

# Examining The Attitudes of Amateur Football Players Towards Football

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## Abstract

In this study, it is aimed to examine the attitudes of amateur football players towards football. The study group of the research consists of 194 football players who play football actively in Sivas and Yalova provinces in the 2021-2022 season. Data collection in the study consists of two parts. In the first part, the personal information form created by the researchers was used, and in the second part, the Football Attitude Scale (FUTÖ) scale was used. In the analysis of the data in this study, the SPSS 25.00 package program was used, and it was evaluated at the 95% confidence interval and at the 0.05 significance level. Descriptive statistics were calculated regarding age, gender, educational status, geographical region, province, and the position information of the participants in football. It was decided whether the data showed a normal distribution or not by looking at the kurtosis skewness values. In terms of statistics, Independent Sample t test, Anova test, frequency, percentage, and reliability coefficient calculations were made. As a result, When the attitudes of the participants towards football in the gender variable are examined, there is a statistically significant difference in favor of the female participants between the scale total score and the sub-dimensions of the scale, social effects, performance, and psychological effects. It was seen that there was a statistically significant difference in the sub-dimensions, and there was no statistically significant difference between the province and location variables, the total score of the scale and all sub-dimensions.

**Keywords:** Amateur, Football, Attitude, Footballer.

## Özet

### Amatör Futbolcuların Futbola Karşı Tutumlarının İncelenmesi

Bu araştırmada amatör futbolcuların futbola karşı tutumlarının incelenmesi amaçlanmıştır. Araştırmanın çalışma grubunu 2021- 2022 sezonunda Sivas ve Yalova illerinde amatör olarak aktif futbol oynayan 194 futbolcu oluşturmaktadır. Çalışmada verilerin toplanması iki bölümden oluşmaktadır. Birinci bölümde araştırmacılar tarafından oluşturulan kişisel bilgi formu, ikinci bölümde Futbol Tutum Ölçeği (FUTÖ) ölçeği kullanılmıştır. Bu araştırmada verilerin analizinde SPSS 25.00 paket programı kullanılarak %95 güven aralığında ve 0,05 anlamlılık

düzeyinde değerlendirilmiştir. Yaş, cinsiyet, eğitim durumu, coğrafi bölge, il ve katılımcıların futbolda oynadıkları mevki bilgilerine ilişkin tanımlayıcı istatistikler hesaplanmıştır. Verilerin normal dağılım gösterip göstermediği basıklık çarpıklık değerlerine bakılarak karar verilmiştir. İstatistiksel açıdan, Bağımsız Örneklem t testi, Anova testi, frekans, yüzde ve güvenilirlik katsayısı hesaplamaları yapılmıştır. Sonuç olarak; Katılımcıların cinsiyet değişkeninde futbola yönelik tutumları incelendiğinde ölçek toplam puanı ile ölçek alt boyutlarından toplumsal etkiler, performans, psikolojik etkiler arasında kadın katılımcıların lehine istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir farklılık olduğu, yaş, eğitim değişkenlerinin de ortaokul öğrencileri, 13 yaş ve altı katılımcıların ölçek toplam puanı ve tüm alt boyutlarda istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark olduğu görülmüş, il değişkeni ve mevki değişkenleri ile ölçek toplam puanı ile tüm alt boyutlar arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir farklılık görülemediği.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Amatör, Futbol, Tutum, Futbolcu

## INTRODUCTION

In general, when the literature is examined, football is defined as a game in which teams of 11 players, with feet and/or head and the soccer ball, are superior to each other by throwing the soccer ball into the goal, in such a way that the teams dominate each other. From the twentieth century to the present, the game of football has been active. When the sports in the twentieth century and earlier periods were examined, it was seen that football came to the fore. Football is a sport where people from everyone come together without making any distinction between rich and poor (14).

Football has been named as a sports branch with a high level of excitement and spectacle, where individuals come together without discriminating on economic status, religion, or politics (12). With the transition of individuals to modern life, many sports branches have gained popularity. Among these sports branches, the most popular sport has been football. Both in the past and today, football is increasing its popularity day by day (13).

