



# Analysis on Sportsmanship as a Universal Value and Sportsmanship Orientations of Candidate National Athletes

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## Abstract

This study aimed to analyze the sportsmanship orientations of candidate national athletes in the context of sportsmanship as a universal value, and included a total of 95 athletes, with the age range of  $18.11 \pm 3.58$ , 54 of whom were female, while 41 were male, who were all selected to the athletic development camp of the national hockey team. Data were collected through the demographic form containing personal information and the 'Multidimensional Sportsmanship Orientation Scale' (MSOS) developed by Vallerand et al. (1997), and adapted into Turkish by Sezen-Balçıkkanlı (2010). The results indicated that there was statistical significance in the sportsmanship orientation of candidate national hockey athletes as to gender, education level, and age range that sportsmanship values of female athletes were more prominent, and that athletes with a lower level of education, and less athletic experience as well as those who were at a younger age appeared to contribute to the sportsmanship values more positively in relation to complying with social norms, respecting rules and management, and adhering to responsibilities in sports, whereas those who were older and more experienced besides having higher education levels turned out to be more attentive in terms of respect for one's opponents. Considering the mean values obtained from the research scale form, it can be assumed that the sportsmanship orientation of the candidate national athletes is at a remarkably good level. It is a fact that the positive behavior of national athletes will add a positive value to all humanity.

**Keywords:** Hockey, Candidate National Athlete, Sportsmanship.

**Evrensel Bir Değer Olarak Sportmenlik ve Aday Milli Sporcuların Sportmenlik Yönelimlerinin İncelenmesi**

## Özet

Evrensel bir değer olarak sportmenlik çerçevesinde aday milli sporcuların sportmenlik yönelimlerinin incelendiği bu araştırmaya hokey milli takım atletik gelişim kampına seçilen ve yaş ortalamaları  $18.11 \pm 3.58$ , 54 kadın, 41 erkek olmak üzere toplamda 95 sporcu katılmıştır. Verilerin toplanmasında kişisel bilgilerin yer aldığı demografik form ile Vallerand ve arkadaşları (1997) tarafından geliştirilen ve Türkçeye uyarlaması Sezen-BALÇIKANLI (2010) tarafından yapılan Çok Boyutlu Sportmenlik Yönelimi Ölçeği (MSOS) kullanılmıştır. Sonuç olarak; aday milli hokey sporcularının sportmenlik yönelimlerinde cinsiyet, eğitim seviyesi ve yaş gruplarına göre anlamlı farklılıklar bulunduğu; kadın sporcuların sportmenlik değerlerinin daha ön planda olduğu, sosyal normlara uyum, kurallara ve yönetime saygı, sporda sorumluluklara bağlılık hususunda; eğitim seviyesi daha düşük, yaşları daha küçük, sporculuk tecrübesi daha az sporcuların sportmenlik değerlerine daha olumlu katkıda buldukları; rakibe saygı hususunda ise eğitimi seviyesi daha yüksek, yaşı daha büyük, sporculuk tecrübesi daha çok olan sporcuların ön planda oldukları tespit edilmiştir. Araştırma ölçeği formundan elde edilen ortalama değerler göz önünde bulundurulduğunda, aday milli sporcuların sportmenlik yönelimlerinin iyi düzeyde olduğu söylenebilir. Milli sporcuların sergilemiş oldukları pozitif davranışların, tüm insanlığa artı bir değer katacağı da bir gerçektir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Hokey, Aday Milli Sporcu, Sportmenlik.

## INTRODUCTION

Although sports is a great struggle to reach higher, be faster, stronger, it is also a game, race and entertainment performed under universal principles and rules (1). Sport is also one of the very important values that shapes society or societies.

The concept of value is defined in Turkish language as "the abstract measure that helps to determine the importance of something, the value of something, the whole of material and spiritual elements that include the social, cultural, economic and scientific values of a nation" (2). Socially, values are generalized principles of behavior that are considered by society to be the best, most accurate and most beneficial. It is seen that the basic institutions that constitute the social structure all contain their own values. These institutions (family, education, religion, politics, economy, sports, etc.) play an important role in the adoption, survival and dissemination of values (3).

