

## Football and Aggressiveness According To the Gender

Fairouz Azaiez<sup>1, 2</sup>, Nasr Chalghaf<sup>3</sup>, Kais Ghattassi<sup>4</sup>, Karim Achour,  
<sup>5</sup>Abdelhakim Cherif

<sup>1</sup>Higher institute of Sport and the Physical Education of Sfax (Tunisia)

<sup>2</sup>Studies Group of Development and Social Environment (Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences of Sfax)

---

### Abstract

---

Aggressiveness has a close connection with the sport. It is an essential element of the success and correct operation of the play (the performance increases, makes it possible to the player to be respected). Football is generally aggregate with values of integration and socialization (Gasparini & Vieille- Marchiset, 2008). However, from the actions of violence and aggressiveness come to deteriorate this image. The demonstrations of aggressiveness and their effects on the violence of contact do not leave unconscious the players or of their frustration of Ego They subject to the features internal logic which is related to space interactional of the activity (violence of confrontation, distance from load and against communication). The purpose of this study is to measure the influence of the kind on the aggressive behavior (verbal aggressiveness, physical aggressiveness, anger and hostility) in football. A psychometric measure of aggressiveness (the Aggression Questionnaire of Buss and Perry, 1992) was proposed on 244 subjects. Our assumption is that the men footballers present aggressive provisions significantly higher than those of the football women in the field of physical aggressiveness, verbal aggressiveness, anger and the hostility. The results of the study reveal significant differences between the football men and the football women ones on the level of total aggressiveness.

**Key Words :** Aggressiveness, gender, football.

---

Date Of Submission: 20 march 2013



Date Of Publication: 20, April.2013

---

### I. INTRODUCTION

Aggressiveness is the attack by words or acts in order to express its hostility with regard to others (Agrapart-Delmas, 2003). Inspired by work of Freud (1992), aggressiveness is directly related on the frustration, the anger and the hostility which are supposed like precursors of the aggression (Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer & Sears (1939), Spielberg, Howels, Drew & Day, (1985). However, from the many aggressive acts do not result from an frustration-aggression but are acquired by social experiment and depend on the cognitive evaluations of the individual (Bandura, 1973, 1980 & Berkowitz, 1993). Montmolin (1977), explains aggressiveness in terms of relations of the man with his environment.

Aggressiveness and the sport are closely bound, one cannot require of the sport to be more moral than the company (Play, 1973, 1992). This bond is explained in particular by the fact why in the beginning of the sports were regarded as a codified form of the plays traditional violent ones (Elias, 1975, 1976). Some suppose that the sport makes it possible to channel aggressiveness (Reynes & Lorant, 2003; Krouwel, Boonstra, Duyvendak & Veldboer, 2006), for others, it is quite simply about a disguised demonstration of aggressiveness (Santschi, 1985). Luc Collard (2004, 2008) speaks about driving aggressiveness which is in his opinion an essential element of the success and correct operation of the play Indeed, if the sport learns how to the child to act within the limits of a rule , very often it is also learned him how to develop the strategies of violation of this rule (Durand, 1987; Rauch, 1974; Santschi, 1985) what contributes without any doubt to the development of a certain permissiveness with respect to the rule . Also a certain tolerance with regard to the violation of the rule and the aggression in its instrumental component.

The demonstrations of aggressiveness and their effects on the violence of contact do not leave unconscious of the players or their painful past (Freud S., 1913; Winnicott, 1975: they subject to the features internal logic which is related to space interactionnel of the activity (violence of confrontation, distance from load, against communication...) (Parlebas, 1982, 1986). These acts or these aggressive expressions are some behaviors added again to the action, where is a transgression of the rules (not ritualized aggressions or extra-sportsmen) of the considered activity (Pilz, Schilling & Voigt, 1974; Tenenbaum, Stewart, Singer & Duda 1997).

However, indeed, the sporting practices offer among boys to a desire of achievement, of search of reward, domination of the other whereas for the girls they would fulfill a function before very ludic dominated by research of pleasure and affiliation (Coulomb, Rascle and Pfister, 1999; Flood & Hellstedt, 1991; Gill, Gross & Huddleston, 1983; Sabatier and Pfister, 1995; Tappe, Duda & Menges-Ehrwald, 1991). However, for (Lenzi, Bianco, Milazzo, Placidi & Castrogiovanni (1997)), the adhesion of the woman to sports known as masculin activity or known as aggressive would take part of the search place of expression of behaviors in rupture with the behaviors usually attached to their sexual statute. Whereas the boys would come on the contrary to seek in these activities a sexual statute (what is completely compatible with the search of achievement and reward (Maccoby & Jacklin, 1974; Mennesson, 2000).

