

## **The Prioritization and Comparison of Technical Background Criteria in the Selection Of Iran's National Table Tennis Coach: Sport Elites Perspectives**

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of this study was the prioritization and comparison of technical background criteria in the selection of Iran's national table tennis coach from the perspectives of sport elites. Method of this research was descriptive and survey kind. The study population were about 100 table tennis sport elites of whom 80 subjects were randomly selected based on Morgan table. Technical background criteria for national coach selection were based on McLean and Zakrajsk model. This questionnaire was provided with 7 items. The views of ten sport management professors were used for determining the content validity. To determine the reliability coefficient, Cronbach's Alpha of 0.968 was used. These data were analyzed in both descriptive and inferential statistical. Descriptive statistics was used for description of demographic and inferential statistics was including Friedman Anova test for rating criteria and Kruskal-Wallis test for hypothesis and these data were analyzed using Spss software. The highest rank is for "Goodwill work and the lack of bad records in the past" and the lowest rank is for "Enough experience coaching in league and tournaments. There was no significant difference among sport elites to prioritize & compare of technical background criteria in the selection of Iran's national table tennis coach ( $P>0.05$ ).

**Keywords:** Coaching, Technical Background, Table Tennis

## Introduction

Team's success and failure is most important in coaches' evaluation criteria, and effective coaching is closely with the victory (Gearity, 2012). Shafiee (2007) determined the model based on the human emotional skills at the top and at the bottom personality skills, technical skills, social character, management skills, work history, personal characteristics and sport skills which are the criteria for the selection of national team coaches for swimming, diving and water polo. Nasiri (2008) showed that one of the highlights of coaches is coaching experience with the best rank. Hamidi (2010) told that one of the criteria in selection of national team coaches is technical background.

Maetozo (2006) believes that the Olympic team coach must have successful experience in coaching. Hodges (2010) Member of the Federation, criteria for obtaining 2010 U.S. Table Tennis Federation coaching record: Coaching for beginners: a test exam, coaching or teaching experience, familiarity with the basic rules of table tennis and table tennis skills, advanced coaching for preparation for the World Championships or Olympic coaching: regional document provincial, national coaching (with a research project), having won the tournament, in order to have a moral code of the table Tennis Federation, having good physical condition, first aid certificate. Serguei and et al (2012) argue that experience is an important factor in any career.

Australian Swimming Teachers and coaches Association (1998) consider having a valid license of swimming coaching, and having to coaching B.A. license. USA Table Tennis Federation (2004) qualified for the national coaching certification: obtaining qualification in all matters related to the area of coaching, sports psychology, goal setting, communication, attitudes, motivation, personal action planning (analysis) Advanced theory and methods of training and teaching tennis, science activity in sports and philosophy in table tennis, and knowledge of rules of table tennis international tournaments and at least 3 years' experience. National Federation of Rowing United States of America (2006) to select the coaches in the field of yacht to attend the Pan American Games (2007) has defined the following criteria: proven success coaching or coaching elite athletes in international events sailing yachts. Choose a coach for the men and women goalball's team of United States of America to participate in the Paralympic Games (2008): The successful completion of a background form approved by the National Olympic Committee of the United States, enabled in coaching goalball, coaching experience and proven ability in the national and international levels for individual athletes or team, work experience is approved in the association of blind athletes in the United States. Selection criteria for hockey coaches in the South Delta (2008) are as follows: the experience of playing and coaching, experience playing in hockey, playing at the highest teen years and older, experience in head coach or help coach (regardless of sport), Hockey's coaching experience for elite athletes, experience of playing in a league or tournament, experience in international competitions, national, provincial or regional, preparatory certification coaching hockey, Certificate Level 2, Level 1 and 2, a certificate of non-sides record, previous performance, Success as a youth coach, confirmed the ability to work in a team coaching position. Selection criteria for the Deaf tennis coach and assistant coach for the men and women in the United States of America for Summer Deaf Olympics (2009): coaching experience, the experience of coaching people who are deaf and hard of hearing, consciousness and cooperation with moral agreement' Deaf sports Federation of the United States. Selection criteria boxing coach for the national team of Canada (2009) as follows: a valid certificate of

coaching, a prominent member of Boxing Canada and a member of the Canadian coaches. Selection criteria football coach youth teams in Canada (2009) as follows: at least 2 years' experience in coaching or as a coordinator or as a head coach, they must have at least 2 years' experience of working with the youth. United States Curling coach in the selection process for the Olympic Winter Games (2010): the successful approval by the National Olympic Committee of United States for investigate job history, experience and proven ability in coaching teams in the national and international levels, the coaching experience of women or men's teams at least in Olympic or international event, level 4 coaching certificate of the United States curling Association. USA Table Tennis Federation (2010): To be records, acceptable passport that does not expire until at least six months after the game, available in game, in full health, with International acceptable experience, with high mental and physical skills, and quite familiar with the strategies and techniques of the game, to be motivated to establish a good relationship, to be acceptable record in the Federation. Criteria for Manitoba hockey coach in Canada for the Canada Winter Games (2011): Hockey Manitoba and Level 3 Advanced Certificate level theory, with good experience, great knowledge and understanding of the strategies and new and modern systems must have experience and have significant experience in coaching, and have the ability to lead, discipline and motivate a team. Basketball Federation of America for the (2012) Olympics: at least three years of coaching experience at any level, should have experience in international competition, Should not have any conflict with the United States Basketball, having basketball knowledge, character, discipline, sense of responsibility and other conditions that may be set by basketball America. As you can see, several measures can be taken to select competent coaches, the researcher to select the appropriate ranking table tennis national team coaches.