The value of human existence is within universal criteria (4). Sports generates a new culture with values that are universal and recognized by everyone, and offers an application area to learned values (5). Education, sports, values and sportive values are among the products of a culture. The person who puts his ability of moving into action by combining his mental and affective characteristics with the sports education and values he has acquired from his culture, becomes a "person doing sports" after a while. So, he/she eventually became equipped with sports culture. Therefore, he/she cares about all kinds of sporting values and shows behavioral patterns accordingly (6).

Sportsmanship behavior is a universal value (7). Sportsmanship is a consistent behavior within the framework of normative principles, related to social and moral values within sports activities (8). The concept of sportsmanship includes qualities such as being sincere, courageous, showing patience, being able to restrain yourself, self-confidence, not despising other people, being respectful of people's rights and thoughts, being dignified, being generous (9). Sportsmanship, at the same time; is a preference for an honorable gain over an honorable loss.

Intensifying sportsmanship behaviors in youth and sports environments can help to counter non-active lifestyles about sportsmanship tendency (10). Sportsmanship tendencies decrease immoral behaviors in sports (11). Important messages can be

conveyed to the whole society, especially thanks to these behaviors performed by national athletes who are in front of the entire sports universe. Finally, the spirit of sportsmanship is one of the important building blocks of society (12). If the spirit of sportsmanship was not existing, sportive concepts would not be meaningful either; Therefore, we can say that sportsmanship is indispensable for sportive life (13).

Considering that sportsmanship tendencies of sportsmen who represent countries at the national team level are particularly important as a value, and that eventually a behavior in the sports universe concerns the whole country and constitutes a role model for future generations, it can be said that it is very important for athletes to be equipped with sportsmanship values. With this study, it is aimed to examine the sportsmanship tendencies of candidate national athletes and the results of the study are thought to be a guide for athletes, families, trainers, and sports managers. What should not be forgotten is that sportsmanship is structured in a way that strengthens both universal and national values and harmonizes with developing world values.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

### Research Model

In this study, scanning model, which is one of the quantitative research models, was used. Research aiming to determine individuals' attitudes, beliefs, opinions, behaviors, expectations and characteristics with the help of surveys are called screening studies (14).

### Study Population

The universe of the study consists of national athletes who participated in the hockey national team athletic development camp in 2019 in Osmaniye. While the sample group is composed of a total of 95 candidate national athletes, 54 women and 41 men, with an age average of  $18.11 \pm 3.58$  who voluntarily accept to participate in the study.

### Data Collection Tool

In data collection, demographic form was used in the first section containing personal information and the 'Multidimensional Sportsmanship Orientation Scale' (MSOS) developed by Vallerand et al. (1997), and adapted into Turkish by Sezen-Balçıkıranlı (15) was used. The scale consists of 4 sub-dimensions and 20 items: "compliance with social norms (5 statements)," respect for rules and

management (5 statements)", "commitment to responsibilities in sports (5 statements)", and "respect for rivals (5 statements)". Cronbach's Alpha ( $\alpha$ ) values of the scale calculated in this study are: (Compliance with Social Norms: ,82), (Respect for Rules and Management ,77), (Commitment to Responsibilities in Sports: ,86), (Respect for the rival, 71), (sportsmanship tendency scale: 88).

**Analysis of Data**

In order to evaluate the internal consistency of the scales used in the study, reliability analysis was performed using Cronbach's Alpha ( $\alpha$ ) method. First

of all, missing values are examined and then outliers are examined. Data were collected from 100 candidate national athletes in total. After the problematic forms were excluded, statistical works were carried out on the final 95 forms in the data set. Two elements of normality are kurtosis and skewness (16). In this study, it was decided to apply parametric tests by looking at kurtosis and skewness values. Besides descriptive statistics, Independent-Samples T test was used for paired comparisons and One-Way Anova test for multiple comparisons. Significance level was determined as 0.05.

