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Developing school football team selection tests in light of contemporary trends

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Abstract

Tests of all kinds and directions have a great, if not the greatest, impact in determining the level on the one hand and finding strengths and weaknesses on the other hand. Thus, tests are the basic building block of any project, and therefore they change with changing circumstances and the advancement of science and technology.

School sports tests are one of the most important basic sports tests, as they are the first indicator that the individual (student) possesses sports talent.

Since school sports need more players in numbers and better quality to build competitive and more reliable sports teams to support clubs and national teams. It has become necessary to diversify and modernize these tests in accordance with the scientific progress occurring in various sports. From here, the researcher sought to find new school sports tests that are appropriate to the ages of each age group of students and to sports games and events for which annual school tournaments and activities are held. The descriptive approach followed in the study demonstrated the possibility of the modern tests tested in the study to reveal and give a clear picture of the individual differences between students and identify outstanding students in football. The study concluded that there is a large percentage of students who excel to varying degrees in football and who are predicted to have a distinguished sporting future because they possess the necessary qualifications to reach the highest levels.

Keywords: Development, selection tests, school football team and contemporary trends

Introduction

Tests have always been of great importance because of their great impact in revealing the nature of the thing to be measured on the one hand, and in revealing strengths and weaknesses on the other hand. With regard to the subject of the study, school sports tests have the greatest impact in revealing students' sporting potential and abilities at young ages, which enhances the importance of school sports with its second goal, which is to reveal sports talent, in addition to the first goal, which is entertainment, pleasure, changing the mood, and removing or alleviating the pressure of study, life or both.

Thus, the sports tests that the physical education teacher must adopt in order to detect distinguished students in the sports that fall within the plan of the Ministry of Education and its affiliated directorates through holding various sports gatherings and festivals, especially football, thus discovering talented students and directing them in the right direction that suits those capabilities and talents that are unique. It distinguishes a student or group of students from their peers. In light of modern scientific progress in various areas of life, including sports, it has become necessary for the physical education teacher to keep pace with that progress and always search for new tests that are appropriate for that development according to the available capabilities in order to more accurately access the student's talent and faster, thus making use of time and effort. Enabling students to avoid their weaknesses and enhance their strengths, thus improving their levels.

Research problem

Through the researcher's observation of the varying levels of high school students in football, which appear in the gatherings and competitions held by the sports activity departments affiliated with the schools in the Ministry of Education. It turned out that there is a general

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weakness in these teams, which explains the lack of careful selection of team members from among the school's student population. This is due to the lack of an accurate testing mechanism through which the best can be selected. For the purpose of finding an objective evaluation method for evaluating the performance of football players and knowing their levels, the researcher studied this topic.

Research Aims

1. Finding reliable scientific tests that can be applied to determine the level of students in performing some football skills.
2. Identifying the level of performance of secondary school students at their various educational levels in the football skills under study.

Hypothesis

There are standard scores representative of the levels of male students for all levels of secondary school in the football skills under study.

Chapter two

Basic skills in football

It is known that each sport has its own basic skills, with which it can be practiced in the best way and achieve the goal of the game according to what the law of that game allows. In football, the more a player masters the various basic skills, the more the player possesses the skill and talent and thus performs at a high level. With regard to school football, for which periodic races and competitions are held for students within the activities of the directorates affiliated with the Ministry of Education.

In football, as in other sports, skill performance must be characterized by several features ^(1:27):

- Ease and flow in performance.
- Accuracy and control of performance.
- Compatibility in movement performance.
- Economy in movement performance.

Of the above, basic skills in football are defined as "the movements that a football player performs with high accuracy and fluidity, whether with or without the ball" ^(2:15), in accordance with what is permitted by the Law of the Game. On this basis, football skills are divided into skills with and without the ball. In the field of this study, the researcher intended to address some basic skills with the ball as they are the most appropriate to the ages and levels of the study sample, which is represented by boys' secondary school students. Below are some of the basic skills selected in the study:

Dribbling

It is the skill of moving on the field with the ball, through which the player is able to pass players and spaces and penetrate the field. It is considered the basic skill that enables the player to complete the playing performance by completing the rolling skill and linking it to other skills. So, it defines as "moving the ball forward by pushing the ball lightly with the

player's foot, and rolling is used by the player as a means of reaching a specific goal that he seeks". ^(3:154)

Passing

It is the skill of transferring the ball between players of one team, through which the players of the team are able to cross and pass the players of the opposing team. It is one of the most important football skills and the most important criteria for selecting a good player, as it is the skill most used throughout the match.

