $k(2)$ value of 3.84 at the degree of freedom 01, and from the results we conclude that it is statistically significant. This is confirmed by the study of (Bouloufa Boujmaa, 2006) which emphasized the need to rely on morphological specifications and measurements according to the type of sports activities practiced and the role or position of the athlete during sports competition to reach the highest levels of achievement and achieve the desired goals throughout the period of practice.



Graph (01): The percentage of coaches' reliance on morphological characteristics plays a role in the goalkeeper selection process.

2- The second axis:

Coaches base their selection of soccer defenders on certain physiological characteristics of the age group (13-).

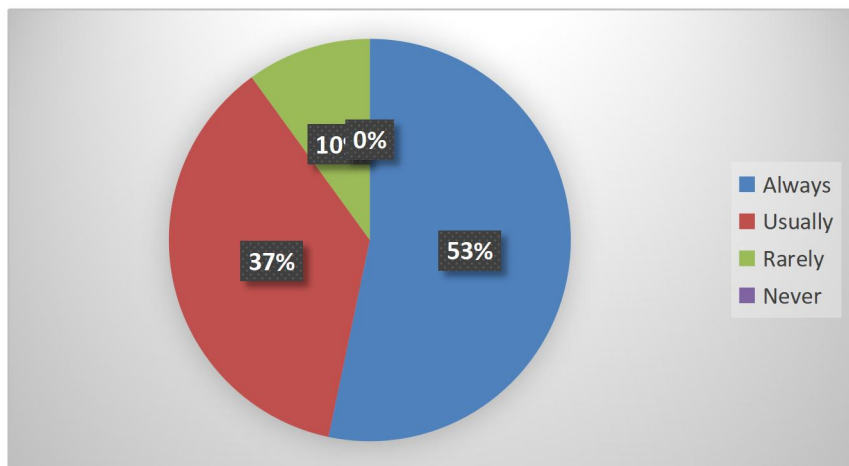
Question 02: Do coaches base their selection of soccer defenders on specific physiological characteristics of the age group (U13)?

Purpose of the question: To find out if morphological characteristics play a role in the selection process of defenders.

Table 02: The results of coaches' reliance on morphological characteristics in the selection process of defenders.

Suggestions	Repeats	Ratio	Calculated K²	Significance level	Degree of freedom	K² Tabular	Statistical significance
Always	16	53.3%					
Usually	11	36.7%					
Rarely	03	10%	16.8	0.05	03	7.82	significant
never	00	00%					
Total	30	100%					

We can see from the answers to this question from the results of the blog above that most of the coaches answered always, which amounted to 53.3% and usually amounted to 36.7%. This indicates that the majority of coaches rely on morphological characteristics in the process of selecting defenders. In order to confirm this, we relied on the use of the significance of differences χ^2 to process the raw results obtained, where we showed in Table 02 that the calculated χ^2 value, which amounted to 16.8, is greater than the tabulated χ^2 value, which amounted to 7.82 at the degree of freedom 03, and through the results we conclude that it is statistically significant. This is confirmed by (Mohamed Hazem and Mohamed Abu Youssef, 2005) that the process of selecting junior footballers is subject to many scientific and training criteria such as skill and physical tests and morpho-functional measurements of the athlete to ensure the success of the training process and achieve the highest physical and skill levels and ensure the proper employment and selection of the best athletes in the early stages of training in the field of modern football.



Graph (02): The percentage of coaches' reliance on morphological characteristics plays a role in the selection of defenders.

3- The third axis:

In selecting soccer midfielders, coaches rely on certain physiological characteristics of the age group (U13).

Question 03: Do coaches base their selection of soccer midfielders on specific physiological characteristics of the age group (U13)?

Purpose of the question: To find out if morphological characteristics play a role in the selection process of midfielders.

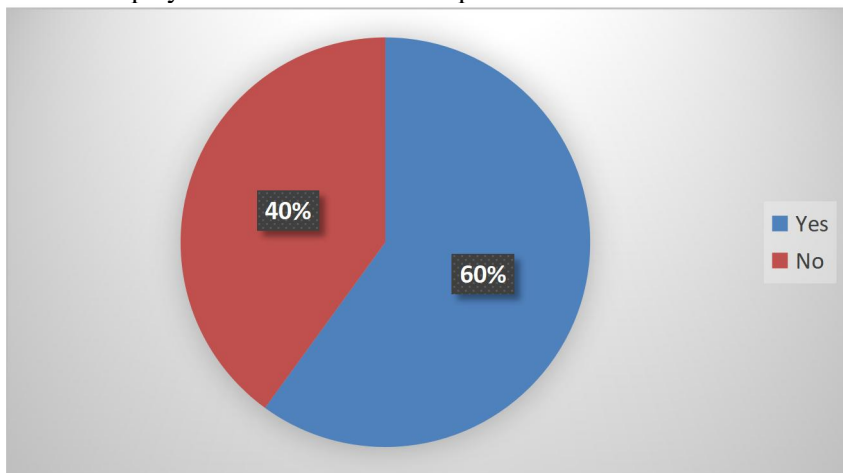
Table 03: The results of coaches' reliance on morphological characteristics in the selection process of midfielders.

