

## OPINION

by Associate Professor **Silvana Venelinova Boeva, PhD**

**Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**

on a dissertation thesis for the acquisition the educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**"

in the Higher education area **1. Pedagogical sciences**

Professional field **1.3. Pedagogy of training in:**

Doctoral program "**Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports**"

**Author: Assistant Georgi Nikolov Kabakov**

**Topic:** "Optimisation of Psychophysical Training of the Football Referee"

**Scientific supervisor:** Prof. Veselin Zhelyazkov Margaritov, PhD

### **1. Overview of the procedure and the doctoral student**

#### *Presentation of the procedure*

By order No. ПД-21-2093 dated 13.12.2022 of the Rector of Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv (PU) I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury to hold a procedure for the defense of a dissertation thesis on the topic "**Optimisation of Psychophysical Training of the Football Referee**", for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the higher education area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Training in: doctoral program "Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports".

During the first meeting, held on 20.12.2022, the scientific jury accepted the competition documents. In the same event, I was appointed to prepare an opinion.

The set of materials presented to me by Assistant Georgi Nikolov Kabakov are in accordance with the regulatory requirements specified in Art. 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU, which allows for a credible assessment of the results achieved by him. The following documents are included:

- a request to the Rector of PU to open the procedure for the defense of a dissertation thesis;

– curriculum vitae in EU format;

– minutes from the Department Council reporting the readiness to open the procedure and preliminary discussion of the dissertation work;

– dissertation thesis;

– abstract;

– a list of scientific publications on the subject of the dissertation;

– copies of scientific publications;

- declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;

- a certificate of compliance with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Education

The doctoral student has included 4 publications related to the subject of the dissertation. Three of them are independent and one is co-authored.

### ***Brief biographical notes of the PhD student***

Ass. Georgi Nikolov Kabakov received the educational and qualification degree "Professional Bachelor" in Business Administration at the European College of Economics and Management, Plovdiv in 2010. In 2018, he obtained a Bachelor's degree at PU, majoring in "Pedagogy of Physical Education" and in 2019, again at PU, a Master's degree in MA Program: "Sports at School".

Georgi Nikolov Kabakov started working at the Department of Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports of PU in 2020. In the same year, he was enrolled as a doctoral student in an independent form of preparation at the same department.

Ass. Georgi Nikolov Kabakov achieved considerable success in the field of football refereeing. He began his development in this field in 2001, and since 2013 he has been an international football referee. In 2015 and 2021 he was elected the best referee in the country.

## **2. Relevance of the topic**

The social and economic importance of modern sport increases the interest towards its manifestation and functioning, especially at the level of its professional dimension. The football game, as one of the most popular sports, is distinguished by high demands on all participants on the pitch. The players and the coach are not the only main actors. Football referees play a major role in the successful implementation of a fair, equal and attractive game ensuring a full-scale performance of the players. This places high demands on their training.

The topic of the thesis submitted for defense by Assistant Georgi Nikolov Kabakov is dedicated to this relevant and significant issue for the sports practice. Its solution would be of practical significance.

## **3. Knowledge of the subject**

The PhD student has many years of experience in various levels of football refereeing. His extensive experience and high professionalism in this field undoubtedly benefit the thesis.

The author has successfully combined the competences and practical skills as a football referee with the broad theoretical justification of the subject. It is presented in a comprehensive and multifaceted manner, which is a good prerequisite for qualitative development of the dissertation work.

## **4. Methodology of Research**

The research methodology chosen by the doctoral student allows him to solve the set tasks and prove the hypothesis of the scientific work.

A complex of established and proven research methods was used, which include: theoretical and comparative analysis, survey method, anthropometric method, pedagogical observation, pedagogical testing, pedagogical experiment and mathematical-statistical methods.

## **5. Characterisation and evaluation of the dissertation work and its contributions**

The dissertation work developed by Assistant Georgi Nikolov Kabakov is in accordance with the classical structure for a similar type of scientific research in the field of physical education and sports. It contains an introduction, four chapters, a reference list and 7 appendices. The work is presented in a volume of 175 pages (144 pages of body text and 31 pages of appendices), which include 97 figures and 45 tables. Of the literary sources used, 163 are in Cyrillic, 72 in Latin and 16 refer to information originating from the Internet. Regarding what has been established, there is a minor discrepancy with what the author stated on page 54.

