

Values of Football Referees

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Abstract

Almost every team that has been defeated in recent years has indicated football referees as the first guilty, and the public pressure on the referees managing the competitions is increasing. Despite these adverse conditions, it is considered important to determine what values the football referees have to manage the competitions. The aim of this research is to determine the value orientation of football referees. The research group consisted of 35 male football referees actively refereeing in the 2019-2020 Football Season in Turkey. Research data was obtained through semi-structured interview method. The data were evaluated by content analysis method. As a result of the research, various values were reached in social, personal, morals, belief, culture, extraversion, sensing, thinking, feeling, judging categories.

Keywords: Values, Football, Referee

INTRODUCTION

Values are beliefs shared by society. Every culture has certain values and these values distinguish it from other cultures. Values reveal what people should or don't accept, how they should think, feel and act (11). Values are important dynamics that make people happy and form their cultural substructure. It is not possible for people to adopt values by force, values are taught with voluntary obedience. The best way to teach values is to love the concepts that values represent (37). The concept of value expresses the desired, the interest and the need and what should be. Values are act and ideal, as well as having a practical character. Therefore, values are people's conditions of existence. People create their values as a result of the relationships they establish with assets (7). Values are standards or principles that make judgments about objects, people, beliefs, thoughts and behaviors such as good, bad, desired, undesirable (22).

Nowadays, the dominance of globalizing values harms social values and changes some values; changing values cause people to change their understanding and character. Morality is defined as

the habits and tempers that people obtain by making them according to the value judgments they place on the phenomenons. Then, with the change of people's value judgments, their morals, their characters change. From these perspectives, values are essential to protect individual and social identity (30). Because historically, moral values are as old as civilization, law and states and existed through certain universal rules (29).

Sports determines which behaviors are prohibited, fair, necessary, permitted and encouraged in terms of values. Sports is a very important tool of moral education, sports competitions are the best way to understand the values accepted by the society. Sports provides learning of universal values during the competition (35). It is a fact that sports teaches individuals such as moral character, self-esteem, teammate, competitor, game rules, ethics and fair play (31). However, as sports become increasingly professionalized, commercialized, and pressure to win, the resulting conflict situation leads to a dilemma between playing honestly in sports and cheating to win (40). World states or policy makers, the values that sports bring to athletes; health,

renewal, social participation, social control, employment, love for the homeland and nation, rivalry, winning and losing. In terms of societies, the values gained by sports are; observed as money, fame, celebratedness, medal, weight loss or appearance. Hence, the values gained by athletes through the sports experiences are complex and contradictory (16).

Football is an important phenomenon that trails people around the world with its footballers, coaches, managers, referees, fans and media, both economically and culturally (44). Football referees who play a very important role in the management of football matches also have a very important career and a great ethical responsibility in protecting the rules of the game and the morality of the game (8). Almost every team that has been defeated in recent years has indicated football referees as the first guilty, and the public pressure on the referees managing the competitions is increasing. Despite these adverse conditions, it is considered important to determine what values the football referees have to manage the competitions. The aim of this research is to determine the value orientation of football referees.

MATERIAL & METHOD

Research Model

The research has been evaluated with the phenomenology approach pattern which is one of the qualitative research models. Qualitative research aims to analyze the opinions of individuals or groups through assumptions and to analyze the data obtained in natural environments by creating themes through induction and deduction (9). The phenomenology approach focuses on how individuals perceive, make sense, judge and how they feel about the phenomenon (32). Research data was obtained through semi-structured interview method. This method has the flexibility to adapt to different research situations (33). In other words, it allows the people who make the semi-structured interview to go out of the specified questions and mention special topics (5). In addition, through the interview, it is tried to be determined the participants emotions and thoughts that cannot be observed and how they attribute meaning to the events they experience (32).

Research Group

The research group consisted of 35 male football referees actively refereeing in the 2019-2020 Football

Season in Turkey. The research group was selected according to the maximum diversity sampling, which is one of the purposeful sampling methods used in qualitative research (41). Codes (such as FR1, FR2, FR3,...) were given to the football referees participating in the interview.

