

FAIR PLAY CONSCIOUSNESS OF JAPANESE YOUTH FOOTBALL PLAYERS

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Introduction

Fair Play is an important concept in sports. For instance, “Not Cricket” is an English idiom that means unfair conduct is not good sportsmanship. Since 2003, FIFA started many fair play events, such as international fair play day, public relations using the fair play logo and so on. Similarly the Japan Football Association created a set of behavior norms including a fair play norm. How should we interpret these phenomena? One opinion is football makes fair players. The other one is football has made unfair players. The purpose of this study was to investigate the fair play consciousness of Japanese youth football players.

Methods

We analyzed the fair play consciousness of high school football players in Miyagi prefecture sample of 303 respondents investigated by questionnaire in 2010. The questionnaire was inquiring about fair play consciousness and experience of football. The former was using a Likert type five scale from Strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree and Strongly Disagree, which was then coded from 5 to 1. The latter consisted five items, career, play level of present and past, frequency of game entry and position.

Result

The first point we considered was the fair play consciousness level of the examinee. As a result, the mean point of “fair play” was 3.57 (S.D. = 0.99). Moreover no one selected “fair play” as the most important point of playing football, while 38.9% selected “enjoy”, 30.5% selected “best” and 25.8% selected “victory”. (See table 1) Next, we examined the effect of

Table 1. Importance of Fair Play

| | Five Likert score | | Most important |
|------------------|-------------------|------|----------------|
| | Mean | S.D. | (%) |
| Fair Play | 3.57 | 0.99 | 0.0 |
| Victory | 4.02 | 0.97 | 25.8 |
| Best | 4.40 | 0.72 | 30.5 |
| Enjoy | 4.45 | 0.74 | 38.7 |
| | | | (Others) 5.0 |
| | | | 100.0 |

football experience for fair play. It was found the long term and high level experience of football affected increased one’s ability to accept unfair play. Meanwhile the experience of frequent entry into the games affected them to believe of football as a fair play game.

Discussion & Conclusion

We found out many experiences of football affect youth football players to accept unfair play. But responsible experiences of the team affect them to increase fair play consciousness. The study concludes that the youth players should be organized to have more opportunities to think about fair play.

References

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