When football is considered scientifically in the past and today, it is included in the literature as a subject in which individuals are dealt with theoretically and / or practically. It is known that these fictions, in which there are many fictions about football, are generally dealt with theoretically. Studies in the sense of football practicality have been scientifically proven from the past to the present and have guided football (5).

With the popularity of football in modern life, sports businesses have aimed to provide more economic income through football compared to other sports branches. Football is increasing its popularity and growing day by day, as a field that enables large organizations in economic, social, and cultural terms and the society to experience the same atmosphere together, regardless of their different cultures and economic situations (18).

When the literature is examined, it has been seen that football is the most common research in the field of sports. It is important for both spectators and athletes to stick to a certain team. It has been mentioned in the literature that athletes play football for the purpose of their work and / or health, social friendship, and self-development. Attitudes and motivations of individuals are very important in football (15).

In the literature, it has been seen that individuals do not participate in most of the sports branches and / or follow a single sport branch that they are not even aware of. In addition, it has been observed in the literature that the economic, educational, and cultural status of individuals who prefer football is low, and that their family, social and friend circles affect their following football (14, 11).

Attitude is defined as a situation that people pursue for the purpose of social, personal, emotional, motivational, objective and knowledge (8). Attitude is defined as a tray of positive and/or negative emotions. In addition, the reactive readiness of people is called attitude (4).

Competition in football affects the motivation of individuals. It is known that motivation affects the performance and attitudes of individuals who are actively involved in football. It is a branch that includes the attitudes, social values, performances and psychological states of individuals who are actively involved in football (6). Attitudes of individuals playing football is a situation that affects success (16). Although attitude is a concept in football, it also affects football culture (1). Our research was carried out with the aim of examining the attitudes of individuals who play football as an amateur towards football.

## **MATERIAL AND METHOD**

### **Research Method**

In our research, descriptive survey model was used within the scope of survey model. Descriptive research is research that aims to determine any situation in a subject (9).

#### **Research Group**

The study group of the research consists of 194 football players who play football actively in Sivas and Yalova provinces in the 2021-2022 season.

### **Data Collection**

The scale applications were delivered to the participants via Google Form to be applied to the amateur football players, with the permission of their parents and to the coaches in different clubs, and participation was based on volunteerism. A total of 202 participants were reached, outliers in the data set and whether the multivariate normality assumption was met or not, were examined with the help of Mahalanobis distance values, and 8 data showing outlier values were removed from the data set and statistical analysis of 194 participants was made.

### **Data Collection Tools**

Data collection in the study consists of two parts. In the first part, the personal information table created by the researcher was used, and in the second part, the Football Attitude Scale (FUTÖ) scale, which Kayapınar and Kaan's validity and reliability were made (2021), was used.

#### **Personal Information Form**

A personal information form consisting of 6 questions, created by the researcher, was used to determine the age, gender, educational status, geographical region, province and football position of the participants.

### **Football Attitude Scale**

In the study, the Football Attitude Scale (FUTÖ) scale was used (2021), the validity and reliability of which was established by Kayapınar and Kaan. The scale is rated in a 5-point Likert type as (1) Never Disagree and (5) Always. The factor loading values included in the scale by Kayapınar and Kaan (2021); It was accepted that it was between 0.453 and 0.741 and adequately explained the factor load. The total variance of the scale was found to be 40,118%. The anti-image correlation values between the items ranged from 0.395 to 0.878. As a result of factor analysis, multiple ratios were set as 0.10 and a total of 4 dimensions were created. The scale consists of 21 positive and 5 negative items. Dimensions; Individual Effects (11 items), Social Interaction (8 items), Performance (4 Items), Psychological Effects (3 Items). While the reliability coefficients of the dimensions ranged between 0.337 and 0.760, the general reliability coefficient was determined as 0.738. Questions 1-11 are in the "Individual Effects" sub-dimension, questions 12-19 are in the "Social Interaction" sub-dimension, questions between 20-23 are in the "Performance" sub-dimension, and questions between 24-26 are in the "Psychological Effects" sub-dimension. Questions 17, 21, 22, 23, 24 were scored with reverse coding. In our study, Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficients were determined as 0.68 for individual effects, 0.61 for social interaction, 0.59 for performance, and 0.51 for psychological effects. The total reliability coefficient of the scale was determined as 0.75.