Table 1. Results of the football referees regarding age, referee level, educational status, referee year and interview date

Codes	Age	Referee Level	Education Status	Referee Year	Interview Date
FR1	32	Regional Referee	University	13	12.09.2019
FR2	41	Classification Assistant Referee	University	17	12.09.2019
FR3	43	Upper Classification Assistant Referee	University	22	13.09.2019
FR4	29	Province Referee	University	7	13.09.2019
FR5	28	Province Referee	University	7	14.09.2019
FR6	29	Province Referee	University	8	14.09.2019
FR7	25	Province Referee	University	6	14.09.2019
FR8	32	Classification Referee	University	11	15.09.2019
FR9	36	Classification Referee	University	11	15.09.2019
FR10	28	Classification Assistant Referee	Master's Degree	8	16.09.2019
FR11	26	Province Referee	University	7	17.09.2019
FR12	33	Classification Assistant Referee	University	12	18.09.2019
FR13	32	Regional Referee	University	11	18.09.2019
FR14	44	Classification Referee	High School	21	19.09.2019
FR15	40	Classification Referee	University	21	19.09.2019
FR16	47	Upper Classification Referee	University	25	20.09.2019
FR17	26	Classification Referee	University	8	21.09.2019
FR18	26	Classification Referee	University	7	22.09.2019
FR19	25	Regional Referee	University	7	23.09.2019
FR20	35	Regional Referee	University	14	23.09.2019
FR21	33	Classification Referee	University	13	24.09.2019
FR22	39	Classification Referee	University	17	24.09.2019
FR23	37	Classification Assistant Referee	University	19	24.09.2019
FR24	27	Province Referee	University	7	25.09.2019
FR25	31	Classification Assistant Referee	University	11	25.09.2019
FR26	30	Regional Referee	University	9	26.09.2019
FR27	26	Regional Referee	University	8	27.09.2019
FR28	27	Regional Referee	University	8	27.09.2019
FR29	38	Province Referee	High School	10	28.09.2019
FR30	35	Regional Referee	University	17	28.09.2019
FR31	39	Classification Assistant Referee	University	18	28.09.2019
FR32	36	Classification Referee	University	13	29.09.2019
FR33	34	Classification Assistant Referee	Doctoral Degree	13	29.09.2019
FR34	40	Province Referee	Master's Degree	17	30.09.2019
FR35	33	Classification Referee	University	11	30.09.2019

Data Collection Tools

The data were accessed through the Personal Information Form and the Semi-Structured Interview Form prepared by the researchers. The Personal Information Form consists of 4 questions including the referees' age, educational status, level of referee and year of referee.

In the Interview Form, there are 3 questions, consisting of semi-structured open-ended questions, which cover the opinions of football referees about what values sports gain in their lives, spiritual values that guide them before the competition and the character structure that a good football referee should have.

Qualitative research focuses more on internal validity. For this reason, in order to increase the internal validity of the interview form, the opinions of three lecturers from the sports sciences were consulted, and 3 football referees selected from the target group were piloted on the sample and the questions were finalized (36). The validity and reliability of the research was provided by using credibility, interaction, depth-oriented data collection and participant confirmation strategies (28). The ethical dimensions of the research processes are the voluntary participation of referees in the research, risks of the interview and keeping participants' names confidential, data protection, the findings are objectively and carefully reflected (5).

Research data was attained through phone calls. In qualitative research, it is stated that phone calls are an effective tool for collecting data and in some cases the most suitable method due to geographical position (5). Research different add those in Turkey, it has been included football referee working in different classifications, regions and provinces. For this reason, it was thought that a larger group of referees would be reached by phone call. Interviews were held between 12-30 September 2019 with permission and appointment from football referees. Interviews took between 12-20 minutes on average.