In the course of 5 paragraphs, in the **first chapter**, a literary analysis is carried out. Referring to a significant number of domestic and foreign authors, the doctoral student examines three basic aspects of the football referee preparation - physical, mental and psychophysical. They are analysed on the basis of the historical development of the football game and football refereeing.

This extensive bibliography list refers not only to fundamental literary sources, but also to new publications which directly relate to the research topic. This part of the dissertation work is sufficient in volume (48 pages) and provides an adequate theoretical basis for developing the research paper.

In the **second chapter** of the dissertation, methodological issues related to the research design are discussed. It forms 15 pages.

The purpose and tasks (6 in number) are well formulated and meet the requirements for the development of a dissertation work.

The proposed methodological toolkit is abundant and adequate for the needs of the research. The methods used are correctly described and well illustrated. Contemporary tests for the control of physical fitness in line with world practice are included.

A separate paragraph is devoted to the organisation of the study. It is presented clearly and concisely.

The **third chapter** is dedicated to the analysis and interpretation of the results of the experiment.

The results obtained in the course of the research activity are subjected to correct mathematical and statistical processing.

The answers received from the survey categorically prove the necessity of the conducted study, as well as the benefits of the experimental models applied in practice. Some weak points in the current practice have been established through it.

In this part of the dissertation, the competently performed analysis of the results obtained in the various tests is noticeable.

Precisely defined **conclusions and recommendations** correctly reflect the results achieved in the course of the dissertation research. They make clearly visible not only Ass. Georgi Nikolov Kabakov's ability for analytical work, but also his extensive practical experience in the field of football refereeing.

The credibility of the dissertation reviewed allows me to draw the following contributions to theory and practice:

1. An up-to-date and practically important issue related to the effective psychophysical training of football referees has been investigated.
2. Training models and means for physical, mental and psychophysical training of football referees have been created and experimentally studied.
3. Specific components of mental training for football referees and assistant referees are derived.
4. The applied models for complex training of football referees, due to their effectiveness proven during the study, could be implemented in practice.

I would like to make a remark on the technical layout of this part of the dissertation - the author's contribution statement should be placed after the overall presentation of the dissertation work.

## **6. Assessment of the publications and the personal contribution of the doctoral student**

Of the four publications submitted, Ass. Georgi Nikolov Kabakov is the sole author of three, and one of them is co-authored. Each one of the mentioned is related to the topic of the dissertation thesis and is related to separate stages of the research work.

I have no doubt that the texts, the empirical research, the interpretation of the results and the outlined contributions to the dissertation paper are personal work of the PhD student.

## **7. Abstract**

The abstract adequately reproduces the content of the dissertation. It is presented in a clear and concise manner and is well illustrated with tables and diagrams. In terms of volume and structure, it is elaborated according to the set standards.

## CONCLUSION

The dissertation thesis **contains practically applicable results with their original contribution and significance** for the realisation of the psychophysical training of referees and assistant referees in football and meet all the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (DASA), the Regulations for the Implementation of DASA and the relevant Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. The submitted materials and dissertation results **fully correspond to the specific requirements** of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Regulations of PU for the application of DASA. Assistant Georgi Nikolov Kabakov **possesses** the necessary theoretical knowledge and practical experience, as well as skills for independent implementation of research activities. The above is clearly evident from the dissertation submitted for review and the scientific publications of the doctoral student. I have not found any texts with signs of plagiarism in the dissertation work.

On the basis of the above, I give my **positive assessment** and propose to the honorable scientific jury **to award the scientific and educational degree "Doctor"** to Assistant Georgi Nikolov Kabakov in the area of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field: 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... Doctoral program "Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sport".

**02.01. 2023**

**Author of the opinion:.....**

**/Assoc. Prof. Silvana Boeva, PhD/**