



## Investigation of Sportsmanship Behaviors of Athletes Participating in Intercollegiate Basketball Competitions

Yıldırım Gökhan GENCER\* Oğuzhan EROĞLU\*\* Yunus YILDIRIM\*\*\*

### Abstract

This study focused on investigating sportsmanship behaviors of athletes participating in intercollegiate basketball competitions. Study group was composed of 148 athletes participating in Intercollegiate Basketball Competitions organized in Mersin and Çorum Provinces during 2017-2018. In the study, “Sportsmanship Scale” was used as data collection tool. In the study, it was found that sportsmanship levels of athletes participating in basketball competitions was at moderate level and sportsmanship behaviors did not change statistically in terms of sex, department and position variables  $p>0.05$ . Besides, it may be argued that students attending School of Physical Education and Sports had higher level of sportsmanship as compared to students attending other departments.

**Keywords:** Basketball, Sportsmanship, Fair Play.

## Üniversitelerarası Basketbol Müsabakalarına Katılan Sporcuların Sportmenlik Davranışlarının İncelenmesi

### Öz

Bu araştırmanın amacı; üniversitelerarası basketbol müsabakalarına katılan sporcuların sportmenlik davranışlarının incelenmesidir. Araştırmanın çalışma gurubunu; 2017-2018 yılında Mersin ve Çorum İllerinde düzenlenen üniversitelerarası basketbol müsabakalarına katılan 148 sporcu oluşturmuştur. Araştırmada veri toplama aracı olarak; “Sportmenlik Ölçeği” kullanılmıştır. Araştırmada; basketbol müsabakalarına katılan sporcuların, sportmenlik düzeylerinin orta üzeri seviyesinde olduğu ve sportmenlik davranışlarının, cinsiyet, bölüm ve pozisyon değişkenlerine göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir farklılık göstermediği tespit edilmiştir  $p>0.05$ . Ayrıca Beden Eğitimi ve Spor Yüksekokulunda öğrenim gören öğrencilerin, diğer bölümlerde öğrenim gören öğrencilere göre daha yüksek seviyede sportmenlik düzeyine sahip olduğu söylenebilir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Basketbol, Sportmenlik, Fair Play.

\* Mersin Üniversitesi, Spor Bilimleri Fakültesi, Mersin-Türkiye, e-posta: [ygokhangencer@gmail.com](mailto:ygokhangencer@gmail.com) Orcid id: 0000-0001-5511-2374

\*\* Mersin Üniversitesi, Spor Bilimleri Fakültesi, Mersin-Türkiye, e-posta: [oguz-er1071@hotmail.com](mailto:oguz-er1071@hotmail.com) Orcid id: 0000-0003-4046-6289

\*\*\* Mersin Üniversitesi, Spor Bilimleri Fakültesi, Mersin-Türkiye, e-posta: [ynsyldrm69@mersin.edu.tr](mailto:ynsyldrm69@mersin.edu.tr) Orcid id: 0000-0002-5851-7788

Received: 31.10.2018

Accepted: 06.07.2019

## INTRODUCTION

The term sport means such terms as peace, tolerance, equality, discipline, virtue, pleasure, justice, right, happiness, love and respect and other terms that are decent for human dignity as well as other human characteristics such as sadness, sorrow, stress and continues to be a term that influences whole existence of humans (Pehlivan, 2004). Sport, at the same time, refers basically to rivalry although it is a kind of combat that is done by using mind and body against an opponent, athlete himself, nature, distance and time in line with equally applied rules (Gürpınar and Güven, 2011).

Sportsmanship is defined as virtuous behaviors that explain how to behave in terms of spirit of sport (Stornes, Bru, 2002) and includes such characteristics as sincerity, courage, respect for others' opinions and truth, politeness, kindness, nobility, honorableness, partnership and generosity (Çalayır et al., 2017). Besides, it is known that participation in sport improves solidarity and cooperation feelings, creates an awareness to obey the rules and to share and increases tolerance, helpfulness (Özsarı, 2018). However, it is witnessed that behaviors that lack ethics have been seriously increasing in sport competitions and measures taken to prevent these negative behaviors are not enough (Tekeli, 2017). In this sense; it is thought that sportsmanship is a critically important term (Sensions, 2004). What athletes aim at is to win and to defeat but rewards and championships won by athletes' success should be a means rather than an end (Gümüş et al. 2016). To develop this idea is possible only with the feeling of sportsmanship existing in sport. To make this development occur positively is possible only by reviewing sportsmanship levels of athletes

participating in sport competitions, by making relevant recommendations and by taking necessary measures.

