

## **R E V I E W**

In relation to “V.Levski” National Academy of Sport competition for holding the academic position of “associate professor” in high education field 7. “Health care and sport, professional direction 7.6. Sport, specialization “Sport” /Basketball/ for the needs of the “Basketball, volleyball, handball” Department with Main assistant Mariana Aleksieva Borukova, PhD as single candidate, notified in State Gazette No. 19 dated 05.03.2019

Reviewer: Prof. Yordan Kalaikov, Doctor of science

Assistant professor candidate Mariana Borukova is born on 31.05.1973. She is professional basketball player during the period 1987 till 2007 in various clubs, including such in France, Spain, Slovakia, Greece, being all the time a member of the national basketball teams of growing up girls and later women. During the year 2006-2007 she graduates the National Academy of Sport with basketball coach specialty and acquires Master’s degree in Sports management. Since 2007 till 2014 she is part-time and later regular lecturer to the “Theory of sport” Department – statistic methods in sport and the “Basketball, volleyball, handball” Department at the National Academy of Sport. In 2014 she acquires a Doctor’s degree.

Mariana Borukova is established expert in the field of the sports preparedness of basketball players. Manifests special interest to innovations and aspiration to enrich her competence by mastering various professional fields. I confirm this point of view of mine because of the indisputable evidential facts and my personal impressions as her colleague and lecturer in management.

Mariana Borukova’s professional qualification and realization is of wide range – diverse and extensive. Additional to sport she is being active in the tourist industry. She has practiced touroperator’s activities, including abroad. Outlining Mariana Borukova’s personal and professional qualities we are impressed by her various competences outside the field of sport – have learned electronic prosession of information and communications, management, solving complicated issues related to the logistics of various events... She speaks and writes in French, English, Slovak languages.

Strong aspect of Mariana Borukova's professional manifestation is her participation in two national and three international projects.

Although a young expert, Borukova is a woman of authority. She has participated by scientific reports in indexed publications and in scientific conferences abroad.

Obviously, the "Assistant professor" candidate has established an impressive scientific and public biography. The facts about such a statement are presented precisely and correctly. Thus the opinion about the non-appellate candidature is imposed convincingly. Other evidences can be added in that respect. Borukova is the author of the "Control on the sport preparedness of 13-14 years old basketball players" monography /2018/. Her doctoral thesis relates to the "Perfection of the system for acceptance and control of sports talents at the sport schools" theme /2014/. The researches and the results present Mariana Borukova as precise scientific worker. Additional to that, she is a regular lecturer for the Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She participates in the creation of school programmes, lecturers at after diploma qualification courses.

In correspondence with the Development of the academic staff Law and the Rules governing the acquisition of scientific titles and holding academic positions at the National Academy of Sport, presented are totally 14 publications, as follows: author's paper related to the doctoral thesis, monography, participation in the "System for evaluation of the sport preparation results of pupils at the sports schools", 12 articles in scientific magazines and anthologies while 7 of them are published in English, in 5 of them Borukova is a first author and in 6 articles she is a co-author. The publications for acquiring PhD Educational scientific rank as well as the author's paper are not subject to review.

Mariana Borukova's scientific interests vary but some permanent themes can be outlined related predominantly to the management and control of the sport preparedness in basketball, pupils' and students' physical ability, personal motivation of the students, incorporating disabled people in sport. The directions pointed out demonstrate the scale and fields of the research activities of the assistant professor candidate. I would like to pay special attention to the fact that Borukova is one of the four representatives for Bulgaria having undergone specific education at the innovative European program for education and incorporation of children of special needs – "Playdogogy".

The substantial scientific contribution of the assistant professor candidate as a result of her studies, have theoretical, scientific-applied and methodological-applied character.

I place first the researches related to the study of all "basketball" profile pupils at the sports schools. Developed is a new normative

system for the acceptance of these pupils at the schools and control of their results. I think the methodological approach of the author for treating the matter has to be outlined – available is a systematization of the otherwise great, diverse and complicated issue.

The presented monography develops and offers to the practice aprobated models for individual, group and team technique and tactic activities of 13-14 years old basketball players. I definitely think that Borukova's approach to the theme is innovative and non-standard; that being a substantial contribution to the theory and practice in sport and particularly in basketball game.

The studies related to adapted basketball, made for the first time in Bulgaria, also relate to the substantial contributions.

The works treating the management and control of the sports preparedness in basketball, the physical development and the factor structure of the preparation contribute to their applied application. Some critical notes might be made but they are not of a nature to influence the general impression and the evaluation of the scientific product. I think that participation in co-author activity does not correspond to the qualities and abilities of the candidate as she is usually the first and leading author. Directing her efforts to comparatively varied themes illustrate on one side her various interests but on the other side does not contribute to outlining her basic scientific preferences. I attribute all that to her youth, creative abilities and the fact that the present competition is only a step of Chief assistant Borukova, PhD formation as a serious scientist.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Mariana Borukova, PhD possesses indisputable scientific competence in modern sports science and particularly in basketball theory and practice. That makes her a leading expert in these fields.
2. The results of the studies are published in Bulgarian and foreign publications, she is cited in the publications of a range of authors /9/.
3. She has participated in the development of educational programs for the needs of the education at the National Academy of Sport and she is a regular basketball lecturer for the Bachelor's and Master's degrees.
4. She has participated in projects of home and international scale; has been Supervisor to 5 higher students having successfully sat for their diploma papers.

5. Fully answers the requirements set forth in the Development of the academic staff Law and the Rules of the National Academy of Sport for the scientific degrees and academic positions.

**On the reason of the said above I am fully convinced that available are all law prerequisites and arguments for Mariana Borukova. Phd to be awarded “assistant professor” title for professional direction 7.6 “Sport”, specialization Sport (basketball) by the scientific jury**

**27.06.2019**

**REVIEWER: Prof. Yordan Kalaikov, Doctor of Science**

**/...../**