Data Analysis

The data of the research were evaluated by content analysis method. In the content analysis method is paid attention to the processes of what data to include in the analysis, what to analyze, how to effectively use the analysis steps and coding tables (5).

Qualitative data, which were made into written documents, were read by a researcher and two experts, and themes were created, and themes were determined with agreement and disagreement. Data reliability calculation of Miles and Huberman (1994): Agreement theme / Agreement + Disagreement theme X 100 calculated through the formula. According to the formula result, the compatibility between the themes should be 70% and above (38). According to this formula, the harmony between the themes determined by the researcher and experts was determined as $86 / 95 \times 100 = 90.5$. Nine disagreement codes are associated with other appropriate codes.

RESULTS

In Table 2, the results of the thoughts of the football referees about what values the sport brings in their lives are given.

Table 2. Results regarding the opinions of football referees about what values sport brings in their lives

Category	Themes	f	
Social	Social Environment	19	
	Character Development	7	
	Self-confidence	3	
	Prestige	3	
	Responsibility	2	
	Communication Skill	2	
	Leadership	2	
	Connecting to Life	2	
	Establishing Authority	1	
	Personal	Healthy Life	13
Reasoning		5	
Quick Decision-Making		3	
Look from Different Perspectives		3	
Discipline		3	
Happiness		1	
Self Knowledge		1	
Morals		Patience	8
		Respect	5
		Love	4
	Empathy	3	
	Fairness	3	
	Calm	3	
	Equal Treatment	2	
	Tolerance	2	
	Objectivity	1	
	Honesty	1	
	Don't Lying	1	
	Conscience	1	
	Friendship	1	

The most frequently expressed theme under the "Social" category was "Social Environment" in the thoughts of football referees about what values sports bring in their lives. FR13 of football referees expressed this theme as follows: "... I had a very wide social circle thanks to football referee. I wouldn't have met a doctor, a super league referee, a Fifa referee if I wasn't a referee, I'm not in the sport. So wherever we go, he's familiar..."

Football referees also expressed the themes of "Character Development, Self-confidence, Prestige, Responsibility, Communication Skill, Leadership, Connecting to Life and Establishing Authority" under the "Social" category.

The most frequently expressed theme under the "Personal" category was "Healthy Life" in the thoughts of football referees about what values sports bring in their lives. FR15 of football referees expressed this theme as follows: "... you protect

your health by doing sports, by training 3-4 days a week, you have a quality lifestyle in your health..."

Football referees also expressed the themes of "Reasoning, Quick Decision-Making, Look from Different Perspectives, Discipline, Happiness, Self Knowledge" under the "Personal" category.

FR16's view on the theme of "Look from Different Perspectives" was remarkable during the interview: "... I directed the game of many star footballers at the international level. I met many people, I knew the world, I learned to look at life from a wide perspective. My horizon has expanded..."

The most frequently expressed theme under the "Morals" category was "Patience" in the thoughts of football referees about what values sports bring in

their lives. FR14 of football referees expressed this theme as follows: "...first of all, sports taught me to be more patient... footballers can react very hard sometimes because they put a lot of effort and focus on winning... Sports taught me not to react immediately to the behaviors and reactions I saw... made me a patient person..."

Football referees also expressed the themes of "Respect, Love, Empathy, Fairness, Calm, Equal Treatment, Tolerance, Objectivity, Honesty, Don't Lying, Conscience, Friendship" under the "Morals" category.

Table 3 presents the results of the football referees' thoughts about the spiritual values that guide them before the competition.