When literature is looked at, it is noted that the number of studies on sportsmanship has been in the increase lately (Sezen Balçıkanlı and Yıldırım, 2011; Gürpınar and Kurşun, 2013; Gümüş et al., 2016; Sezen Balçıkanlı, Gülşen and Yıldırım, 2017; Tel, Yaman and Altun, 2017; Güllü and Şahin, 2018; Özsarı, 2018; Özsarı, Demirel, Altın, Yalçın and Demir, 2018; Gümüş, 2019). However, it was found that there was no study on athletes participating in intercollegiate competitions. In this sense, we are of the opinion that the current study will make its contributions to the literature. Besides, most of the athletes participating in intercollegiate competitions were made up by those students attending School of Physical Education and Sports. Attitudes and behaviors demonstrated by these athletes in sport competitions naturally play a critical role in disseminating sport and exploring its uniting power.

This study aimed at investigating sportsmanship behaviors of athletes participating in intercollegiate basketball competitions.

## METHOD

### *Study Group*

Study group was composed of 148 athletes who were recruited with purposive sampling and participated in Intercollegiate Basketball Competitions organized in Mersin and Çorum Provinces during 2017-2018. 83.1% of the participants were male while 16.9% of them were female.

### *Data Collection Tools*

In the study, Information Request Form that included questions addressing at

personal information and “Sportsmanship Scale” were used as data collection tool.

#### Information Request Form

The form included questions about participants’ sex, age, department, position and parents’ educational levels.

#### Sportsmanship Scale

“Sportsmanship Scale” developed by Gümüş et al., (2017) is consisted of 27 items and is a 5 point Likert type scale. The scale includes five subdimensions: “Rules”, “Injurious Acts”, “Opponent”, “Game Perspective” and “Sportive Behavior”. In the original scale, Cronbach

Alpha coefficient was found to be 0.94 while in this study it was 0.95.

#### Data Analyses

Distribution of the data was examined in order to determine which analysis methods should be used and since the data did not follow a normal distribution, non-parametric tests were used. Therefore; descriptive statistical analyses, Kruskal-Wallis H Test and Mann Whitney-U Test were employed in order to explore differences in independent variables. Cronbach Alpha coefficient was calculated in order to test reliability of the scale and the findings were presented in tables.

## RESULTS

**Table 1.** Descriptive Statistics concerning Sportsmanship Scale Scores

Sportsmanship	Rate-Range	$\bar{x}$	sd
Rules	1-5	4.09	0.83
Injurious Acts	1-5	3.88	0.87
Opponent	1-5	4.13	0.86
Game Perspective	1-5	4.01	0.91
Sportive Behavior	1-5	4.15	0.89
General Total	1-5	4.06	0.68

1 Strongly Disagree (1.00-1.79). I Disagree (1.80-2.59). Partly Agree (2.60-3.39). Agree (3.40-4.19). Strongly Agree (4.20-5.00)

When Table 1 was examined, it was seen that Sportive Behavior of the Sportsmanship Scale produced the highest score ( $\bar{x}$ =4.15) while the lowest score was

found in Injurious Acts ( $\bar{x}$ =3.88). Besides, it may be argued that participants’ sportsmanship levels were above the moderate level.

**Table 2.** Mann Whitney-U Test Results concerning Sportsmanship Scale Scores in terms of Sex Variable

Sportsmanship	Sex	n	$\bar{x}$ sorts	$\sum$ sorts	U	z	p
Rules	Female	25	75.42	1885.50	1514.50	-0.12	0.91
	Male	123	74.31	9140.50			
Injurious Acts	Female	25	80.92	2023.00	1377.00	-0.83	0.41
	Male	123	73.20	9003.00			
Opponent	Female	25	70.48	1762.00	1437.00	-0.52	0.60
	Male	123	75.32	9264.00			
Game Perspective	Female	25	60.70	1517.50	1192.50	-1.79	0.07
	Male	123	77.30	9508.50			
Sportive Behavior	Female	25	72.28	1807.00	1482.00	-0.29	0.78
	Male	123	74.95	9219.00			
General Total	Female	25	74.48	1862.00	1537.00	-0.00	0.10
	Male	123	74.50	9164.00			

When Table 2 was examined, it was identified that Sportsmanship Scale scores

did not change significantly in terms of sex variable.

