

DECISION MAKING SELF-ESTEEM AND DECISION MAKING STYLES OF TURKISH TENNIS REFEREES

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Summary

The aim of this study is to examine the decision making self-esteem and decision making styles of the tennis referees. The working group is constituted of 130 tennis referees, 47 of them are female and 87 are male. For this study Melbourne Decision Making Questionnaire I-II (MDMQ) is used. Cronbach Alpha Reliability Coefficient of the Questionnaire is found to be .73. For the analysis of the data Mann-Whitney U Test, Kruskal-Wallis Test and Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test are used. A significant difference could not be found between the tennis referee's decision making self-esteem and lower dimension of decision making styles with respect to their educational status, gender, referee ratings and umpiring periods ($p>0.05$). It has been observed that as the self-esteem levels of the referees increase, their vigilant decision making levels also increase, while procrastinating, buck-passing and panicking decision making levels decrease. A meaningful relation has been found between the ages of the referees and panic decision making styles. It has been detected that the older the referees are, they panic less during decision making. A significant relation has been observed between the tennis playing time and abstaining decision making styles. It has been confirmed that the buck-passing decision making style is more common among referees who played tennis for longer periods.

Key Words: Tennis referee, decision making self-esteem, decision making style

Introduction

The referees are one of the most important elements of the sports world. During a game a referee's correct decision is essential. It is the referee decisions that affect the game results and determine the winning and losing sides. The referee decisions must be indisputable and satisfying for both sides. A referee's experience, knowledge and personal characteristics may be effective on his/her decision making during a game. Decision making is a process resulting in an outcome leading to the selection of a course of action among several alternatives. In order to make a decision, more than one alternative must be available (Rollinson, 2002). The effectiveness of the decision making process depends on the characteristics of the person who makes the decision. Because at the decision making step the methods preferred by the individuals are important (Shiloh et al, 2001). According to Mann et al (1998), the individuals use four different decision making styles namely vigilant, buck-passing, procrastinating and hyper-vigilant. The persons who use the vigilant decision making style elaborately search the necessary information before making their decisions and make their choices after evaluating the alternatives carefully. The persons who choose buck-passing decision making style avoid the decision making process and they are inclined to shift off the responsibility. The persons who adopt the procrastinating decision making style try to postpone the decision making process without any acceptable reason. And the persons who are inclined to use the hyper-vigilant decision making style feel themselves under pressure when they have to make a decision and they make their

decisions hastily. Examination of the decision making styles of the tennis referees may contribute the studies related to the correct decision making styles of the referees. Within this context, in this study decision making self-esteem and decision making styles of the tennis referees has been examined with respect to their gender, age, educational status, umpiring period, referee ratings and tennis playing period.

Method

This is a scanning type of study aimed at detecting the existing situation. The working group is constituted of 130 tennis referees that participated in the tennis referees development seminary held in 2009 in Antalya. 47 (36.2%) of the referees who joined the study voluntarily are female and 87 (63.8%) are male. The personal information related to the tennis referees are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Personal information related to the tennis referees

Personal Information	
<u>Age</u>	<u>n</u>
%	
18-29	33
25.4	
30-41	52
40.0	
42 and older	45
34.6	
Total	130
100	
<u>Gender</u>	<u>n</u>
%	
Female	47
36.2	

Male	83
63.8	
Total	130
100	

<u>Educational Status</u>	<u>n</u>
<u>%</u>	
High School	27
20.8	
University	103
79.2	
Total	130
100	

<u>Referee Rating</u>	<u>n</u>
<u>%</u>	
Nominee	23
17.7	
Region	83
63.8	
National	20
15.4	
International	4
3.1	
Total	130
100	

<u>Umpiring Period</u>	<u>n</u>
<u>%</u>	
0-3 years	34
26.2	
4-7 years	51
39.2	
8-11 years	24
18.5	
12 years and more	21
16.2	
Total	130
100	

In the study Melbourne Decision Making Questionnaire (MDMQ) I-II which is developed by Mann et al (1998) is used for the detection of decision making self-esteem and decision making styles of the tennis referees. MDMQ I aim at detecting decision making self-esteem and MDMQ II decision making styles. MDMQ I consist of 6 elements and MDMQ II 22 elements and 4 lower dimensions (vigilant, buck-passing, procrastinating and hyper-vigilant). In the study made with test repeating method, the reliability coefficients of the questionnaire - adapted to Turkish by Deniz (2004) - derived from the lower coefficients are found as $r=.68$ ile $r=.87$. Deniz (2004) has stated that this questionnaire is valid and reliable.