Table 3. Results regarding the opinions of football referees about the spiritual values that guide them before the competition

Category	Themes	f
Belief	Pray to God	13
	Equality and Justice	7
	Mother's Prayer	5
	Wish the Referee Chance	4
	Concentration	3
	Conscience	2
	Reading Surah Fatiha	2
	Performing Ablution	1
Culture	Family	8
	Authority to Manage a Match Within the Rules	2
	Right-Footed Football Pitch	2
	Thinking of Your Daughter and Asking for Prayer	2
	Ethical Character	2
	Musn't Include Spiritual Values	2
	Sports Love	1
	Society	1
	Positive Communication with Other Referee	1
	Listening to Music in the Referee Room	1

The most frequently expressed theme under the "Belief" category was "Pray to God" in the thoughts of football referees about spiritual values that guide them before the competition. FR10 of football referees expressed this theme as follows: "... Every time I go to the match, I pray to God before the match and wish him good luck..."

FR32 on the theme of "Equality and Justice", which is mentioned in the second frequency, "... It is my greatest spiritual value to manage the match with a sense of equality and justice without taking the right of any team and not

to take the match from one team to another team." He stated that.

Football referees also expressed the themes of "Mother's Prayer, Wish to Referee Chance, Concentration, Conscience, Reading Surah Fatiha, Performing Ablution" under the "Belief" category.

The most frequently expressed theme under the "Culture" category was "Family" in the thoughts of football referees about spiritual values that guide them before the competition. FR23 of football referees expressed this theme as follows: "... before the match, I am motivated by thinking of my

mother, father, wife and children and I go out for a match.”

Football referees also expressed the themes of “Authority to Manage a Match Within the Rules, Right-Footed Football Pitch, Thinking of Your Daughter and Asking for Prayer, Ethical Character, Musn’t Include Spiritual Values, Sports Love, Society, Positive Communication with Other Referee, Listening to Music in the Referee Room” under the “Culture” category.

Table 4 presents the results of the football referees’ thoughts about the character structure that a good football referee should have.

Table 4. Results regarding the opinions of football referees about the character structure that a good football referee should have

Category	Themes	f
Extraversion	Diplomat	6
	Debonair	3
	Model	3
	Can Use Body Language Well	2
Sensing	Self Expressive	1
	Farsighted	3
	Confidential	2
	Awake	1
	Experienced	1
Thinking	Self-confident	1
	Honest	12
	Fair	6
	Fast and Accurate Decision Maker	5
	Unimpressonable	4
	Intellectual	2
	Open to Criticism	2
	Open for Improvement	2
	Conscientious	1
	Respectful	5
Feeling	Who Loves Your Job	4
	Empathetic	2
	Tolerant	2
	Devoted	2
	Business Ethic	2
	Nerveless	2
	Sincere	1
	Non-egoistic	1
	Not Gossiping	1
	Helpful	1
Judging	Humanist	1
	Courageous	6
	Coldblooded	5
	Disciplined	3
	Hardworking	3
	Authoritarian	3
	Who can Set a Target	1
	Steady	1
	Ambitious	1
	Unprejudiced	1

The most frequently expressed theme under the “Extraversion” category was “Diplomat” in the thoughts of football referees about the character structure that a good football referee should have. FR20 of football referees expressed this theme as follows: “... must have a high level of human relationship and communication. The more positive relationships are established outside and inside the field, these relationships help the referee management.”

Football referees also expressed the themes of “Debonair, Model, Can Use Body Language Well, Self Expressive” under the “Extraversion” category.

The most frequently expressed theme under the “Sensing” category was “Farsighted” in the thoughts of football referees regarding the character structure that a good football referee should have. FR30 of football referees expressed this theme as follows: “... should be farsighted who can read the game well...”

Football referees also expressed the themes of “Confidential, Awake, Experienced, Self-confident” under the “Sensing” category.

The most frequently expressed theme under the “Thinking” category was “Honest” in the thoughts of football referees regarding the character structure that a good football referee should have. FR1 of football referees expressed this theme as follows: “... you have to be an honest person who can stand upright... you will make you believe that you are honest athletes, technical team, fans ...”

Football referees also expressed the themes of “Fair, Fast and Accurate Decision Maker, Unimpressonable, Intellectual, Open to Criticism, Open for Improvement, Conscientious” under the “Thinking” category.