The purpose of this study is to measure the influence of the kind on the aggressive behavior (verbal aggressiveness, physical aggressiveness, anger and hostility) in football. The men footballers present aggressive provisions significantly higher than women footballers in the field of physical aggressiveness, verbal aggressiveness, anger and the hostility (Eagly & Steffen, 1986).

## II. METHOD

### 2.1 Subjects

Two hundred and forty four Tunisian footballers took part voluntarily in the study. They all were of the licensed footballers pertaining to professional clubs of the national (A), national (b) and national (C). 122 football men (mean age  $23,4 \pm 2.32$ ) and 122 football women (mean age  $20,7 \pm 2.60$ ).

### 2.2 Measures

The questionnaire used in our study of aggressiveness entitled "Aggression Questionnaire" of Buss and Perry (1992) to appreciate the aggressiveness and the maitrise of the anger of the football players. This Questionnaire constituted of 29 items is a form revised and adapted to the current psychometric requirements of " Buss-Durkee Hostility inventory" (Buss & Durkee, 1957). It comprises four scales, aggressiveness physical (9 items), verbal aggressiveness (5 items), anger (7 items) & hostility (8 items).

## III. RESULT

The presented results indicate that the rating scale of aggressiveness (QA), has a satisfactory internal consistency with a coefficient alpha of  $\alpha = 0,857$  for the whole of the items.

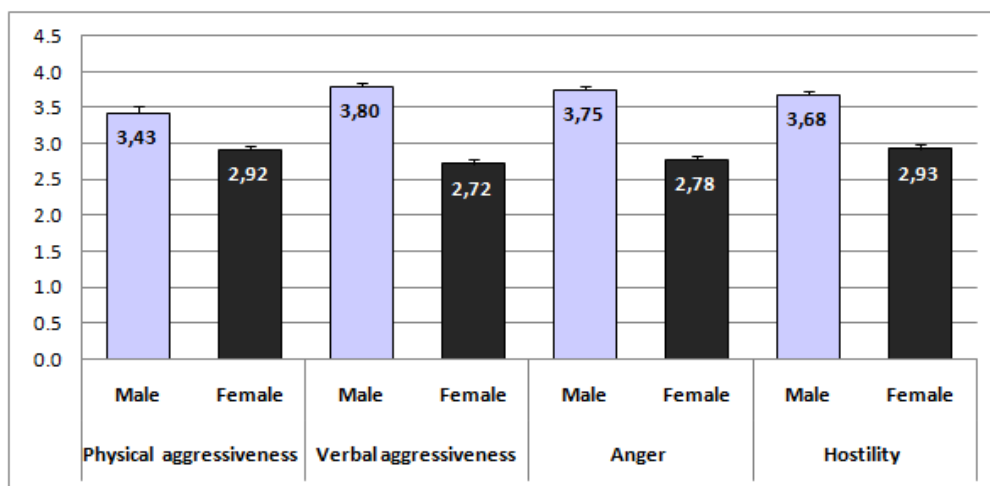


Fig 1: Types of aggressiveness and gender

As regards total aggressiveness (physical aggressiveness, verbal aggressiveness, anger and hostility), the men practise football have scores higher than those of the football women (2.83 vs 2.66;  $F = 234.697$  with  $p < 001$ ). The footballer men obtain a higher average score on a physical aggression scale than footballer women (3.43 vs 2.92;  $F = 23.971$  with  $p < 0.001$ ). Also, the men have an average score more raised than women on Verbal Agression scale (3.80 vs 2.78;  $F = 194.559$  with  $p < 0.001$ ). These differences man-women are also observed on the scale of the Hostility (3.68 vs 2.93;  $F = 77.444$  with  $p < 0.001$ ) and in the Anger scale (3.75 vs 2.93;  $F = 170.332$  with  $p < 0.001$ ) where men have usually higher scores than women . (Fig 1).

#### IV. DISCUSSION

The results of the various statistical analyses carried out near the sample of the footballers reveal that psychomotor qualities of the original version of the questionnaire of aggressiveness Buss and Perry (1992) are preserved in the French version (Jung and Al 2000). Univariate variance analyzes (Anova) carried out on the 4 items (physical aggressiveness, verbal aggressiveness, anger and hostility) and the total score of the French version of the questionnaire of aggressiveness, according to the kind, made it possible to specify that the footballers different significantly from women footballers on the level from total aggressiveness (Eagly & Steffen, 1986; Pfister, 1995; Maccoby & Jacklin, 1974) These authors showed that the men generally have a level of aggressiveness higher than the women. Bredemeier, 1994, confirm the idea that the men are generally distinguished as more aggressive than the women when in their self evaluation, that it is in the sporting context or the everyday life. This difference is not simply due to biological factors. It is largely reinforced by social and cultural conditions. The sport which is historically created by the men and for the men, to affirm the values of a conquering, dominating and aggressive masculinity, takes part in such conditions (Coulomb, Rasclé and Pfister, 1999; Flood & Hellstedt, 1991; Gill, Gross & Huddleston, 1983; Sabatier and Pfister, 1995; Tappe, Duda & Menges-Ehrwald, 1991).

