

REVIEW

of the scientific works and academic activity of
chief assistant Mariana Aleksieva Borukova, PhD
to the participation in the competition for holding the academic position of
“***Assistant professor***” in the 7. ***Health and sport*** higher education field,
professional direction ***7.6 Sport***, specialty ***Sport (Basketball)*** for the needs of
the “***Basketball, volleyball, Handball***” Department to “***Vasil Levski***” ***National Academy of Sport***

Reviewer: Prof. Krastyu Tzarov, DSc.

Chief assistant Mariana Borukova, PhD is the only candidate in the competition for holding the academic position of “***Assistant professor***” in professional direction 7.6 Sport, specialty “Basketball”, for the needs of the “Basketball, Volleyball, Handball” Department to “Vasil Levski” National Academy of Sport, announced in the State gazette, number 19 dated 05.03.2019. The competition procedure is correct, with no offence.

Candidate's data

Chief assistant Mariana Borukova graduates her Bachelor's degree at “V.Levski” National Academy of Sport with “Basketball coach” specialty in 2006 and later on her Master's degree in the “Sports management” program. She is the winner in the competition for regular PhD student to the “Basketball, Volleyball, Handball” Department in 2007.

She is part-time lecturer in basketball for the same department from 2007 while during 2012-2014 period holds seminar exercises on “Statistic methods in sport” to the “Theory of sport” department.

In 2014 she defends a dissertation paper on the theme: “Perfection of the system for acceptance and control on the preparation of basketball talents at the sports schools in Bulgaria” and is awarded PhD educational and scientific

degree. During the same year she wins a competition and is appointed a Main assistant in basketball to the “Basketball, Volleyball, Handball” department.

Chief assistant Mariana Borukova’s professional interests are not occasional. She is an elite basketball players for many years; has participated in all age groups of the national team starting from cadet to women, She plays professionally for various elite basketball clubs in Bulgaria, France, Spain, Slovakia and Greece during the period 1986-2006. She wins the Champion of Republic of Bulgaria title for seven times and five times the “Cup of Bulgaria”. Awarded is a silver medal from the 1992 European girl championships and two more silver medals in Republic of Slovakia championships. In 2002 she is elected as “the best women basketball players of Bulgaria”.

Chief assistant Mariana Borukova’s creative path is accompanied by strive for continuous perfection. Evidence about that is the great number of licenses and certificates she is awarded by various forms of additional qualifications.

Conduct lectures and exercises with higher students from all faculties and forms of education for Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees as well as in specific courses for basketball coaches and physical education teachers in the Center for after diploma qualification.

Borukova has more than 50 publications in specific journals. Takes part in various scientific conferences and congresses held in Bulgaria and abroad. Her scientific interests are rather wide – from the field of management and control of the work with coming up basketball players, through the higher sports mastership and the competitive basketball effectiveness, to adapted basketball and management of sports events.

She is the author of the school program in basketball for the sports schools; takes part in various research, scientific and educational projects to “Vasil Levski” National Academy of Sport, the Ministry of sport and education,

Erasmus” educational programs. She speaks and writes in French, English and Slovak languages.

Borukova is a supervisor of a great number of courses and diploma works both for the Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees.

She possesses very good organizational skills and competence in the field of the sports training, physical education, sports management and adapted physical activities.

Scientific production data

Chief assistant M. Borukova has presented the following scientific materials and evidences for participating in the competition for holding the academic position of “Assistant professor” at “V. Levski” National Academy of Sport:

1. Abstract of the PhD paper – 1 pcs (**50 m.**).
2. Monograph paper – 1 pcs (**100 m.**).
3. Publications and reports, published in scientific issues, referred to and indexed in world famous database of scientific information – 2 pcs (**120 m.**).
4. Publications and reports, published in non-referenced magazines with scientific reviews – 9 pcs; she is the only author of 3 of them (**141 m.**).
5. Quotation in monographs and collective volumes with scientific reviews – 1 pcs (**10 m.**).
6. Quotations or reviews in non-referenced magazines with scientific reviews – 9 pcs (**45 m.**).
7. Participation in national scientific or educational project – 2 pcs (**30 m.**).
8. Participation in international scientific or educational project – 3 pcs (**60 m.**).
9. Published textbook used at schools – 1 pcs - co-authorship (**10 m.**).

