

Investigation of psychological factors affecting officiating in badminton

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to investigate the psychological variables affecting officiating in Badminton. Forty badminton officials who officiated in various badminton competitions in National Ranking Tournaments, State Championships and University Tournaments in 2006-07 served as subjects for this study. A questionnaire was prepared in consultation with the experts in the field, keeping in view the various psychological aspects of badminton officiating. Chi-square and percentage analysis for each statement was separately calculated to investigate psychological factors affecting officiating in badminton. There was prevalence of psychological factors affecting officiating in badminton since the responses of the officials showed significant results.

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Key Words: Psychological factors, Concentration, Confidence, Consistency, Poise.

Good officiating facilitates the sports event, ensuring that the outcome is dependent upon the skills and tactics of the players. Poor officiating detracts from the contest and decreases the enjoyment of the game for players, coaches and fans (Bunn, 1968). A strong relationship exists between the psychological skills and the physical performance of officials, therefore a referee's success or failure depends on his or her physical abilities (e.g. conditioning for the demands of a particular sport, techniques and mechanics, visual skills) and mental abilities (e.g. confidence concentration, emotional control) (Weinberg and Richardson, 1990). The purpose of the study was to investigate the psychological variables affecting officiating in Badminton.

Methodology:

Forty badminton officials who officiated in various badminton competitions in National Ranking Tournaments, State Championships and University Tournaments in 2006-07 served as subjects for this study.

A questionnaire was prepared in consultation with the experts in the field, keeping in view the various psychological aspects of badminton officiating. The questionnaire was arranged in a logical order and each statement was worded clearly to enable the subjects to understand and answer those statements without much difficulty. Great care was taken to frame each statement in such a manner that it is precise and without any ambiguity. The 5-Point rating scale was used to grade the answers. The responses to the statements were: 1. Almost never; 2. Rarely; 3. Sometimes; 4. Frequently and 5. Almost Always. The psychological aspects included in the questionnaire were: 1. Concentration 2. Confidence 3. Consistency 4.

Decisiveness 5. Judgment 6. Integrity 7. Motivation 8. Poise and 9. Rapport

In the first attempt more than one hundred statements/questions, requiring several responses were framed. Afterwards, suitable changes were made according to the instructions of the experts who had specialized in the field of research methodology and officiating. Several revisions and modifications were made before finalizing the draft. After the formulation of the questionnaire to the satisfaction of the investigator, with the inclusion of all essential items in an organized manner, the next step was to test the strength of the questionnaire. The purpose of the try out was to discover whether the statements were clear and adequate to obtain the information desired. During the try out phase the initial questionnaire was given to the experts and they were requested to answer the statements and critically evaluate the items of the questionnaire. In the light of recommendations made as a result of trial run, taking into consideration the difficulties experienced by the experts and suggestions offered, further changes were made after which the questionnaire was finally prepared. The questionnaire was administered by the investigator to all the subjects. The subjects were expected to give their frank and true opinion separately, without consulting others. Research scholar assured the respondents that the information given by them would be kept strictly confidential and utilized for the research purpose only.

Results and Discussion:

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Chi-square and percentage analysis for each statement variables affecting officiating in badminton has separately was calculated to investigate psychological been presented in Table – I.

Table – I: Chi-square analysis of psychological factors affecting officiating in badminton

