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OP. 158 INVESTIGATION OF CHANGES IN OFFICIAL GAME RULES OF VOLLEYBALL USING THE METHOD OF DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

Eren Uluöz[1], İsmail Kalleci [1], Dilek Sevimli [1]

[1] Çukurova University School of Physical Education and Sports

Abstract

Aim: Volleyball is a sport branch which is being participating by millions of people around the world in recreational, amateur and professional purposes. The changes which made in the official game rules of the sport of volleyball affect the structure and participants directly. The purpose of this study is to determine the main changes in the official game rules in recent years.

Methods: The document analysis method which is one of the qualitative research methods and based on examining existing records and documents and collecting data was used in this study. "Official Volleyball Rules" books which is being issued periodically by the FIVB (World Volleyball Federation) is used as the main source of research. In the study, changes in the basic rules is identified according to the subjects by examining these official rules books and managed to determine that changes focused in which subjects in the light of the findings.

Results: : When the changes in the official Volleyball game rules examined, this has been observed the changes aimed at making improvements in some of the main issues. These changes can be classifies as changes for improving the fluidity of the game, for the improvement of the pleasure cruise, for the protection of athletes' health and changes for easing TV broadcasts. The changes as "Switching system from service pass system to errors/number (rally point) system" (Tokyo, 1998), "Using of Libero player" (Tokyo, 1998), "Using every point of body at ball touch" (Athens 1994), "Pasing to foreign competitors area below the net", "touching other areas of the net at outside of upper band outside", "the tolerance for the fault at first ball meeting" (Athens, 1994) "expansion of service area" (Athens, 1994)," improvements made in the used materials and ground" is seen as fundamental rule changes to improve the game's fluidity. The main changes which is made to protect athletes' health, are thought to be changes such as installation protective barrier to the poles, to dry wet ground soon (FIVB, 1994), to give technical break, to pass to the rally point system (Tokyo, 1998), to use knee pads protective materials, lighting and ambient temperature standardization etc... Volleyball is one of a small number team sports which is finishing time of competition is not clear. In prior periods, broadcasters were seem as they were reluctant to broadcast competitions because of that some long competitions could may hinder their broadcast stream. With transition to Rally point system, times of competitions which were lasting 3-4 hour decreased to more predictable and occur periods and hitches which makes broadcasters reluctant about broadcast the competition, were largely prevented.

Conclusions: Volleyball is becoming to be a popular sport which its audience and participants are increasing and becoming pleasurable to watch day by day with the rule changes. At the same time, there has been an increase in TV broadcasting. With these positive developments, athletes and coaches are suggesting some issues can be subjected in further studies as some changes as the "flexibility at contact(net) and passing to the opponents" could increase the game's fluency but as well as cause some sports injuries.

Keywords: Volleyball, Official Game Rules, Rule Changes