Given the importance of coaching and selecting a qualified coach in success of sports teams, having coaching selection criteria will help in selecting the right people. To resolve this problem, identifying criteria for selecting coaches seems necessary. It can be seen one of the main criteria for selecting a coach is communication skills. Researcher wanted to offer the best prioritizing for communication skills criteria to select the best coach.

## Materials & Methods

The research method was descriptive and the data collection method was both qualitative and quantitative. The main objective was prioritization and comparison of technical background criteria in the selection of Iran's national table tennis coach from the perspectives of sport elites. According to theoretical background, literature review, experts' views, study of academic books and numerous scientific articles and interviews with experts, we made a list of the most important criteria in the technical background of the national table tennis team's coach; then, after receiving opinion of Sport Management faculty, research questions was prepared. This questionnaire was prepared for technical background criteria in national table tennis teams' coach with 7 items. Likert scale was selected for measuring the degree of importance of each item. In this method, each criterion has 5 values from low to high. Subjects read each item to determine how it's important to select the desired option. The views of 10 sports management professors were used to determine the content validity of research. The questionnaires were distributed among 20 subjects to determine the reliability of study; The Cronbach's Alpha 0.968 was used. In the quantitative part, data from the

questionnaires were analyzed. The population was 100 table tennis elite. Based on Morgan table, 80 people were randomly selected as samples:

- 1 - Directors (board members, Federation committees' directors, and the board of Table Tennis): 20 people
- 2 - The coach of adults, youth and adolescents national teams (2001-2011): 10 people
- 3 - The Youth and adults national athlete (2001-2011): 30 people
- 4 - Sport pioneers (championship level managers who had experience in executive activities or degree of national and international tennis coaching): 20 people

After the data collected through the questionnaire, they were coded and classified. The data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics was used for description of demographic and inferential statistics was including Friedman Anova test for rating criteria and Kruskal-Wallis test for hypothesis and these data were analyzed using Spss software.

### Findings/Results

**Table 1.** Frequency distribution and Frequency percentage of 4 groups of respondents

Group	Frequency	Percentage
National athlete	30	37.5
National Coaches	10	12.5
Directors	20	25
Pioneers	20	25
Total	80	100

**Table 2.** Frequency distribution and Frequency percentage of 4 groups of respondents according to educated, field of study, job, and other parameters

Sample	players		Coaches		Directors		pioneers		total	
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
Educated(B.A)	11	37.9	5	50	8	40	10	50	34	44
Degree(Physical Education)	17	56.7	7	70	9	47.4	8	40	41	51.9
Job(coach)	7	41.2	8	80	11	61.1	10	50	36	55.4
Championship Record(below 10 years)	18	60	2	28.6	6	42.9	6	50	32	50.8
National Team Record(below 10 years)	24	80	4	57.1	9	81.8	6	75	43	76.8
Coaching Records(11-20)years	7	41.2	4	40	9	45	8	40	28	41.8
International coaching Degree	4	21.1	6	60	10	50	7	35	27	39.1

*F: Frequency P: Percentage*

The highest percentage frequency related to Bachelor's degree, degree in Physical Education, job, championship record, national team record, coaching record and international coaching degree.

**Table 3.** Prioritization of the technical background criteria from elite’s perspectives according to Friedman Test

Technical Backgrounds	Mean rank
1- Reputation and lack of bad work experience in the last	4.21
2- Appropriate coaching record with the level of national team	4.18
3- Having enough experience coaching at international ,national, regional and district tournaments	4.17
4- Years of experience in national and club teams as a player	3.97
5- Successful experience as a coach for club & youth teams in national level	3.94
6- Membership and credible evidence of a coaching from education evaluating and improving system	3.83
7- Having enough experience coaching in leagues and tournaments	3.70

**Friedman test**

Chi-square	13.008
Degree of freedom	6
Significance level	0.043

**Hypothesis-** There is difference among the participants in the prioritization of technical background criteria

**Table 4.** Kruskal-Wallis test for view of the participants in the prioritization of technical background criteria

Population	Sample	Rating Average	Mean	Standard Deviation	Chi-Square	Significance Level
National Player	30	40.22	32.8634	3.25032	1.361	0.715
National Coach	10	41.10				
Directors	20	44.53				
Pioneers	20	36.60				
Total	80					

As it can be seen in Table 4, There is no difference among the participants in the prioritization of technical background criteria, because of  $P > 0.05$ .

## Discussion and Conclusion

Since coach is the manager and he uses the art and science of managing to manage a sports team and he is trying to achieve a result of the success over a relatively long period of time. He uses of all his abilities of physical, mental, technical and expertise to manage and leadership sport team to bring perfection mental and physical skills of his players and to leads players to victory peak in form of a cohesive group. Seems to be possible he should be capable in all areas of physical, mental, technical, expertise, social and human and uses all elements of his existence in these areas and can serve sport organization. The collected material included research articles from various scholars and authors on various aspects of coaching technical background. It was indicated that each of the criteria was necessary for success and performance of a coach. Not only one factor cause to success in a coach but also they should all be gathered in a coach to success.

The purpose of this study was prioritization and comparison of technical background criteria in the selection of Iran's national table tennis coach from the perspectives of sport elites. There was no consistent pattern for choosing suitable coach in the Federation; therefore it is recommended that this model can be used to choose a qualified coach in order of priority.

Results of this study indicate that there is no significant difference among the participants in the prioritization of technical background criteria ( $P > 0.05$ ) Therefore, a unity pattern could be outlined to selected national coach. The results of the study indicate that each criterion has separate and highly valued importance. Therefore, the researcher suggests that to achieve the desired criteria for technical background in the selection of national teams coach, considering the priorities will take us better to the target.

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