Q. No.	Almost Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Almost Always	χ^2 values
1.	0(0)	0(0)	1(2.5)	3(7.5)	36(90)	123.2
2.	7(17.5)	6(15)	6(15)	8(20)	13(32.5)	4.2*
3.	2(5)	0(0)	3(7.5)	13(32.5)	22(55)	43.2
4.	0(0)	0(0)	3(7.5)	14(35)	23(57.5)	51.7
5.	3(7.5)	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	10(25)	25(62.5)	51.9
6.	2(5)	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	8(20)	28(40)	66.7
7.	0(0)	0(0)	1(2.5)	2(5)	37(92.5)	131.7
8.	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	5(12.5)	4(10)	29(72.5)	70.4
9.	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	6(15)	8(20)	24(60)	44.7
10.	4(10)	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	8(20)	26(65)	54.7
11.	0(0)	1(2.5)	0(0)	13(32.5)	26(65)	65.7
12.	4(10)	7(17.5)	7(17.5)	7(17.5)	15(37.5)	8.4*
13.	0(0)	1(2.5)	7(17.5)	8(20)	24(60)	46.2
14.	0(0)	2(5)	3(7.5)	9(22.5)	26(65)	56.2
15.	0(0)	0(0)	1(2.5)	6(15)	33(82.5)	100.7
16.	1(2.5)	5(12.5)	1(2.5)	12(30)	21(52.5)	36.4
17.	1(2.5)	0(0)	3(7.5)	8(20)	28(70)	67.2
18.	2(5)	0(0)	2(5)	9(22.5)	37(67.5)	63.1
19.	1(2.5)	3(7.5)	4(10)	11(27.5)	21(52.5)	33.4
20.	0(0)	1(2.5)	0(0)	2(5)	37(92.5)	131.7
21.	3(7.5)	6(15)	1(2.5)	10(25)	20(50)	28.2
22.	1(2.5)	0(0)	1(2.5)	10(25)	28(70)	70.7
23.	0(0)	0(0)	3(7.5)	9(22.5)	28(70)	69.2
24.	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	4(10)	36(90)	124
25.	0(0)	1(2.5)	2(5)	4(10)	33(82.5)	104.7
26.	0(0)	2(5)	10(25)	16(40)	12(30)	23
27.	4(10)	4(10)	20(50)	2(5)	10(25)	27
28.	5(12.5)	2(5)	2(5)	3(7.5)	28(70)	63.2
29.	0(0)	1(2.5)	4(10)	7(17.5)	28(70)	66.2
30.	0(0)	1(2.5)	5(12.5)	5(12.5)	29(72.5)	71.4
31.	8(20)	3(7.5)	12(30)	8(20)	9(22.5)	5.2*
32.	2(5)	2(5)	2(5)	12(30)	22(55)	40
33.	2(5)	0(0)	3(7.5)	3(7.5)	32(80)	90.7
34.	12(30)	2(5)	2(5)	2(5)	22(55)	40
35.	6(15)	2(5)	8(20)	2(5)	22(55)	34
36.	0(0)	1(2.5)	2(5)	7(17.5)	30(75)	79.2
37.	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	0(0)	6(15)	32(80)	92.7
38.	2(5)	2(5)	3(7.5)	3(7.5)	30(75)	75.7
39.	0(0)	0(0)	4(10)	7(17.5)	29(72.5)	73.2
40.	8(22)	1(2.5)	0(0)	0(0)	31(77.5)	88.2
41.	8(20)	4(10)	9(22.5)	4(10)	15(37.5)	10.2
42.	1(2.5)	0(0)	4(10)	1(2.5)	34(85)	106.7
43.	6(15)	1(2.5)	0(0)	5(12.5)	28(70)	65.7
44.	0(0)	1(2.5)	2(5)	2(5)	35(87.5)	114.2
45.	3(7.5)	8(20)	5(12.5)	5(12.5)	19(47.5)	20.4
46.	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	2(5)	38(95)	141
47.	0(0)	0(0)	1(2.5)	2(5)	37(92.5)	131.7
48.	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	6(15)	34(85)	109
49.	1(2.5)	0(0)	7(17.5)	8(20)	24(60)	46.2
50.	4(10)	0(0)	1(2.5)	3(7.5)	32(80)	91.2
51.	1(2.5)	3(7.5)	1(2.5)	4(10)	31(77.5)	83.4
52.	17(42.5)	13(32.5)	3(7.5)	2(5)	5(12.5)	21.9
53.	31(77.5)	4(10)	3(7.5)	2(5)	0(0)	83.7

