

The evaluation of the performance of Rhythmic Gymnastics' Judges

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Abstract

Background. Judging is a very important factor in rhythmic gymnastics (RG), so much so that the evaluation made by the judge leads to its development.

Aims. The main goal of this study is to analyze the behavior of the Portuguese rhythmic gymnastics' judges during a national competition.

Methods. The judging of 23 national judges was evaluated during the 2009 Portuguese Cup using an International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) table. The control score was obtained by the judging of 4 international judges in the same routines.

A questionnaire was applied to all judges in order to obtain data to relate the premonition variables to the judgment score. For the results interpretation a comparative and inferential analysis in SPSS 17 and Excel (Office 2007) was used.

Results. The main results were as follows: 70% of the judges were National (5 to 8 years of judging experience) and 30% International (more than 9 years of judging experience). The average of the classifications obtained was 6.035 (from a maximum of 10 points). The age of the judges, their judging experience and, their judging competitions per year and the category of National Judge had a great influence on the judgment score. Also, the experience as a coach, and a job related to sport and high education qualifications showed a tendency of an improvement in the judgment evaluation. Their experience as a gymnast resulted in the worst performance as judges.

Conclusions. There are differences in the judging competences among the different judges. The selected variables influence the evaluation of performance, and from these the age, sports experience and judging experience are the most important.

Keywords: rhythmic gymnastics, judging, evaluation, performance.