**FINDINS**

**Table 1.** Sportsmanship orientation t test by the gender variable of athletes

Gender	n	%	Compliance with social norms		Respect for rules and management		Commitment to responsibilities in sports		Respect for the opponent	
			$\bar{x}$	s.	$\bar{x}$	s.	$\bar{x}$	s.	$\bar{x}$	s.
Female	54	56.8	4.50	,557	4.21	,672	4.70	,551	4.04	,795
Male	41	43.2	4.06	,859	3.62	,732	4.14	,776	3.87	,799
p			,004*		,000*		,000*		,306	

As can be seen in Table 1, depending on the gender variable of the candidate national athletes, in all sub-dimensions except for the "respect for the rival" sub-dimension of the

sportsmanship scale, the average values of female athletes were found to be higher than that of male athletes and this change was found to be statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Table 2.** Sportsmanship orientation Anova test by the sports experience variable of athletes

Sp. Experiiece	n	%	Compliance with social norms		Respect for rules and management		Commitment to responsibilities in sports		Respect for the opponent	
			$\bar{x}$	s.	$\bar{x}$	s.	$\bar{x}$	s.	$\bar{x}$	s.
1 -3 Years	12	12.6	4.70	,395	4.15	,512	4.56	,790	3.73	,891
4 -6 Years	44	46.3	4.26	,808	4.09	,721	4.43	,729	3.99	,779
7 and more	39	41.1	4.25	,696	3.75	,818	4.46	,683	4.03	,795
p			,147		,083		,857		,524	

As can be seen in Table 2, there are no significant changes in the sportsmanship orientation of the candidate national athletes

according to the athletic experience variable ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Table 3.** Sportsmanship orientation test by the age groups of athletes

Age group	n	%	Compliance with social norms		Respect for rules and management		Com.to responsibilities in sports		Respect for the opponent	
			$\bar{x}$	s.	$\bar{x}$	s.	$\bar{x}$	s.	$\bar{x}$	s.
15-18	55	57.9	4.35	,770	4.15	,711	4.49	,714	3.90	,834
19-21	40	42.1	4.26	,681	3.70	,742	4.42	,715	4.07	,743
p			,544		,004*		,617		,323	

As seen in Table 3, it was determined that the average values of 15-18 age group athletes in the "respect for rules and management" sub-dimension in the sportsmanship tendency of candidate national athletes according to age

groups were significantly higher than the average values of athletes in the 19-21 age group ( $p < 0.05$ ). There are no significant changes in the other three sub-dimensions ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Table 4.** Sportsmanship orientation test by the education level variable of athletes

Education level	n	%	Compliance with social norms		Respect for rules and management		Com. to responsibilities in sports		Respect for the opponent	
			$\bar{x}$	s.	$\bar{x}$	s.	$\bar{x}$	s.	$\bar{x}$	s.
High school	62	65.3	4.36	,763	4.12	,716	4.48	,735	3.97	,822
University	33	34.7	4.22	,670	3.66	,744	4.42	,675	3.98	,761
p			,388		,004*		,700		,993	

As can be seen in Table 4, it was determined that the average values of high school athletes in the sub-dimension of "respect for rules and management" in sportsmanship tendency in the educational level variable of

candidate national athletes were significantly higher than the average values of the athletes in the university group ( $p < 0.05$ ). There are no significant changes in the other three sub-dimensions ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Table 5.** Descriptive statistical results of the research scale

Sportsmanship Scale: 95	min.	max.	$\bar{x}$	s.
Compliance with social norms	1.80	5.00	4.31	,732
Respect for rules and management	2.20	5.00	3.96	,754
Commitment to responsibilities in sports	2.20	5.00	4.46	,712
Respect for the opponent	2.00	5.00	3.97	,797
Overall average	2.05	5.00	4.17	,748

For this study, the general average value of the "sportsmanship scale" was calculated as  $(4.17 \pm, 748)$ . While the highest average value belongs to the "commitment to responsibilities in sports" sub-dimension  $(4.46 \pm, 712)$ ; the lowest mean value  $(3.96 \pm, 754)$  belongs to the "respect for rules and management" sub-dimension. The mean value of the "compliance with social norms" sub-dimension was found to be  $(4.31 \pm, 732)$ , and the average value of the "respect for rival" sub-dimension  $(3.97 \pm, 797)$ . Considering the mean values obtained from the research scale form, it can be assumed that the sportsmanship orientation of the candidate national athletes is at a remarkably good level.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

A total of 95 athletes, with an average age of  $18.11 \pm 3.58$ , 54 females and 41 males, participated in this study, which was carried out to examine the sportsmanship tendency of male and female candidate national athletes participating in the hockey national team athletic development camp.