The most frequently expressed theme under the “Feeling” category was “Respectful” in the thoughts of football referees regarding the character structure that a good football referee should have. FR18 of football referees expressed this theme as follows: “... first of all, he must be respectful, he must not lose respect for his elders...”

Football referees also expressed the themes of “Who Loves Your Job, Empathetic, Tolerant, Devoted, Business Ethic, Nerveless, Sincere, Non-egoistic, Not Gossiping, Helpful, Humanist” under the “Feeling” category.

The most frequently expressed theme under the "Judging" category was "Courageous" in the thoughts of football referees regarding the character structure that a good football referee should have. FR3 of football referees expressed this theme as follows: "First of all, courage. Foreign educators have always taught us this, courage. You give position information to a referee who has no courage, how to show the foul, how to show the offside, but you cannot give the heart. You give everything you can't give heart. The heart is in the referee. If it doesn't happen, there's nothing to do. The referee will not be afraid on the field. This is the most important factor."

Football referees also expressed the themes of "Coldblooded, Disciplined, Hardworking, Authoritarian, Who can Set a Target, Steady, Ambitious, Unprejudiced" under the "Judging" category.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

In Table 2, the results in the category of social values regarding the opinions of football referees about what values sports gain in their lives can be interpreted as they can meet their basic needs in the society and provide a social environment and character development that through sports and provide a social environment and character development that positively affects their psychology. It can also be explained that they are in a position that is in a reputable position with the status of football referee in the society with a sense of trust in them, they are people who have a strong sense of communication and who can direct their environment. Jones and Lavalley (24) found that self-confidence and communication values are important in young athletes. Yıldız (42) determined the values that national wrestlers gained through sports as self-confidence, adaptation to society, maturation and responsibility. Karakullukcu and Yildiz (25) stated that national boxers gained values such as self-confidence, responsibility, leadership, socialization and protection from bad habits through sports. Gorbenko and Gradusov (18) found that the most important Olympic values are dignity, excellence and friendship. Yıldız and Karakullukçu (44) determined that sport develops values such as social relations, self-confidence, responsibility, and prestige in people. Baştuğ et al. (4) stated that football referees' decision-making skills increased as their self-esteem increased. Aksoy (1) found that

there is a positive and high level relationship between football referees' communication skills and self-confidence. Yıldız and Güven (43) determined that sports improved socialization, self-confidence and responsibility values in the life of national athletes.

The results in the category of personal values can be interpreted as that football referees lead a fit and happy life through regular sports, produce logical ideas, make quick decisions, evaluate life from different perspectives, have an order in their lives and discover their own characteristics. Karakullukcu and Yildiz (25) determined that national boxers gained values such as health, discipline and happiness through sports. Jones and Lavalley (24) found that young athletes considered the discipline value important. Demir (14) stated that football referees made a quick and timely decision by carefully evaluating the alternatives within the framework of the game rules during the decision making process. Yıldız and Karakullukçu (44) determined that professional footballers develop values such as health and discipline in football.

The results in the category of morals values can be explained as that football referees learn to wait quietly in negative conditions, to be attentive and careful, to be close and loyal, to be looked after by others, to stay away from truth, to be moderate and cautious, to be at the same distance for everyone, to understand events with comprehending, to live friendly without leaving truth. Yıldız (42) determined the values that national wrestlers gained through sports as patience, respect, love, equality, empathy, gentlemen and tolerance. Isidori et al. (23) pointed out that refereeing is a process that requires interpretation of the rules of sports within the framework of ethical and moral values and referee training is important. Çiftçi et al. (12) stated that scouting improved their values of love, respect, friendship and tolerance. Yıldız and Karakullukçu (44) found that professional footballers develop values such as respect, tolerance, empathy, patience, friendship and gentlemen in football. Devci (15) determined that football referees behaved ethically while managing the match and that the referees considered the concept of fairness, one of the biggest values of refereeing. Carlsson (8) stated that the rule knowledge of football referees is the most important competence and the morality of the game should be given priority. Karakullukcu and Yildiz (25) found

that national boxers gained values such as gentlemen, respect, empathy, tolerance, and calmness through sports.

