

Determining criteria for refereeing leadership among basketball referees

A. Lecturer Hussein Hamza Jawad, A. Prof. Raad Abdel Amir Finjan and A. Prof. Dr. Salam Mohamed Hamza

Faculty of Physical Education and Sports Science, University of Babylon, Iraq

Email address: albadyh278@gmail.com

Abstract. The research aims to prepare a referee's leadership form and determines criteria for the referee's leadership form for basketball referees. The descriptive approach using the survey method and normative studies is used in this research. The research community were determined by the working referees that accredited and registered in the records of the Central Basketball Federation in Iraq, whose numbers are (84) referees distributed among the three arbitral scores (international, first and second). The research sample were chosen by a comprehensive inventory method, and the referee's leadership form consisted of (21) vertebrae representing (6) dimensions, namely (fitness, public health, cooperation and commitment, arbitration mechanics, match management, diagnosing errors, and diagnosing violations). The arbitration leadership of basketball referees were evaluated by the (5) technical observers of the matches. Five standard levels were extracted from the sample. Among the results that the research came out with is that the referee's leadership form proved its validity and ability to assess the referee's ability level of leadership for the basketball referees. One of the recommendations that came out of the research is the importance of the adoption of the referee's leadership form prepared by researchers by the Central Basketball Referees Committee to evaluate the performance of basketball referees.

Key words: Refereeing leadership, basketball referees.

1. Introduction

The leadership was distinguished by occupying an important position among researchers and stakeholders in the public fields including the sports field as the leadership is one of the main important aspects for the referee's success in his leadership of the match. The arbitration leadership appears through several methods each of them succeeds in achieving the goals according to the situations that the referee deals with. As well as the referee's ability to use knowledge for using these methods that facilitate his task to achieve his success. The success of arbitration means the success of the match in general. This depends on the cognitive, physical, and psychological aspects that directly affect the decisions of the referee, which plays a major role in the direction of the match. The referee must possess characteristics or a set of attributes that is needed to ensure his success in leading the match as best as possible, including control, self-confidence, courage, adaptability, not hesitation in making all decisions, experience, culture and educational qualifications so that justice is present among the competing teams. The basketball game occupies an advanced position among sports. It is the second most popular sports in most countries of the world. It leads to excitement and enthusiasm for the players and the public, and there is no doubt that the arbitration process has a great impact to raise the level of this game, as it is the main aspect in sport competitions

and any shortcoming in the level of arbitration, whether technical or administrative, may cause the victory of one team and the loss of the effort of the other team.

From the above, the importance of the research lies in highlighting the refereeing leadership of basketball referees, due to the lack of studies on referees, which have an effect to distinguish the management role of sports competitions, this would raise the level of arbitration.

The arbitration function is a difficult job subject to an important and a great responsibility in managing matches successfully, especially in team games, including basketball, which is characterized by a fast rhythm and continuous maneuvers between the attack and the defense throughout the match. From all of the above, the current study will answer the following question (what It is the level of refereeing leadership for basketball referees).

The research aims to prepare a referee's leadership form for basketball referees, and to determine criteria for the referee's leadership form of basketball referees.

2. The Research methodology

The descriptive method was used in both the survey method and the normative studies. These methods are suitable with the nature of the study and its objectives.

2.1. The research community and its sample

The research community was determined by the working referees accredited and registered in the records of the Central Basketball Federation in Iraq for the year (2021), which numbered (84) referees distributed among the three level scores (17 international referees, 61 first stage referees and 6 second stage referees)

2.2. Designing the referee's leadership form:

After reviewing the performance evaluating forms of basketball referees and conducting personal interviews with experts who are specialized in the basketball arbitration field, (6) dimensions were determined for the referee's leadership form. Then a definition for each dimension was put. A (7) experts and specialist contribute to answer the questionnaire that prepared for this purpose, which designed to indicate the validity of referees and the importance of the definition that giving to each dimension. All dimensions obtained the approval of experts and specialists for their validity, as the values of (sig) were less than (0.05). The relative importance of each dimension was extracted, and in comparison with the criterion of (57.14) all values of the degrees of relative importance came acceptably because it is greater than the critical value. Then the number of paragraphs amounting to (21) was extracted and distributed over the dimensions according to the percentage of relative importance. The paragraphs presented to the experts and specialists in basketball arbitration for the purpose of judging its validity in terms of wording and its suitability to measure what was prepared for it. The responses of specialists were analyzed By using the law (Ka2) at the freedom degree (1) and the significant level (0.05) to compare between those who agree and disagree. It turns out that all the form's clauses have obtained a complete agreement in their

validity for measuring what was prepared for it because the value of (sig) was less than (0.05). All the expert and specialist observations were taken.