10. Education of trainees, post-graduate students, PhD students (seminars and practical classes) – 3 pcs (**90 m.**).

I think that the scientific materials and evidences submitted exceed in relation to quantity the minimal scientific/metric requirements for holding the academic position of “Assistant professor” – for min 500 points, the candidate has presented 656 points.

Quality evaluation of the scientific product

Chief Assistant M. Borukova’s scientific product results from systematic research and experimental work allowing the collection, processing and analysis of rich factual material. It is necessary to specially underline the fact that upon processing the results of her studies, Chief assistant Borukova always applies adequate mathematical and statistical methods, which increases the scientific, and evidence value of the presented developments.

When analyzing the scientific product impressive are the professionalism and competence with which the Assistant professor candidate develops the theoretical and practical methodological problems of the physical education in the sports training as well as the skill to interpret the data from the scientific researches. That is according to me the basic reason about the interest of the scientific community towards her developments quoted in a range of dissertations, monographs, scientific articles and reports.

In general, on the ground of the scientific product presented for the competition, several fundamental directions can be formulated in Chief assistant Borukova’s work:

The first direction occupies central position in the scientific, research and applied activities of the Assistant professor candidate. It relates to the sports preparedness control of coming up basketball players. Borukova’s interest to that problem dates to the time she was a PhD student at “Vasil Levski” National

Academy of Sport, which determined the theme of her dissertation, not reviewed by me here.

In the scientific materials presented for the Assistant professor competition, the issue of control finds its place in the monograph “Sport preparedness control of 13-16 female basketball players” (listed under No. 2, page 48-67 and page 86-192) and in publications №№ 3, 7, 9 and 11. By reason the “System for evaluating the results of the sports preparation of the pupils at the sports schools”, developed (in co-authorship) and introduced in the sports schools in Bulgaria, is to be added here

The application of scientifically reasons control helps the work of the coaches and allow successful management of the school and training activities, which is exceptionally important when referred to the coming up players - the reserve for the higher sports mastership. The analysis of the control results is serious and motivating factor for the young competitors in the process of their development and striving towards the realization of their sports potential.

I very highly estimate the scientific and applied value of the monograph and the rest of Chief assistant Borukova’s developments on that issue. To my opinion, the concrete contributions in that aspect relate to the following:

- studied is the control problem and analyzed are the existing systems and normative bases for controlling the sport preparedness and game activity of the coming up basketball players;
- presented is the principle mathematical and statistical instrument finding application for the procession of the results from the studies and the development of the evaluation normative base;
- developed are normative systems for the sport preparedness evaluation of the pupils from V to XII grade (“Basketball” sport profile) and of 13-14 years old Bulgarian girl basketball players.

I highly estimate the developments determining the *second principle direction* in the scientific product of the candidate, related to the study of the

principle factors of coming up basketball players' physical development and specific workability. That is exceptionally important for the process of optimization of the young competitors' sports preparation. Part of the monograph (page 80-85), as well as two of the presented scientific publications (№ 4 and № 5), refer to that issue. The results from the factor analysis applied can be used as a private optimization criterion. I would allow myself to note that instead of "physical ability" term in the monograph, it will be more correct to use the "specific workability" term, which is imposed because of the specificity of the indicators listed in the test battery.

I estimate positively as well the work of the candidate related to the disclosure and analysis of the correlation interrelations between the physical development, specific physical and specific technical and tactical preparedness signs of young female basketball players (monograph paper, page 68-79).