### **Analysis of Data**

In this study, the analysis of the data was carried out with the SPSS 25.0 package program. Outliers in the data set and whether the multivariate normality assumption was met or not were examined with the help of Mahalanobis distance values, and 8 data showing outliers were removed from the data set. The kurtosis coefficients were found to be between +2-2 and parametric tests were used in the analysis (7). Statistically, linear regression analysis, frequency, percentage and reliability coefficient calculations, anova analysis and t tests were performed. During the analysis, the analysis was made according to the 95% confidence interval.

## RESULTS

Variables	f	%	
Age	13 years and under	125	64.4
	14 years and older	69	35.6
	Total	194	100.0
Gender	Female	96	49.5
	Male	98	50.5
	Total	194	100.0
Educational Status	Secondary School	125	64.4
	High School	69	35.6
	Total	194	100.0
Geographical Region	Central Anatolia	99	51.0
	Marmara	95	49.0
	Total	194	100.0
Province	Sivas	99	51.0
	Yalova	95	49.0
	Total	194	100.0
Position	Keeper	21	10.8
	Defense	54	27.8
	Midfield	58	29.9
	Striker	61	31.4
	Total	194	100.0

When the statistical analyzes of the participants on the basis of demographic variables in Table 1 were examined, it was determined that the age variable was in favor of 13 years and younger (n=125 64.4%). When we look at the highest variables, male participants in the gender variable (n=98 50.5%); secondary school students in the educational status variable (n=125 64.4%); participants from Central Anatolia in the geographical region variable (n=99 51%); In the province variable, it consists of the participants from the province of Sivas (n=99 51%) and the participants playing in the forward position (n=61 31.4%).

Scale	Cronbach Alpha Coefficient
Individual Effects	.688
Social Interaction	.616
Performance	.595
Psychological Effects	.510
Football Attitude	.785

Table 2 shows the results of the reliability analysis obtained from the scales. According to these results, it is seen that all dimensions are sufficiently reliable.

Variables	Minimum	Maksimum	$\bar{x}$	Ss	Kurtosis	Skewness
Individual Effects	33.00	55.00	49.83	3.99	-1.279	1.803
Social Interaction	21.00	40.00	34.37	4.16	-.943	.558
Performance	8.00	20.00	16.51	3.13	-.808	-.056
Psychological Effects	6.00	15.00	12.66	2.05	-1.095	1.164
Football Attitude	78.00	129.00	113.38	9.56	-.875	.851

According to the descriptive statistics results of the scales in Table 3, the individual effects dimension score is very high ( $\bar{x}$ =49.8351); The social interaction dimension is very high ( $\bar{x}$ =34.3711); The performance dimension is very high ( $\bar{x}$ =16.5103); It is seen that the psychological effects dimension is at a moderate level ( $\bar{x}$ =12.6649) and the scale total score is at a very high level ( $\bar{x}$ =113,3814).

**Table 4.** Independent Sample T-Test Results Between Participants' Attitudes Towards Football and Gender Variable

Size	Gender	n	$\bar{X}$	SS	t	P
Individual Effects	Female	96	49.80	4.24	-.114	.910
	Male	98	49.86	3.75		
Social Interaction	Female	96	35.75	4.37	4.825	.000*
	Male	98	33.02	3.45		
Performance	Female	96	18.10	2,36	8.112	.000*
	Male	98	14.94	3,02		
Psychological Effects	Female	96	13.40	1.75	5.319	.000*
	Male	98	11.93	2.07		
Football Attitude	Female	96	117.06	10.22	5.703	.000*
	Male	98	109.77	7.29		

p<0,05\*

According to the result of the Independent Sample T Test conducted between the Participants' Attitudes Towards Football and the Gender scale, Death established a manager that they used as the aggressors of the Women's guides in the total score of the other sub-cells and policies, except for the Individual Effects sub-dimension (p<0.05).