The difference of the aggressive behavior (physical aggressiveness, aggressiveness verbal, anger and hostility) of the men and the women practice football is significant. This difference man-women agrees with Buss and Perry (1992) that physical aggressiveness is higher at the men than women. However, there are not differences for the hostility, which many other authors generally said, also for verbal aggressiveness, result found by Bernstein & Gesn (1997). Though about anger, the women have higher scores than men (Archer and Al, 1995; Meesters and Al, 1996). This difference can be related either to a difference of social status granted to the male behavior present in football or at a cultural difference between the occident and the arabo-Moslem society women.

#### V. CONCLUSION

The collective sports represent a particularly relevant field of observation for those who are interested in the problems of the aggression. However starting from the observed results, we can conclude that the footballer men will have scores significantly more raised than footballer women with the total score of the questionnaire of aggressiveness. Finally, and in spite of the possible limits as well theoretical as methodological which can be raised. The aggressiveness which is played on a football field is not mainly what express the majority of the ethnologists or psychologists, it is the result of emotional provisions or mental predispositions but rather the consequence of a sporting logic (violence of confrontation, distance from load, outdistances of guard and against communication) and the expression of a body of rules (Collard, 2004, 2008; Oboeuf & Collard, 2008). The conclusions of this work encourage us nevertheless to regard this one as a starting point in the construction of a more elaborate knowledge of the behaviors of aggression in practice of football.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Agrapat-Demas, M., (2001). De l'expertise criminelle au profilage, Témoignage d'une psychocriminologue sur la piste des grands meurtriers et en guerre contre les pseudo-profilers.
- [2] Archer, J., Kilpatrick, G., & Bramwell, R. (1995). Comparison of two aggression inventories. *Aggressive Behavior*, 21, 371-380.
- [3] Bandura, A. (1973). Social learning theory of aggression. In J. F. Knutson (Ed.), *The control of aggression: Implications from basic research*. Chicago: Aldine.
- [4] Bandura, A. (1980). *L'apprentissage social*. Liège : Mardaga.
- [5] Berkowitz, L. (1993). *Aggression: Its causes, consequences, and control*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- [6] Bernstein, I.H., & Gesn, P.R. (1997). On dimensionality of the Buss/Perry Aggression Questionnaire. *Behavior Research and Therapy*, 35, 563-568.
- [7] Bredemeier, B.J. (1994). A child's moral Reasoning and their assertive, aggressive and submissive tendencies in sport and daily life. *Journal of sport and exercise psychology*, 16: 1-14.
- [8] Buss, A.H., & Durkee, A. (1957). An inventory for assessing different kinds of hostility. *Journal of Consulting Psychology*, 21, 343-349.
- [9] Buss, A.H., & Perry, M. (1992). The Aggression Questionnaire. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 63, 452-459.
- [10] Collard, L. (2004). *Sport & agressivité*, Méolans-Revel : DésIris, 237.
- [11] Collard, L. (2008). Unfair sporting games and motor aggressiveness, *Mathematics and Social Sciences*, n° 182, p. 34-46.
- [12] Coulomb, G., Rasclé, O. et Pfister, R. (1999). Comportements d'agression et motifs de participation en sport collectif : influence du sexe et du type de pratique. *STAPS*, 49, 33- 46.
- [13] Dollard, J., Doob, L., Miller, N., Mowrer, O. et Sears, R. (1939). *Frustration and Agression*, New Haven, Yale University Press.
- [14] Durand, M. (1987). *L'enfant et le sport*. Paris: PUF.
- [15] Eagly, A.H., & Steffen, V.J. (1986). Gender and aggressive behavior: A meta-analytic review of the social psychological literature. *Psychological Bulletin*, 100: 309-330.
- [16] Elias, N. (1975). *La dynamique de l'Occident*. Paris: Calmann-Levy. (Edition originale: 1939).
- [17] Elias, N. (1976). *La civilisation des mœurs*, Paris, Press Pocket.
- [18] Flood, S.E. & Hellstedt, J.C. (1991). Gender differences in motivation for intercollegiate athletic participation. *Journal of Sport Behavior*, 14 (3), 159-167.
- [19] Freud, S. (1992)- *La vie sexuelle* - Editions PUF, 9ème éditions.
- [20] Freud, S. (1913). Totem et tabou, dans *Œuvres complètes*, Paris Payot.