Table (1) shows the vertebrae number of the dimensions for the referee's leadership form

No.	Dimension	Vertebrae number
1	Fitness and general health	3
2	Cooperation and commitment	4
3	mechanics of arbitration	3
4	the match management	3
5	The errors diagnose	4
6	The violation diagnose	4
Sum		21

2.3. Measurement of refereeing leadership for basketball referees:

Measuring the refereeing leadership of the referee in basketball matches is of great importance in the success of these matches. The forms were giving to the technical observer of the match whose numbers are (5) observers. It is requested from them to assess the arbitration leadership for basketball whose numbers are (84) as shown in the form for the period from (5/8/2021) until (30/12/2021). The evaluation degree of each phrase ranged from (zero) to (10) degrees.

2.4. The scientific basis of the form:

1. **The Form Validity:** To calculate the validity of the form, it is used the content validity method (Expert validity), by presenting the dimensions and phrases of the referee's leadership form to experts and specialists in the field of basketball arbitration to indicate their validity and the relative importance of each dimension.

2. **The Form stability:** Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to extract the form's stability. The reliability coefficient was (0.975).

3. **Objectivity of the form:** To find out the objectivity of the form, two experts applied the form mutually, and the results were obtained by calculating the T-test between the assessors. Table (2) shows the results of this test, which expresses the arbitrators' agreement for the assessment scores in the form. The difference between the arbitrators' results was not significant, which indicates the agreement of their opinions on the results of the questionnaire.

Table (2) shows the differences in the statistical estimates of the results of the residents

Estimations of the first evaluator	Estimations of the first evaluator	T-Value	Sig-value	Statistical parameter		
179.280	18.231	178.680	17.502	1.414	0.170	Insignificant

2.5. Statistical tools:

The statistical program (SPSS) was used for the purpose of processing the results.

2.6. Presentation of the statistical results of the referee's leadership form:

Table (3) shows Statistical Parameters of the referee's leadership form

Dimension	Arithmetic mean	median	mode	standard error	standard deviation	skew coefficient
Fitness and general health	23.861	24	23	0.352	3.226	0.130
Cooperation and commitment	32.298	31.5	29	0.470	4.299	0.159
mechanics of arbitration	23.179	22	20	0.373	3.422	0.387
the match management	23.536	23	20	0.369	3.378	0.447
The errors diagnose	30.857	29	28	0.494	4.531	0.554
The violations diagnose	30.786	29	26	0.524	4.800	0.402
Total	164.524	156	148	2.383	21.836	0.500

2.7. Determining the standard levels of the referee's leadership form:

The scores that obtained by applying the referee's leadership form were transferred to (84) referees, and the arithmetic mean was (164.524), the standard deviation was (21.836) and the fixed number was (0.458). Five levels were chosen.

Table (4) Shows Standard Levels of the Leadership Arbitration Form

Standard levels	Very high	High	Medium	Low	Very low
Ideal ratio	4.862%	24.522%	40.962%	24.522%	4.862%
Standard score limit	80 - 69	68 - 57	56 - 45	44 - 33	32 - 21
Raw score limit	231 - 206	205 - 180	179 - 154	153 - 128	127 - 102
Verified number	4	22	18	40	0
Verified ratio	%4.762	%26.190	%21.429	%47.619	0

3. Analyzing the results and discussing them.

From Table (4) it appears that most people in the research samples are in the fourth level (low) whose percentage was higher than the new ideal ratio. The percentages of first level (very high) and the second one (high) were close to the ideal ratio. The third level (medium) was higher than the new ideal ratio, while the ratio did not exist at the fifth level (very low).

In general, the researchers find that most of the sample members were located among low, high and medium levels. The researchers attribute the reasons to the difference in the levels of refereeing leadership among the research sample in the weak general preparation of referees in the aspects of arbitration skills before the start of the sports tournament. In addition to the lack of referees' participation in local courses, which may be reduced to about half of the research sample or less than that. Moreover, the lack of referees' participation in the international courses, which will refine and add information about refereeing skills. Furthermore, the lack of participation in the leadership of matches for most of the research sample, which leads to poor enough experience and good knowledge of the events of the matches, especially the fast and strong matches, and that referees who have qualifications to lead matches at high levels are reflected in them in a positive manner towards dealing with different situations in an ideal manner. This is what distinguishes the leader referee in his possession of high administrative and technical capabilities to meet the requirements of the matches.

Al-Rubaie and Al-Majidi in 2013 stressed that the foundations for the success of the sport leaders is to be familiar with science and knowledge, such as sport management and sport sociology (Al-Rubaie and Al-Majidi, 2013, 137). For this reason Al-Sheikhly in 1997 indicated that the referee who is able to lead the match means that he has the complete preparations in terms of technical, physical, health and psychological aspects (Al-Sheikhly, 1997, 5).

The availability of the fitness elements of the referees contributes greatly to the ability of movements, focusing, following up on changing directions, the nature of playing, the

distribution of effort over the match periods and the ability of moving from one place to another, which contributes to the correct leadership of the match.