**Table 5.** Independent Sample T-Test Results Between Participants' Attitudes Towards Football and Age Variable

Size	Age	n	$\bar{X}$	SS	t	p
Individual Effects	13 years and under	125	50.42	3.26	2.517	.013*
	14 years and over	69	48.76	4.89		
Social Interaction	13 years and under	125	35.57	3.54	5.882	.000*
	14 years and over	69	32.18	4.31		
Performance	13 years and under	125	17.43	2.77	5.986	.000*
	14 years and over	69	14.84	3.08		
Psychological Effects	13 years and under	125	13.21	1.73	5.385	.000*
	14 years and over	69	11.66	2.22		
Football Attitude	13 years and under	125	116.64	7.65	7.192	.000*
	14 years and over	69	107.46	9.89		

p<0,05\*

When Table 5 is examined, a statistically significant difference was found in favor of the participants aged 13 and younger in all sub-dimensions and the total score of the scale, according to the independent sample t-test results between the Attitudes of the Participants Towards Football and the age variable (p<0.05).

**Table 6.** Independent Sample T-Test Results Between Participants' Attitudes Towards Football and Educational Status Variable

Size	Educational Status	n	$\bar{X}$	SS	t	p
Individual Effects	Middle school	125	50.42	3.26	2.517	<b>.013*</b>
	High school	69	48.76	4.896		
Social Interaction	Middle school	125	35.57	3.54	5.882	<b>.000*</b>
	High school	69	32.18	4.319		
Performance	Middle school	125	17.43	2.77	5.986	<b>.000*</b>
	High school	69	14.84	3.08		
Psychological Effects	Middle school	125	13.21	1.73	5.385	<b>.000*</b>
	High school	69	11.66	2.22		
Football Attitude	Middle school	125	116.64	7.65	7.192	<b>.000*</b>
	High school	69	107.46	9.89		

p<0,05\*

Looking at Table 6, a statistically significant difference was found in favor of secondary school students in all sub-dimensions and scale total scores, according to the independent sample t-test results between the Attitudes of the Participants Towards Football and the variable of educational status (p<0.05).

**Table 7.** Independent Sample T-Test Results Between Attitudes of Participants Towards Football and Province Variable

Dimension	Province	n	$\bar{X}$	SS	t	p
Individual Effects	Sivas	99	50.16	3.99	1.164	.246
	Yalova	95	49.49	3.97		
Social Interaction	Sivas	99	34.52	4.03	.526	.600
	Yalova	95	34.21	4.30		
Performance	Sivas	99	16.45	3.27	-.252	.801
	Yalova	95	16.56	2.998		
Psychological Effects	Sivas	99	12.75	1.995	.641	.523
	Yalova	95	12.56	2.11		
Football Attitude	Sivas	99	113.89	9.90	.768	.443
	Yalova	95	112.84	9.23		

p<0,05\*

Looking at Table 7, no statistically significant difference was found in all sub-dimensions and the total score of the scale, according to the results of the independent sample t-test conducted between the Attitudes of the Participants Towards Football and the province variable (p>0.05).

