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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DIMENSIONS AND SUB-DIMENSIONS OF YOUNG BASKETBALL PLAYERS' PERSONALITIES

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KEY WORDS: Personality, Big-Five model, young players, basketball

ABSTRACT: The aim of the present work is to assess the personality traits of young basketball players aged 16-18 years (n=186) through the description of the dimensions and sub-dimension from the Big Five Questionnaire (BFQ) regarding personality. This was a non-experimental study in which a descriptive transversal design was used. The results that were obtained indicate the players in the selected sample are characterized as people who are: a) moderately dynamic, extraverted and dominant; b) moderately altruistic, understanding and tolerant; c) moderately responsible, orderly, and diligent; d) moderately balanced, calm, patient, and able to manage their emotions moderately well; and e) rather uncreative, unimaginative, and not well informed.

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Introduction

The predominant studies over the last two decades dealing mainly with the study of personality both in the athletic environment (Arbinaga & Caracuel, 2008; Bilalic, McLeold & Gobet, 2007; Goma & Puyane, 1991; Guillén & Castro, 1994; Hoyt, Rhodes, Hausenblas, & Giacobbi, 2009; Katjna, Tusak, Baric, & Burnick, 2004; Piedmon, Hill & Blanco, 1999; Ruiz, 2005, 2007, 2008; Trinic, Barancic & Nazor, 2008) and outside of sport, such as psychology in organizations (Barrick & Mount, 1991; Hartmann & Grønnerød, 2009; Tett, Jackson & Roshtein, 1991), psychology in education (Graciano & Ward, 1992; Parker & Stumpf, 1998), and clinical psychology (Costa & McRae, 1990), coincide on the Big Five Personality factors. To measure these factors, the NEO model – the five-factor Personality Inventory (NEO-PI) by Costa and McRae (1992) and the Big Five questionnaire of personality (BFQ) by Caprara, Barbaranelli, Borgogni and Perugini (1993) have primarily been applied. According to Bermúdez (1995), the “Big Five” have been established as the appropriate and integrating structure to describe personality in “natural” language in the context of personality questionnaires.

In this sense, and taking the aforementioned studies and others in which basketball players' characteristics have been studied as references (Gattás, Sapião & Guillén, 2004; Stoll, Lau & Stoeber, 2008), the aim of the present work was to assess the personality traits of young basketball players (16-18 years of age) through the description of the dimensions and sub-dimensions of the BFQ personality questionnaire (Bermúdez, 1995).

Method

The sample was composed of the 186 basketball players who participated in the Andalucía Junior Basketball Championship (16-18 years of age) during the 2008-2009 season and who were selected through an intentional sampling. They belonged to 16 teams, two from each of the eight provinces of the region. The instrument used in this study was the Spanish adaptation (Bermúdez, 1995) of Caprara et al.'s (1993) “BFQ personality questionnaire”. The test consists of 5 dimensions and a distortion (D) scale. Each dimension is divided into two sub-dimensions as done by Ruiz (2005):

Energy (E): similar to the concept of Extraversion (McRae & Costa, 1987). This refers to sociability, the tendency to seek out the company of others, daringness in social situations, etc. Its two sub dimensions are: Dynamism (Di), understood as conduct related to behavioural energy and enthusiasm, and Dominance (Do), referring to the capacity to excel and to influence others.

Agreeableness (A): this refers to affability. The two sub-dimensions are: Cooperation/Empathy (Cp), which measures the capacity to put oneself in the other's position and to establish cooperation with him/her, and Cordialness/friendliness (Co), which measures aspects related to confidence and openness to others.

Conscientiousness (Con): this dimension seeks to measure the capacity for self-discipline, acting dutifully, and with planning. The sub-dimensions are: Scrupulousness (S), which measures aspects relating to reliability, meticulousness, and a desire for order and Perseverance (Pe), which measures aspects related to persistence and tenacity.

Emotional Stability (ES): this is the

opposite of neuroticism. It is divided into Control of the Emotions (Ce), referring to the control of states of tension in a specific situation perceived as stressful, and in Control of Impulses (Ci), which seeks to measure those aspects most related to the control of one's own behaviour, even in dangerous situations.

Openness (O): this is defined as the subject's culture and intellectual appreciation. The sub dimensions are: Openness to culture (Oc) which tries to measure interest in information, reading and acquisition of new knowledge, and Openness to Experience (Oe), which measures the subject's capacity for varied perspectives and openness to diverse values, styles and modes of life (Ruiz, 2005).

We carried out a non-experimental study using a transversal descriptive design in which the personality traits of junior basketball players (16-18 years of age) were examined. The questionnaire was distributed to all players before each team played its first match in the championship. An analysis of descriptive measures was done (means,

standard deviations and variance) for the scores obtained in the dimensions and sub-dimensions. The BFQ scale was used to interpret the empirical results of the dimensions and sub-dimensions (Bermúdez, 1995) and the interpretation was made by means of adjectives.

Results

The descriptive values of the dimensions and sub-dimensions that were analyzed are presented in Table 1.

Discussion and Conclusions

The results that were obtained, after making the corresponding adaptations to the BFQ scale, demonstrate that the players from the chosen sample present intermediate values for the following dimensions: Energy (E), Agreeableness (A), Conscientiousness (C) and Emotional Stability (ES), as well as their corresponding sub-dimensions. This indicates

BFQ Questionnaire	M	SD	Variance	Minimum	Maximum	Kurtosis	Standard Error
E	78.69	9.36	87.63	56	107	0.444	0.355
Di	40.03	5.18	26.81	28	55	0.424	0.355
Do	38.66	5.69	32.35	25	56	0.054	0.355
A	77.68	8.96	80.27	39	105	2.011	0.355
Cp	39.67	6.00	36.03	16	55	1.382	0.355
Co	38.01	4.60	21.15	23	51	0.855	0.355
Con	77.74	8.19	67.12	50	106	1.212	0.355
S	37.62	5.34	28.56	18	52	1.128	0.355
Pe	40.16	5.98	35.73	27	56	-0.162	0.355
ES	71.61	9.56	91.36	48	92	-0.540	0.355
Ce	36.86	4.97	24.68	26	50	-0.606	0.355
Ci	34.75	6.71	45.02	17	51	-0.089	0.355
O	76.06	8.30	68.82	52	99	0.726	0.355
Oc	37.04	5.44	29.63	24	49	-0.128	0.355
Oe	38.98	4.84	23.41	26	54	0.391	0.355
D	30.78	5.56	30.91	13	49	0.600	0.355

Table 1.- Descriptive measures of the BFQ dimensions and sub-dimensions for young basketball players (n=186)..

that these subjects are: a) moderately dynamic, extraverted and dominant, active and with a certain assertiveness; b) moderately altruistic, understanding and tolerant, friendly and usually cooperative; c) moderately responsible, orderly, and diligent; and d) moderately balanced, calm, and patient, able to moderately manage their emotions. Ruiz (2005) found practically identical values in judokas of the same age,

except in the Energy (E) dimension, in which the judokas had a higher value.

The Openness (O) dimension and its sub-dimensions present low values indicating that the players in this study were uncreative, unimaginative, with little interest in knowledge and in learning about values and cultures different from their own. Ruiz (2005), however, obtained very high values for this dimension among judokas.

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