The independent variables of the study are gender, age, the educational status, umpiring period, referee ratings and tennis playing period. Dependent variables are decision making self-esteem and decision making styles. As the distribution of the data is not normal, in the study non-parametric tests have been used. For the purpose of demonstrating the differentiation of decision making self-esteem and decision making styles of the tennis referees due to gender, educational status and tennis playing, Mann-Whitney U Test and for other independent variables Kuruskal-Wallis Test is used. For the detection of the relationship between decision making self-esteem and decision making styles (vigilant, buck-passing, procrastinating and hyper-vigilant) Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test is used. The results of the reliability study show that Cronbach Alpha Reliability Coefficient of the Questionnaire is .73. In the study the significance level is found to be $p<0,05$.

Findings and Discussion

The results of the Mann-Whitney U Test which is used to understand whether decision making self-esteem and decision making styles of the tennis referees differ due to gender and educational status show that they do not differ. The results of the Kuruskal-Wallis Test which is used to see whether decision making self-esteem and decision making styles of the tennis referees differ due to the umpiring period and referee ratings also prove that they do not differ.

Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test analysis (Table 2) made to understand whether here is any relationship between decision making self-esteem and decision making styles of the referees or not, show that there is a positive relationship between the self-esteem levels and vigilant decision making styles ($Z = -8.097$, $p< .05$). A negative relationship is found between the self-esteem levels and buck-passing ($z = -9.9700$, $p< .05$), procrastinating ($Z = -9.977$, $p< .05$) and hyper-vigilant ($Z = -9.988$, $p< .05$) decision making styles of the referees. We can say that as the self-esteem levels of the referees increase, their vigilant decision making levels also increase, while procrastinating, buck-passing and panicking decision making levels decrease.

Table 2. Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test analysis

Decision Making Styles	Vigilant		
	Buck-passing	Procrastinating	Hyper-vigilant
Z		-8.097	-
9.700	-9.977	-9.988	
P		.000	
.000	.000	.000	

$P< .05$

Kruskal-Wallis Test analysis which is made to examine the relationship between the tennis playing period and decision making styles of the referees show that there is not a significant relationship between the tennis playing period and self-esteem [$X^2(2)=1.346$, $p > .05$], vigilant decision making [$X^2(2)=1.084$, $p > .05$], procrastinating decision making [$X^2(2)=3.186$, $p > .05$] and hyper-vigilant decision making [$X^2(2)=1.371$, $p > .05$]. However, a significant relationship between the tennis playing period and buck-passing decision making style is detected [$X^2(2)=6.412$, $p < .05$]. The decision making style of the tennis referees who played tennis for 8 years or longer ($x=36.20$) are more buck-passing compared to the ones who played tennis for 4-7 years ($x=23.40$). We can say that the buck-passing decision making style is more common among referees who played tennis for longer periods.

Kruskal-Wallis Test analysis which is made to examine the relationship between the ages and decision making styles of the referees show that there is not a significant relationship between tennis playing period and self-esteem [$X^2(2)=.299$, $p > .05$], vigilant decision making [$X^2(2)=.294$, $p > .05$], buck-passing decision making [$X^2(2)=4.420$, $p > .05$] and procrastinating decision making [$X^2(2)=1.452$, $p > .05$]. However, a significant relationship between the age and hyper-vigilant decision making [$X^2(2)=9.223$, $p < .05$] has been observed. The tennis referees 42 years old or older ($x=53.06$) are less hyper-vigilant in decision making compared to the referees 18-29 ($x=75.08$) and 30-41 years old ($x=70.19$). As a conclusion we can say that as the referees get older, they become less hyper-vigilant in decision making.

Conclusion

No significant differences has been observed between the gender, educational status, umpiring period, referee ratings and decision making self-esteem and the lower dimensions of the decision making styles of the tennis referees.

A significant relationship between the ages and hyper-vigilant decision making styles of the referees has been detected. The tennis referees 42 years old or older are less hyper-vigilant in decision making compared to the referees 18-29 and 30-41 years old. It can be said that as the referees get older, they become less hyper-vigilant in decision making. U.O.Uzunoglu, 2008, has reported that the football referees make less buck-passing decisions as they get older.

A significant relationship between the tennis playing periods and buck-passing decision making styles of the referees has been observed. The decision making style of the tennis referees who played tennis for 8 years or longer are more buck-passing compared to the ones who played tennis for 4-7 years. It can be said that the buck-passing

decision making style is more common among referees who played tennis for longer periods.

While a positive relationship is observed between the self-esteem levels and vigilant decision making styles of the referees, a negative relationship is conspicuous between their self-esteem levels and buck-passing, procrastinating and hyper-vigilant decision making styles. E.M.Deniz (2004) and Mann et al (1998) have stated that there is a positive relationship between decision making self-esteem and vigilant decision making style. As a conclusion it can be said that as the self-esteem levels of the referees increase, their vigilant decision making levels also increase, while procrastinating, buck-passing and panicking decision making levels decrease.

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