The third principle direction in M. Borukova's research activities relates to various sides of the young female basketball players' sports preparation. The competent analysis and discussions on the state of the young competitors' physical development, specific physical and specific technical and tactical preparedness both in the monograph paper (page 38-48) and in 6 scientific articles (№№ 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13) allow to take to the front the principle parameters in scientific-theoretical and practical-applied aspect of the organization and application of the methodology for the education of young female basketball players.

Important contribution is the developed model characteristic (monograph paper, page 16-27) of the modern basketball player showing according to the author, the principle categories characterizing the talented basketball player.

Section III.1 of the monograph ("Sensitive periods in the development of the specific motive qualities" – page 30-37) deserves good estimation too. Anyway, I think that "formative" is a better term than "sensitive", as it more

exactly determines the peculiarities effected in the young organism during these periods, which are so important for its development.

Developing the basic sides of the sports preparation of the young basketball players, Chief assistant Borukova, although more limitedly, refers to the issue of the psychological preparation in basketball, which is exceptionally important for the implementation of the game potential of the players during the extreme conditions of the competition (monograph, page 44-46). The research on the long-term motivation of the NSA high students submitted in scientific article No. 8 can be referred to that issue.

The last important direction of the scientific searches of the Assistant professor candidate relates to the adaptive physical activity and sport. That is a comparatively new tendency on world scale related to the necessity from finding and applying in practice of adequate adapted means and methods helping the processes of organism development; restoration of the labor abilities and integration of specific needs people in the community,

Chief assistant Borukova is now the only regular lecturer at NSA “Basketball” section who is active and works in the field of the adapted physical activity and the adapted basketball. She has participated in two international educational projects for integrated sports, holds lessons with children and young people of mental problems and participates in the education of higher students-trainees on adaptive physical activity in sport from the Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees at NSA.

In respect of that, M. Borukova has submitted only one article (№ 10) for her participation in the Assistant professor competition, which has purely practical aspect and aims at presenting in Bulgaria the T. In Basket (Totally Integrated Basketball) new game. Useful information about the appearance and development of adapted basketball is presented at the beginning of the article.

It is necessary to note that all reviewed scientific papers are written in good language and style and are very well illustrated, which evidenced one more time the quality of the scientific products of the Assistant professor candidate.

The submitted references and lists are fully correct. In relation to these statements, I would like to state that I accept for reviewing all scientific publications presented. I want especially to note that this refers as well to the publication under № 3 in the group of publications and reports published in scientific publications, reviewed and indexed in world famous database of scientific information. The article is published in 2017 when the procedure of observation for entering into the world database of Journal of Applied Sports Sciences was still in process. Nevertheless, the fact that the requirements to the authors in relation to the qualities and format of the publications are one and the same both in 2017 and in 2018 and 2019, as well as the high quality of the material according to me, are the logical explanation of my decision.

Conclusion – Chief assistant M. Borukova's, PhD scientific products submitted for her participation in the competition fully answer the requirements for acquiring the academic position of "Assistant professor" both of ZRASRB and "Vasil Levski" National Academy of Sport Rules of the conditions and order for acquiring the academic position of "Assistant professor". The scientific searches of the candidate refer to important and actual issues of the theory and practice of young female basketball players' sports preparation as well as of people of special needs. Chief assistant M. Borukova is a lecturer of long practice; has shown competence, diligence and exceptionally high activeness in her professional activities.

On the ground of all said above, I think there exist sufficient scientific arguments for me to give my positive vote to **Chief assistant Mariana Aleksieva Borukova, PhD** for holding the scientific position of "Assistant professor" at "Vasil Levski" National Academy of Sport in higher education field 7. Health

and sport, professional direction 7.6 Sport, for the needs of the “Basketball, Volleyball, Handball” Department.

July 19, 2019

Sofia

REVIEWER:

(Prof. K. Tzarov, PhD)