**Table 3.** Kruskal Wallis-H Test Results concerning Sportsmanship Scale Scores in terms of Position Variable

Sportsmanship	Position	n	$\bar{x}$ sorts	$X^2$	sd	p
Rules	Guard	58	68.28	3.10	2	0.21
	Forward	73	80.76			
	Pivot	17	68.82			
Injurious Acts	Guard	58	67.41	4.26	2	0.12
	Forward	73	81.84			
	Pivot	17	67.18			
Opponent	Guard	58	69.97	2.91	2	0.23
	Forward	73	80.31			
	Pivot	17	65.03			
Game Perspective	Guard	58	67.59	2.93	2	0.23
	Forward	73	77.60			
	Pivot	17	84.79			
Sportive Behavior	Guard	58	68.89	2.15	2	0.34
	Forward	73	79.67			
	Pivot	17	71.44			
General Total	Guard	58	67.16	3.39	2	0.18
	Forward	73	80.90			
	Pivot	17	72.06			
	Total	148				

p>0.05

When Table 3 was examined, it was seen that Sportsmanship Scale scores did not differ statistically in terms of position variable.

**Table 4.** Mann Whitney-U Test Results concerning Sportsmanship Scale Scores in terms of Department Variable

Sportsmanship	Department	n	$\bar{x}$ sorts	$\sum$ sorts	U	z	p
Rules	SPES	111	75.62	8394.00	1929.00	-0.55	0.58
	Other Departments	37	71.14	2632.00			
Injurious Acts	SPES	111	76.41	8481.00	1842.00	-0.94	0.35
	Other Departments	37	68.78	2545.00			
Opponent	SPES	111	74.78	8300.50	2022.50	-0.14	0.89
	Other Departments	37	73.66	2725.50			
Game Perspective	SPES	111	74.82	8305.00	2018.00	-0.16	0.07
	Other Departments	37	73.54	2721.00			
Sportive Behavior	SPES	111	75.78	8411.50	1911.50	-0.63	0.53
	Other Departments	37	70.66	2614.50			
General Total	SPES	111	75.86	8420.50	1902.50	-0.67	0.50
	Other Departments	37	70.42	2605.50			
	Total	148					

p>0.05

When Table 4 was examined, it was noted that Sportsmanship Scale scores did not

differ statistically in terms of department variable

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In the study; it was found that Sportive Behavior subdimension of the Sportsmanship Scale showed the highest score ( $\bar{x}=4.15$ ) while the lowest score was found in Injurious Acts subdimension ( $\bar{x}=3.88$ ). In addition, it may be argued that participants' sportsmanship levels were above the moderate level (Table 1). In a study done by Güllü and Şahin (2018) with national wrestlers and another study done by Sezen Balçıkanlı, Gülşen and Yıldırım (2017) done with female footballers; participants' sportsmanship levels were found to be at a higher level. Considering the fact that a high emphasis has lately been put on sportsmanship term, it may be suggested that findings obtained were positive; which –for us- may be due to the fact that sportsmanship term has become popular and been widely acclaimed.

In the study; it was noted that Sportsmanship Scale scores did not change significantly in terms of sex variable (Table 2). In literature, this study concurred with the study of Gürpınar and Kurşun (2013) that was done with basketballers and footballers while it did not concur with the study of Güllü and Şahin (2018) that was done with national wrestlers. The study of Coulomb-Cabagno and Rasclé (2006) on handballers and footballers reported that male athletes were more aggressive than female athletes. Tsai and Fung (2005) stated that females accepted sportsmanship more than males. However, the study of Güllü and Şahin (2018) that was done with national wrestlers pointed out that male athletes had higher sportsmanship scores as compared to female athletes. This may have resulted from the possibility that though success in sportive competitions matters, these athletes participated in a non-profit sportive activity like Intercollegiate Sportive Competitions and

wanted to represent their universities in the best possible way and their sportive branches were different.

In the study; it was found that Sportsmanship Scale scores did not differ statistically in terms of position variable (Table 3); which may be suggested that a wrong action of a basketballer in the team may affect the whole team and therefore all members of the team acted together in line with the team objectives. Besides, that players who perform non-sportsmanship behaviors/fouls are disqualified in basketball may be another reason of this finding.

In the study; it was noted that Sportsmanship Scale scores did not differ statistically in terms of department variable but students who attended School of Physical Education and Sports had higher sportsmanship scores than students of other departments in general scale and all subdimensions (Table 4). This may be due to the fact that students of School of Physical Education and Sports join sportive activities and are aware of the values of sport more than other students.

As a result; athletes participating in Intercollegiate Basketball Competitions had sportsmanship above the moderate level and their scores did not differ statistically in terms of sex, position and department variables. Besides, it may be said that students who attend School of Physical Education and Sports had higher level of sportsmanship than the students of other departments. Today, when sport violence is at its peak; importance of friendship, fraternity, respect, tolerance, gentlemanship –in short sportsmanship- has been increasing. In this respect; it is very crucial for everyone that a generation with ethics and discipline in sports be raised (Altın and Özseri, 2017).

It is recommended to conduct studies that will investigate athletes of different

branches and cultures and thus will make contributions to literature.