Passing is classified into several categories, the most prominent of which are depending on "its purpose, distance, direction, ball path, method of execution, and time". ^(4:262)

Scoring

It is the main goal of the game and the final skill of the team or attacking player, which is the process of putting the ball into the opposing team's goal according to the methods permitted by the law.

Since scoring with the foot, as Salam Jabbar pointed out - 2000, "is considered the strongest type of scoring because the ball travels the longest possible distance in addition to arriving in the shortest possible time," whether the ball is stationary or moving. Thus, scoring skill is one of the most important basic football skills on which the team's victory depends or not.

Testing and measurement in football

Tests and measurements are important means in the game of football, through which one can determine the level of players and know their abilities, whether physical, skillful, functional, etc. This importance comes through enhancing strengths and reducing or avoiding weaknesses. Thus, these tests, which result in standards and levels, give us an indicator and a clear picture of the players' capabilities, and here in the field of our study, the students are part of the school football team.

Thus, testing and measurement in football helps "in identifying the capabilities and capabilities of the player individually and the team collectively. Coaches must conduct tests and measurements on an ongoing basis to identify these levels and how to develop them using appropriate training methods ^(5:19)".

Research Methodology

The researcher relied on the descriptive method using the survey method in this study to reach reliable scientific results, "because the study using the descriptive method is the most appropriate for this type of studies, which "The researcher arrived at the details and details of the scientific outcomes of the study by determining the current state of the subject of the study ^(6:33)".

The research sample

All male students non-failing in the academic stages were selected from Ibn Al-Bitar Mixed Secondary School affiliated with the Baghdad - Al-Karkh II Education Directorate for the current academic year 2023/2024, and their details are shown in the table below.

Table 1: All male students non-failing in the academic stages were selected from Ibn Al-Bitar Mixed Secondary School affiliated with the Baghdad - Al-Karkh II Education Directorate for the current academic year 2023/2024

#No.	Grade	All students in grade	Students fallen in each grade	Selected students
1	First intermediate grade	25	10	15
2	Second intermediate grade	36	06	30
3	Third intermediate grade	80	22	58
4	Fourth scientific grade	46	24	22
5	Fifth scientific grade	26	15	11
6	Sixth scientific grade	45	11	34
Total		258	88	170

Equipment, tools and means used in the research

1. Forms.
2. Balls.
3. Cones.
4. Measure tape.
5. Field.
6. Goals.
7. Statistical means.
8. Stopwatch.
9. Tapes.

Tests

1. Dribbling (7-47)

Test name: Rolling between the cones for a distance of 10 m.
The purpose of the test: To evaluate the technical performance of the dribbling skill.
Tools used: Legal football - whistle - electronic stopwatch – 5 cones.
Description of performance: The tested student makes three consecutive attempts to perform the dribbling skill. The student stands with a ball behind the starting line, and when the start signal is given, the player runs with the ball between the cones, as in Figure No. (1) shown below.
Scoring: The tested student’s best attempt from the three attempts is counted from (10) degrees.

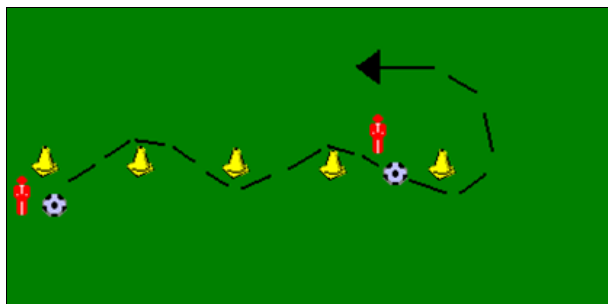


Fig 1: The tested student makes three consecutive attempts to perform the dribbling skill. The student stands with a ball behind the starting line, and when the start signal is given, the player runs with the ball between the cones

2. Passing (8-81)

Test name: Pushing the ball and passing.
Purpose of the test: Measuring passing flow.
Tools used: Footballs, measuring tape, and cones.
Performance: The student stands in front of the penalty arc, 4-5 meters away from the penalty area line, pushes the ball into the penalty arc, runs after the ball, and performs the passing skill when he reaches the ball toward cones with varying distances between each color.
Registration: The passing score is calculated by recording the score achieved by the student from the single correct attempt to the three-colored cones. The color with the large distance between the two cones has a score of 3, the color

with the medium distance has a score of 6, and the color with the narrow distance has a score of 10.