It indicates that the availability of good physical ability in terms of speed, reaction and change of attitudes of the referee contributes in achieving a good match and improving the ability to see all of the events that occur during the match and issuing the correct decisions without objections (Zina 2002, 13). Working and following up with fellow referees as one team generates complete harmony between them, in addition to the psychological stability of the referee, which contributes to achieve the right decision towards the situations which leads to success for the whole referees.

Al-Abadi and Al-Jawari in 2012 indicates that the presence of a clear and compatible communication with the referees during the match is an essential ingredient for the success of the match and its good leadership (Al-Abadi and Al-Jawari, 2012, 297).

Abu Halima in 2004 believes that the effectiveness of communication helps speed and accuracy for completing the works with activating the role of leadership within the group through good organized manner contributes to raise the morale case of individuals (Abu Halima, 2004, 181).

The researchers believe that the mechanics of the referee's movement depends on the correct movement and choosing the right and correct place to stand, which represents the best angle of vision for the referee to suit the rhythm of the match. Then he can give the right decisions and leads the match in a proper manner and with the least possible errors.

Al-Khouli in 1999 considers that the mechanism depends on the sport knowledge defined by the International Dictionary of Education. "It is a general term that expresses the special processes related to perception, discovery, recognition, imagination, thinking, learning, and recalling, through which the individual obtains knowledges and perceptual understanding or interpretation to distinguish it from the emotional processes (Al-Khouli and Anan, 1999, 15).

The researchers believe that the referees who are characterized by justice and integrity in the application of the articles of the law and a sense of the importance of the match and courageously dealing with embarrassing situations during the match maintains the match processing, control it and gives reassurance to the two teams before the start of the match with the absence of any objections to the arbitral decisions issued by the referees.

Sharara in 1998 indicates the need for the referee to have a high ability of controlling the events of the matches in line with the international rules regulating the law of the game. The referee who has sufficient experience and the supreme ability of knowledge and information related to the nature of arbitration and competition gives courage to take appropriate decisions at the right time, which achieves the principle of justice for both teams, and this is achieved only through the high ability to control the match (Sharara 1998, 18)

The researchers believe that correctly diagnosing mistakes and violations during the game gives the referee sufficient ability to take the right decisions and prompts him in that with sufficient boldness to issue judgments. Those decisions based on a clear understanding of law

lead to enhancing satisfaction, acceptance and praise among all those interested in the game of basketball.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1. Conclusions

1. The refereeing leadership form has proven its validity and ability to assess the level of refereeing leadership for basketball referees.
2. Extracting the grades and standard levels for basketball referees in refereeing leadership.
3. The results showed that most of the research sample was concentrated in the fourth level (low, high and medium).

4.2. Recommendations

1. The importance of the adoption of the refereeing leadership form prepared by researchers by the Central Basketball Referees Committee to assess the performance of basketball referees.
2. The Central Basketball Referees Committee should interest in the physical, cognitive and psychological preparation of the referees in order to manage the match in the required manner.
3. Holding periodic meetings with the rulers to identify the difficulties and problems they face and seek to solve them.
4. Organizing refinement courses for referees to enhance the physical, cognitive and psychological aspects.
5. The importance of the adoption of the criteria reached in the referees classification process by the Central Basketball Referees Committee.
6. The necessity of conducting more studies on the referees, especially basketball referees, in the psychological, physical and cognitive aspects.

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Appendix (1) Refereeing Leadership Evaluation Form for Basketball Referees

First team		The final result		Sex	Male	
Second team					Female	
League name		Game number				
The hall name		The day				
The first referee name		Date				

Note: The score for each paragraph ranges from (zero) to (10).

Dimensions	No	Phrases	1 st referee	2 nd referee	3 rd referee
Fitness and general health	1	The performance is characterized by high physical fitness throughout the duration of the match			
	2	Focuses his attention on the field before and during the match			
	3	It is characterized by rapid reaction and change of direction and launch when changing the direction of play			
Cooperation and commitment	1	Working with other rulers as a team to create complete harmony between them			
	2	Follow up fellow referees from time to time			
	3	Commit to arrive before the match			
	4	Obligation to wear the authorized uniform			
arbitration	1	Speed whistle at the right time			

mechanics	2	Adequate anticipation of the rhythm of play and the change of direction			
	3	Uses hand signals clearly and sequentially			
Match management	1	Applying the law while preserving the aesthetics of the gameplay			
	2	Feeling and appreciation for the importance of the match			
	3	Courage and tenacity in dealing with critical situations			
Error Diagnostics	1	The ability to diagnose the error and the possibility of calculating it or not			
	2	Accuracy in knowing who caused the error			
	3	Ability to diagnose technical errors, misconduct and incompetence			
	4	The ability to correctly signal errors			
Violations Diagnos	1	The ability to diagnose violations			
	2	The ability to give the violation signal correctly			
	3	Overlapping the ball above the plane of the ring			
	4	Accuracy in calculating timing for cases, including 3 sec, 5 sec, 8 sec			