54.	14(35)	6(15)	1(2.5)	2(5)	17(42.5)	28.4
55.	34(85)	2(5)	2(5)	0(0)	2(5)	106
56.	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	0(0)	5(12.5)	33(82.5)	99.4
57.	3(7.5)	3(7.5)	4(10)	6(15)	24(60)	40.7
58.	1(2.5)	0(0)	8(20)	7(17.5)	24(60)	46.2
59.	0(0)	3(7.5)	5(12.5)	5(12.5)	27(67.5)	58.4
60.	18(45)	7(17.5)	2(5)	8(20)	5(12.5)	18.2
61.	4(10)	3(7.5)	7(17.5)	5(12.5)	21(32.5)	27.4
62.	14(35)	6(15)	12(30)	0(0)	8(20)	15
63.	1(2.5)	3(7.5)	1(2.5)	6(15)	29(72.5)	70.9
64.	0(0)	1(2.5)	0(0)	3(7.5)	36(90)	123.2
65.	1(2.5)	0(0)	4(10)	4(10)	31(77.5)	84.2
66.	5(12.5)	0(0)	3(7.5)	7(17.5)	25(62.5)	48.8
67.	27(67.5)	11(27.5)	0(0)	0(0)	2(5)	66.7
68.	11(27.5)	2(5)	5(12.5)	3(7.5)	19(47.5)	24.9
69.	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	4(10)	7(17.5)	27(67.5)	59.4
70.	21(52.5)	9(22.5)	2(5)	1(2.5)	7(17.5)	31.9
71.	7(17.5)	7(17.5)	3(7.5)	3(7.5)	20(50)	24.4
72.	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	9(22.5)	31(77.5)	90.2
73.	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	3(7.5)	34(85)	105.9
74.	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	2(5)	3(7.5)	33(82.5)	97.9
75.	1(2.5)	0(0)	2(5)	9(22.5)	28(10)	68.7
76.	5(12.5)	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	7(17.5)	26(65)	53.9
77.	0(0)	2(5)	4(10)	8(20)	26(65)	55
78.	0(0)	0(0)	2(5)	6(15)	32(80)	93

*Not significant at 0.05 level

$$\text{tab } \chi^2_{0.05}(4) = 9.488$$

The study revealed that Badminton officials emphasize on psychological variables affecting officiating for betterment of their performance as an official. The official were able to keep focus on the relevant cues in spite of the antics of the coaches, a hostile crowd, a complaining athlete, thoughts about the outcome of the game, previously missed calls and quick happening of the game. The officials were confident, while officiating, in spite of being pressurized by the coaches, players or unruly crowd. They put forth all possible efforts to be confident to meet the challenges during officiating. The officials remained consistent to their decisions. They applied uniform interpretations across the board; followed the specific officiating techniques. They were consistent no matter the popularity of the game in the area/place, presence of the media. The officials were decisive in giving the decisions simultaneously with the action observed. They gave the impression of being absolutely certain of what they saw and took a slight pause to comprehend what they had seen. They remained firm to their decisions no matter the reactions of the players, coaches or crowd. The officials were good in giving judgments. They were totally focused on the game, match or event; Unaware of distraction or able to effectively block them out; and unconcerned about previous calls and the subsequent reactions from those involved. They remained well versed with the laws, regulations and their interpretations. The officials constantly improved their performance by motivating themselves. The challenges in assignment; goal setting; praise by the media, involved persons; career enhancement; sense of

enjoyment were the ways to maintain motivation for officiating over the course of several seasons. The officials remained calm and poise regardless of what happened. They focused on the task at hand by positive consequences. The officials emphasized to establish good rapport with both coaches and player using good communication skill with them verbally or non-verbally.

Conclusion:

There was prevalence of psychological factors affecting officiating in badminton since the responses of the officials showed significant results.

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