## REFERENCES

- Altın, M. ve Özşarı, A. (2017). Sporcu Eğitim Merkezlerinde Yatılı Olarak Eğitim Gören Sporcuların Ahlaki Karar Alma Tutumları. *Uluslararası Kültürel ve Sosyal Araştırmalar Dergisi*, 3(1),133-145.
- Coulomb- Cabagno, G. and Rascle, O. (2006). Team Sports Players' Observed Aggression as a Function of Gender, Competitive Level and Sport Type. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 36(8), 1980-2000.
- Çalayır, Ö., Yıldız, N., Yaldız, Ö. ve Çoknaz, H. (2017). Hokey Müsabakalarına Katılan Sporcuların Beden Eğitimi Dersi Sportmenlik Davranışlarının İncelenmesi. *İstanbul Üniversitesi Spor Bilimleri Dergisi*, 7(2), 27-37.
- Güllü, S. ve Şahin, S. (2018). Milli Güreşçilerin Sportmenlik Yönelim Düzeyleri Üzerine Bir Araştırma. *Electronic Turkish Studies*, 13(18), 705-718.
- Gümüş, H. (2019). X Kuşağında Sportmenlik Yönelimi. *OPUS Uluslararası Toplum Araştırmaları Dergisi*, 10(17), 739-755.
- Gümüş, H., Saraçlı, S., Karakullukçu, Ö. F., Doğanay, G. ve Kurtipek, S. (2016). Ortaöğretim Öğrencilerinde Fair Play Kavramı. *International Journal of Science Culture and Sport*, 4(2), 430-438.
- Gümüş, H., Saraçlı, S., Yağmur, R., Işık, Ö. ve Ersöz, Y. (2017). The Investigation of Sportsmanship Behavior of University Students, Malaga/Spain, 18-24 September 2017.
- Gürpınar, B. ve Güven Ö. (2011). Futbol Hakemlerinin Karşılaştıkları Sportmenlik Dışı Davranışların İncelenmesi. *Sportmetre Beden Eğitimi ve Spor Bilimleri Dergisi*, 9(1), 7-14.
- Özşarı, A., Demirel, H., Altın, M., Yalçın, Y. G. ve Demir, H. (2018.) Kadın Basketbolcuların Sportmenlik Yönelimleri. *Türk Spor Bilimleri Dergisi*, 1(2), 66-71.
- Gürpınar, B. ve Kurşun, S. (2013). Basketbolcuların ve Futbolcuların Sportmenlik Yönelimleri. *Mediterranean Journal of Humanities*, 3(1), 171-176.
- Özşarı, A. (2018). İtme Engelli Voleybolcuların Sportmenlik Yönelimleri. *Beden Eğitimi ve Spor Bilimleri Dergisi*, 20(3), 112-121.
- Pehlivan, Z. (2004). Fair-Play Kavramının Geliştirilmesinde Okul Sporunun Yeri ve Önemi. *Sportmetre Beden Eğitimi ve Spor Bilimleri Dergisi*, 2(2) 49-53.
- Sezen-Balçıkınlı, G. ve Yıldırım, I. (2011). Profesyonel Futbolcuların Sportmenlik Yönelimleri ve Empatik Eğilim Düzeyleri. *SPORMETRE Beden Eğitimi ve Spor Bilimleri Dergisi*, 9(2), 49-56.
- Sezen-Balçıkınlı, G., Gülşen, K. ve Yıldırım, İ. (2017). Kadın Futbolcularda Sportmenlik Yönelimi. *Gazi Beden Eğitimi ve Spor Bilimleri Dergisi*, 22(1-4), 1-9.
- Stornes, T. and Bru, E. (2002). Sportsmanship and Perceptions of Leadership: An Investigation of

- Adolescent Handball Players' Perception of Sportsmanship and Associations with Perceived Leadership. *European Journal of Sport Science*, 2(6), 1-15.
- Tekeli, H. (2017). *Ortaöğretim Öğrencilerinin Beden Eğitimi Dersinde Sportmenlik Davranışlar Sergileme Düzeylerinin Bazı Demografik Değişkenlere Göre İncelenmesi*. (Yüksek Lisans Tezi). Mehmet Akif Ersoy Üniversitesi, Eğitim Bilimleri Enstitüsü, Burdur.
- Tel, M., Yaman, Ç. ve Altun, M. (2017). Spor Bilimleri Fakültesi Öğrencilerinin Sportmenlik Davranışları Hakkındaki Görüşleri. *International Journal of Cultural and Social Studies*, 3, 16-26.
- Tsai, E. and Fung, L. (2005). Sportsmanship in Youth Basketball and Volleyball Players. *AthleticInsight: The Online Journal of Sport Psychology*, 7(2), 37-46.