In Table 3, the results in the category of beliefs about the opinions of the football referees about the spiritual values that guide them before the competition can be explained as they prayed to God to conduct a good match before the competition, and that they did not distinguish between the two teams by approaching within the framework of rights and law. In addition, it can be interpreted that they feel strong with their mother's prayer, they say "May God give a chance to the referee" and they are motivated by concentrating their attention on the competition. Yıldız and Güven (43) found that one of the important spiritual values that roborant national athletes is religious beliefs. Cruz et al. (10) determined that equality and fairness values are important for male footballers. Yıldız (42) stated that national wrestlers gained equality value in sports.

The results in the culture category can be explained as that football referees are prepared for the competition by thinking about the people who have blood ties or cognate, and that they are motivated by the power of football game rules, they trust the moral infrastructure in their characters and they care about social values. Yıldız (42) stated that sports gained human values that are accepted in the society and tried to be taught to individuals from a young age, and determined that the family is an important value for national wrestlers. Yıldız and Güven (43) found that family and loved ones are an important spiritual value for national athletes.

In Table 4, the results in the extraversion category regarding the opinions of football referees about what character should be in order to be a good football referee can be explained as being capable of human relations, welcoming people by being sincere, exemplary with their behavior and success. It can also be said to have character features that use body language, which is an effective way of nonverbal communication, and expresses thoughts, feelings clearly. Demir (14) stated that football referees are generally social people who like to talk to people, enterprising and do not like loneliness. Kasımoğlu (26) determined that the communication and body language training program applied to football referees is effective in terms of trust, mental endurance, communication and problem solving skills of referees.

The results in the sensing category can be explained as that can predict what will happen in the future, believe and give confidence, be careful and alert, have seen and experienced, and believe that they can control themselves and events. Gülle et al. (21) found that football referees have high self-confidence in decision making. Çimen (13) determined that self-confidence is the most important feature of football referees, and the referees with low self-confidence can experience situations such as intense stress, anxiety, lack of motivation and wrong decision making in the competition environment. It can be said that the pressure put on the referees by the players, coaches and spectators reduces their self-confidence and causes the matches they manage under stress to make wrong decisions. There are researches supporting this interpretation (17, 34).

The results in the category of thinking can be explained as that act in accordance with the rules, without leaving fairness and justice, making quick and correct decisions, and not making wrong decisions under pressure. In addition, it can be interpreted as that use the ability of intelligence and thinking for the purposes of their profession, take into account criticisms and use them for their professional development, and look after everyone rights. Bailey (3) determined that sports have important and decisive contributions to lifestyle, social skills and social behavior development. Contrary to the findings of the research, there are studies regarding the support of the host team or the crowd noise (19, 39), personal and social factors (6), exposure to violence (27) negatively affect the performance of football referees.

The results in the feeling category can be explained as not having great respect for someone without fail, doing referee love and willingness, understanding someone else's feelings, tending to understand events with comprehending. On the other hand, it can be interpreted as making self-sacrifice for a purpose, trying to do the refereeing thoroughly, controlling its behavior by controlling its nerves, acting with open heartedness, overcome his ego, not spending time with gossip, trying to help people. Albayrak (2) determined that the skills of football referees that they developed in referee positively affect their performance and that their refereeing gave them privilege.

The findings in the judging category can be explained as making decisions without fear, being cool, organized, zealous and determined in his life, using his power and authority, determined and without definitive provisions. Guillen and Feltz (20) stated that an ideal football referee should be consistent, determined, equal, honest, calm, reassuring, besides following the rules of football play.

As a result of the research, various values were reached in social, personal, morals, belief, culture, extraversion, sensing, thinking, feeling, judging categories. In future researches, it is recommended to investigate the values of the referees in the other branches of the team sports and the individual branches through quantitative and qualitative methods.

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