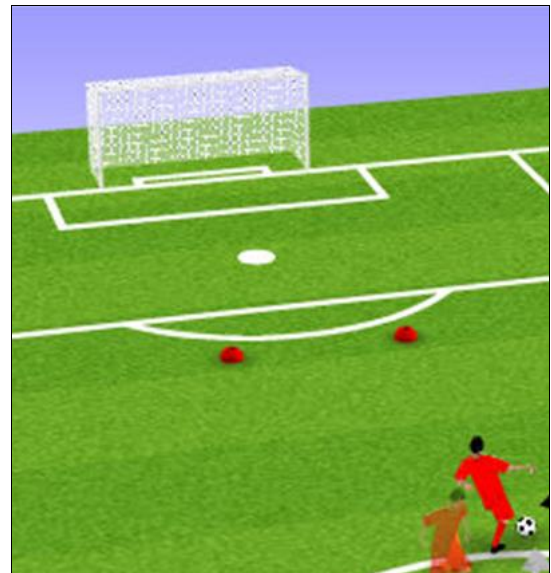


Fig 2: The student stands in front of the penalty arc, 4-5 meters away from the penalty area line, pushes the ball into the penalty arc, runs after the ball, and performs the passing skill when he reaches the ball toward cones with varying distances between each color.

3. Scoring (9-80)

Test name: Pushing the ball and scoring.
Purpose of the test: Measuring scoring flow.
Tools used: Footballs, measuring tape, goal, tapes and cones.
Performance: The student stands 5-6 meters away from the penalty area line, pushes the ball into the penalty arc, runs after the ball, and performs the scoring skill when he reaches the ball.
Registration: The scoring score is calculated by calculating the sum of the scores collected by the student from three attempts to the four corners of the goal, where the upper corners of each are five degrees and the lower ones are 2.5 degrees.



Fig 3: The student stands 5-6 meters away from the penalty area line, pushes the ball into the penalty arc, runs after the ball, and performs the scoring skill when he reaches the ball

Statistical means

The statistical data was processed using the ready-made software system (SPSS).

Result

Table 2: The table shows the percentage of students who are highly distinguished in football

	Test	Good level	Intermediate level	Weak level
Dribbling	Number of Players	34	62	74
	percentage	20%	36.47%	43.52
Passing	Number of Players	51	89	30
	Percentage %	30%	52.35%	17.64%
Scoring	Number of Players	28	44	98
	percentage	16.47%	25.88%	57.64

Discussion

In light of modern scientific sports tests, the researcher reached important results represented by a set of digital data that reflects the importance and role of tests approved in football, represented by the table mentioned above, in revealing the talents and capabilities of students in football. The study clearly showed the standard levels after extracting the standard scores (10-261) from the raw scores, by adopting the Gauss curve (the natural curve) on the basis of the percentages of cases falling between the standard scores of the natural curve.

Three levels were found by applying the "Category length law", which equals the difference between the highest and lowest standard score values, and then dividing the result by three (the number of levels to be known), thus producing the fixed number that determines the level. Thus, the limit for the first level is produced via Subtracting the fixed number from the highest value, then subtracting the fixed number from the number that represents the limit for the first level to produce the limit for the second level, and the third level is extracted by subtracting the fixed number from the number that represents the limit for the second level" (11-79). Thus, it becomes clear to the specialists the role of the tests approved in the study in revealing the talents and abilities that students possess according to the football skills studied, which contribute to revealing renewed talents, which are an essential source for strengthening national sports by directing students towards the sport of football that suits their abilities and talents, as well as the position. What is appropriate for each of them, which distinguishes them from their peers, and with which they may reach higher levels and become professional in the future.

The table shows the percentage of students who are highly distinguished in football in relation to the total number of students surveyed and for whom a promising future is predicted if they are adopted and trained according to accurate and modern scientific curricula that will prepare them for the long term until they reach the maximum stages of development (professionalism).

Conclusions

1. In light of the results that extracted from the study, the researcher recommends adopting the tests used in the study to detect students' athletic talent and potential in football.
2. Determine reliable scientific standard ratios for gifted students.
3. Continuously updating the tests and keeping pace with modern scientific progress, in addition to adopting tests with devices and tools if possible.
4. Searching for other tests for qualities and skills other than those discussed in this study.

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