Suggestions	Repeats	Ratio	Calculated K ²	Significance level	Degree of freedom	K ² Tabular	Statistical significance
Yes	18	60%	05	0.05	01	3.84	significant
No	12	40%					
Total	30	100%					

Football coaches' reliance on morphological characteristics in selecting players under 13 years old

We notice from the answers to this question from the results of the blog above that most of the coaches answered yes (60%) and no (40%), which indicates that the majority of coaches rely on the morphological characteristics in the process of selecting midfielders. In order to confirm this, we relied on the use of the significance of differences k2 to process the raw results obtained, where after tabulating the result in table (03), it appeared that the calculated k(2) value, which reached a value of 05, is greater than the tabulated k2value which reached 3.84 at the degree of freedom 01 and through the results we conclude that it is statistically significant. In the same context, (Chachou Sedaoui et al., 2018) emphasized in their study the need to support the selection process by observation using some morphological measurements such as height and functional tests such as recovery ability as important indicators in the process of selecting players according to the requirements of the lines of play for this age group to select the best talents that serve and benefit Algerian football in the future.

Graph (03): The percentage of coaches' reliance on morphological characteristics plays a role in the selection process of midfielders.



4- The fourth axis:

Coaches select soccer strikers based on certain physiological characteristics of the age group (13-).

Question 04: Do coaches base their selection of strikers on certain physiological characteristics of the age group (13-)?

Purpose of the question: To find out if morphological characteristics play a role in an attacker's process.

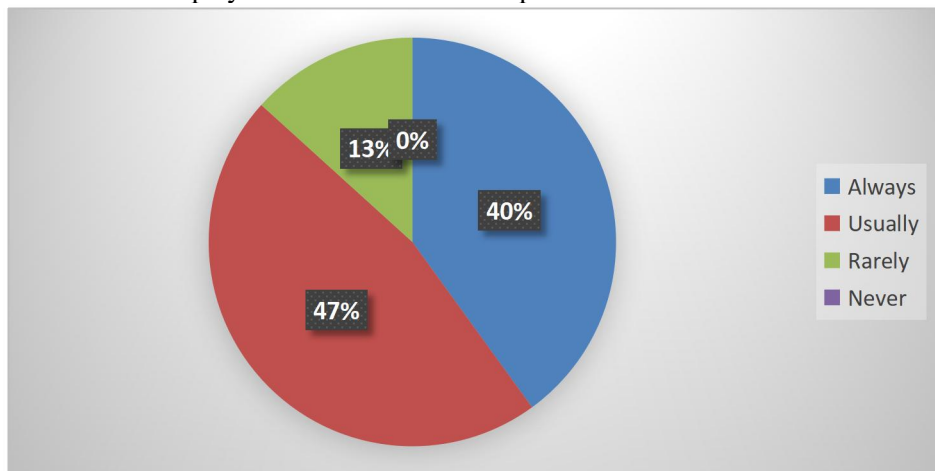
Table 04: The results of coaches' reliance on morphological characteristics in the selection process of attackers.

Suggestions	Repeats	Ratio	Calculated K ²	Significance level	Degree of freedom	K ² Tabular	Statistical significance
Always	12	40%	13.6	0.05	03	7.82	significant
Usually	14	46.7%					
Rarely	04	13.3%					
never	00	00%					
Total	30	100%					

Football coaches' reliance on morphological characteristics in selecting players under 13 years old

We can see from the answers to this question from the results of the blog above that most of the coaches answered always, which amounted to 40%, usually amounted to 46.7%, rarely amounted to 13.3%, and never amounted to 0.0%. This indicates that the majority of coaches rely on morphological characteristics in the process of selecting attackers. In order to confirm this, we relied on the use of the significance of differences χ^2 to process the raw results obtained, where after processing the results in Table No. (04), the calculated χ^2 value of 13.6, which is greater than the tabular χ^2 value of 7.82 at the degree of freedom 3, and through the results we conclude that it is statistically significant. (Louati Abdessalam and Sadira Saad, 2020) The specialized selection by playing positions according to the physical level, which includes the anatomical aspect, has an impact on the mastery of some offensive linear skills among the players, and this is what obliges coaches and components to work and take into account the physical aspect and anatomical characteristics in the selection process, in which the junior is considered the raw material for the formation of high-level athletes.

Graph (04): The percentage of coaches' reliance on morphological characteristics plays a role in the selection process of attackers.



V –Conclusion:

Through our study, which aimed to find out "the extent to which soccer coaches rely on morphological characteristics in the selection process of players (category 13-)" and try to clarify the role of morphological characteristics in the selection process in soccer, we concluded that coaches attach great importance to morphological characteristics in the selection process and that there is a positive impact on the performance of players during competition because morphological selection is important in the career of any player and team before and during the competition, in order to reach the highest level of performance and to ensure the best sports results, coaches must pay attention to the physical aspect of morphological characteristics.

Finally, we can say that our findings can be a beacon for specialists in this sport, as well as the field of sports training, especially the discovery, guidance and selection of sports talents in general in Algeria, in order to reach the highest levels of achievement for the budding athlete.

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