**Table 8.** Results of Anova Analysis Between Participants' Attitudes Towards Football and Position Variable

Dimensions	Position	N	$\bar{X}$	SS	F	p
Individual Effects	Keeper	21	49.85	5.25	1.556	.202
	Defense	54	48.87	4.20		
	Midfield	58	50.17	3.89		
	Striker	61	50.36	3.27		
Social Interaction	Keeper	21	33.66	4.50	1.086	.356
	Defense	54	33.87	4.56		
	Midfield	58	34.32	3.60		
	Striker	61	35.09	4.14		
Performance	Keeper	21	17.00	2.73	1.552	.203
	Defense	54	16.14	3.52		
	Midfield	58	16.05	2.95		
	Striker	61	17.09	3.01		
Psychological Effects	Keeper	21	12.71	2.26	.165	.920
	Defense	54	12.61	1.83		
	Midfield	58	12.55	2.10		
	Striker	61	12.80	2.15		
Football Attitude	Keeper	21	113.23	11.09	1.598	.191
	Defense	54	111.50	9.47		
	Midfield	58	113.10	8.94		
	Striker	61	115.36	9.53		

p<0.05\*

When Table 8 is examined, it is seen that there is no statistically significant difference in all sub-dimensions and scale total score as a result of the Anova analysis performed between the Attitudes of the Participants Towards Football and the position variable ( $p>0.05$ ).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In our research, in order to examine the attitudes of amateur football players towards football, in the provinces of Sivas and Yalova, on the basis of various variables, individuals who play football actively in the 2020-2021 season; The results of age, gender, education level, geographical region, province and football position are explained below.

In our study, when the statistical analyzes of the participants on the basis of demographic variables were examined, it was determined that the age variable was against the age of 14 years and older ( $n=69$  35.6%). When we look at the variables, it is seen that male participants are more than female participants in the gender variable ( $n=98$  50.5%); secondary school students are more than high school students in the education level variable ( $n=125$  64.4%); In the geographical region variable, Marmara and Central Anatolia regions have more participants in the Central Anatolia Region ( $n=99$  51%); In the province variable, compared to Yalova province, the participants participating in the research were more in Sivas ( $n=99$  51%) and when the position distributions were examined, it was seen that the striker participants were more than the participants in other positions ( $n=61$  31.4%), (Table 1). In addition, according to the descriptive statistics results in our study, it was found that the score of the Individual effects dimension was very high ( $\bar{x}=49.8351$ ); The social interaction dimension is very high ( $\bar{x}=34.3711$ ); The performance dimension is very high ( $\bar{x}=16.5103$ ); It is seen that the psychological effects dimension is at a moderate level ( $\bar{x}=12.6649$ ) and the scale total score is at a very high level ( $\bar{x}=113.3814$ ), (Table 3).

It was seen that there was a significant difference in gender distribution and that men had more attitudes towards football than women. In general studies, it has been observed that men are more involved in gender distributions than women (3, 2). In our study, there was a statistically significant difference in favor of female participants in the Attitudes Towards Football and Gender Variable of the Participants in the sub-dimensions and the total score of the scale, except for the Individual Effects sub-dimension ( $p<0.05$ ), (Table 4).

In the analysis made between the Attitudes of the Participants Towards Football and the age variable, a statistically significant difference was found in favor of the participants aged 13 and younger in all sub-dimensions and the total score of the scale ( $p<0.05$ ), (Table 5)

A statistically significant difference was found in favor of secondary school students in all sub-dimensions and the total score of the scale when the Attitudes of the Participants towards Football and the variable of educational status were examined ( $p<0.05$ ), (Table 6).

Did not find a significant difference when examining the provincial variables in his study. Again, similar results show similarities as a result of the study conducted (17). In our study, it was seen that there was no statistically significant difference between the attitudes of the participants towards football and the province variable (Table 7). This result shows that the results of the studies of Tutkun et al. (17) support the result of our study.

As the result of Anova analysis is observed in all infrastructure and scale total scores, statistical results are obtained between their attitudes towards football and position variable when there is no determinant ( $p>0.05$ ), (Table 8). In conclusion, In the gender variables, there is an external variable between the participants' attitudes towards football, their total scores and the social effects, performance, psychological effects from the sub-dimensions of the scale, age, education variables include secondary school software, the total score of the administrators aged 13 and below, and all sub-strata. It was seen that there was a difference between the province and location variables, the total score of the scale and all sub-dimensions

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