In the study, depending on the gender variable of the candidate national athletes, in all sub-dimensions except for the "respect for the rival" sub-dimension of the sportsmanship scale, the average values of female athletes were found to be higher than that of male athletes and this change was found

to be statistically significant. It has been observed that the average values of respect for rules and management of women are higher than men (17). It has been determined that there are significant differences between male and female genders in the sub-dimensions of compliance with social norms, respect for rules and management, and respect for rivals, and women's sportsmanship averages are higher than men's averages (18). Compared to men, female athletes have found significantly higher values for compliance with social norms (9). While women's scores for compliance with social norms, respect for rules and management, and commitment to responsibilities in sports did not differ significantly, their scores were higher than men (19). There were statistical differences in favor of women in the total scores of sportsmanship behavior in physical education lesson and in the sub-dimension of avoiding inappropriate behavior according to the gender of hockey players (20). It has been understood that the sportsmanship of women is significantly better than men (21). Tsai and Fung (22) found that women's sportsmanship tendency is higher than men. According to the results of their research on college basketball players, Kavussanu and Roberts (23) commented that male athletes exhibit lower levels of immoral and unsportsmanlike behaviors compared to female athletes.

Another finding of the study is, there are no significant changes in the sportsmanship orientation of the candidate national athletes according to the athletic experience variable. There are different findings in the related literature. According to the athletic experience variable of amateur football players, a significant difference was found between the groups in the sub-dimension of respect for rules and management in sportsmanship tendency (24). According to the athletic experience variable of female basketball players, statistically significant differences were found in the sub-dimensions of respect for rules and management and respect for the opponent in their sportsmanship tendency (13). Yıldız (11) suggests that the hypothesis that sportive experience has an indirect effect on reducing immoral behavior in sports is confirmed. It was determined that the average scores of the amateur football players who played football for 7 years and above were significantly higher than the average scores of the football players in the other playing year categories (25). Kılıç (29) reports that the average values of national athletes in terms of

compliance with social norms and commitment to responsibilities in sports are significantly higher than non-national athletes.

It was determined that the average values of 15-18 age group athletes in the "respect for rules and management" sub-dimension in the sportsmanship tendency of candidate national athletes according to age groups were significantly higher than the average values of athletes in the 19-21 age group. In all sub-dimensions except respect for the rival, the average values of younger athletes were found to be higher. In studies that coincide with our findings, Tsai and Fung (22) suggested that older athletes have lower sportsmanship tendencies than younger ones. Scores for breaking the rules were found to be higher in the adult category than the athletes in the junior category (28).

It was determined that the average values of high school athletes in the sub-dimension of "respect for rules and management" in sportsmanship tendency in the educational level variable of candidate national athletes were significantly higher than the average values of the athletes in the university group. It has been determined that there are significant differences in favor of athlete students at secondary education level in the sub-scale of respect for rules and management (8). According to the educational levels of female basketball players, statistically significant differences were found in the sub-dimensions of respect for rules and management, commitment to responsibilities in sports, and respect for rivals in sportsmanship tendency; female basketball players with a medium level of education make more positive contributions to the values of sportsmanship tendency than female basketball players with a higher education level. Has been identified (13). It was determined that the education level of hockey players did not affect the total scores of sportsmanship behavior in physical education lesson, displaying appropriate behaviors and avoiding inappropriate behaviors sub-dimensions (20). There are no significant differences between the groups according to the educational status variable of the sub-dimension and total scores of the sportsmanship tendency scale (25). According to the education variable, although the sportsmanship tendency of the high school and associate degree-bachelor graduate participants did not differ in other sub-dimensions and showed a significant difference in respect to the rival sub-dimension, the average values of high school graduates were higher

in all sub-dimensions (26). It was found that the factor of displaying positive behavior and total sportsmanship scores of male high school students were statistically significantly higher than male secondary school students, and that the scores of male high school students' feeling of responsibility and responsible behavior factors were significantly higher than male secondary school students (27). It is thought that education taken at school cannot be an explanatory concept alone in explaining sportsmanship tendencies. The family upbringing style of the athletes, their environment, etc. may also be effective.

The results indicated that there was statistical significance in the sportsmanship orientation of candidate national hockey athletes as to gender, education level, and age range, that sportsmanship values of female athletes were more prominent, and that athletes with a lower level of education, and

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