- [21] Gasparini, W. & Vieille Marchiset, G. (2008). Le sport dans les quartiers. Pratiques sociales et politiques publiques, PUF, coll. « Pratiques physiques et Société ».
- [22] Gill, D.L., Gross, J.B., Huddleston, S. (1983). Participation motivation in youth sports. *International Journal of Sport Psychology*, 14, 1-14.
- [23] Jeu, B. & al., (1992). -L'histoire en mouvements, le sport dans la société française (XIXè - XXè siècle) -Editions Armand Colin.
- [24] Jeu, B. (1973). Le sport, la mort, la violence, Editions Universitaires, Paris.
- [25] Jung, J., Crémieux, J., & Pfister, R. (2000). Elaboration et validation d'un questionnaire d'agressivité instrumentale et émotionnelle. Congrès international de la SFPS. Paris, INSEP.
- [26] André Krouwel, Nanne Boonstra, Jan Willem Duyvendak and Lex Veldboer. A Good Sport?: Research into the Capacity of Recreational Sport to Integrate Dutch Minorities. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* June 2006 41: 165-180.
- [27] Lenzi, A., Bianco, I., Milazzo, V., Placidi, G.F. & Castrogiovanni, P. (1997). Comparison of aggressive behavior between men and women in sport. *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, 84 (1), 139 -145.
- [28] Maccoby, E., & Jacklin, C. (1974). The psychology of sex differences. Stanford: University Press.
- [29] Meesters, C.M.G., Muris, P., Bosma, H., Schouten, E., & Beuving, S. (1996). Psychometric evaluation of the Dutch version of the Aggression Questionnaire. *Behavior Research and Therapy*, 34, 839-843.
- [30] Mennesson, C. (2000). « Hard » women and « soft » women: the social construction of identities among female boxers. *International Review For the Sociology of Sport*, 35, 21-35.
- [31] Montmollin, G. (1977). L'influence sociale, Paris, PUF.
- [32] Oboeuf, A., Collard, L. (2008). Agressivité motrice. *Habitudes et transferts dans trois sports collectif*, Sociologos, 3, sociologos.revues.org/
- [33] Parlebas, P. (1981). Contribution à un lexique commenté en science de l'action motrice. Paris, INSEP.
- [34] Parlebas, P. (1986). *Eléments de sociologie du sport*, Editions PUF.
- [35] Pilz, G., Schilling, G., Voigt, H. (1974). Wechen Beitrag vermag die sport psychologie zur aggressions forschung zu leiten ? Basel : Birkhauser Verlag, 83-113
- [36] Rauch, A. (1974). Corps et agressivité. *Bulletin de Psychologie*, 314, 89-100.
- [37] Reynes, E. & Lorant J. (2003). Judo, agressivité et maîtrise de la colère : étude longitudinale chez des enfants de 8 ans, *De Boeck Supérieur*, Staps, 2003/1 no 60, p. 93-105.
- [38] Sabatier, C. et Pfister, R. (1995). Transgression des règles par l'enfant dans la pratique du handball en milieu scolaire. *STAPS*, 36, 45-55.
- [39] Santschi, A. (1985). Le combat ritualisé dans le sport un moyen de contrôler son agressivité ? Réponse donnée par le judo. *Macolin*, 2: 4-7.
- [40] Spielberger, C., Howels, K., Drew, N. et Day, A. (1985). The expérience and expression of anger : construction and validation of an anger expression scale, in *Ager and hostility in cardiovascular and behavioral disorders*, pp.5-30, sous la direction de M.A. Chesney and R.H. Rosenman, Hemosphere, Mc Graw-Hill.
- [41] Tapp, M.K., Duda, J.L. & Menges-Ehrwald, P. (1990). Personal investment predictors of adolescent motivational orientation toward exercise. *Canadian Journal of Sport Sciences*, 15 (3), 185-192.
- [42] Tenenbaum, G., Stewart, E., Singer, R.N. & Duda, J.L. (1997). Aggression and violence in sport: an ISSP position stand, *The Sport Psychologist*, 11(1), 1 - 7. *Violence and Victims*, 19: 689-700.
- [43] Winnicott, D.W. (1975). *Jeu et réalité*, Editions, Gallimard. Col. Folio essais.