



To
The Specialized Scientific Committee
of NSA "Vassil Levski"

STATEMENT

**by Assoc. Prof. Vera Ilieva Antonova - Varbanova, PhD - appointed as a
member of the scientific committee by Order №477/30.05.2023.**

Subject: *Procedure for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional field 7.6. Sport, specialty "Sport" (Basketball) for the needs of the Department of "Basketball, Volleyball, Handball". The competition was published in the State Gazette, issue no.34 of 11.04.2023, page 58.*

One candidate participates in the competition - Maria Tzankova Tzankova - Kaloyanova, PhD - chief assistant at the Department of "Basketball, Volleyball, Handball" of the National Sports Academy "Vassil Levski". The documents are submitted within the established term and meet the requirements of the Law for the Development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for application of the Law for Development of the academic staff and the Regulations for acquiring the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" and for occupying academic positions in National Sports Academy "Vassil Levski".

I. Education and professional qualifications

In 2011. Maria Tsankova - Kaloyanova graduated from the NSA "Vasil Levski" with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education, professional qualification "Physical Education Teacher" and a new specialty "Coach", professional qualification "Basketball Coach". In 2013 she received a master's degree from NSA "Vasil Levski", specialty "Physical Education", in the master's program



"Physical Education and Sport in Secondary School". In 2017 she obtained the Educational and Scientific degree "Doctor" in the University of Veliko Tarnovo, in the doctoral program "Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports Training".

II. Teaching and sports activities

Maria Tzankova - Kaloyanova was a national athlete, participated in six European Championships with national teams in adolescents (2004 - 2008), a former professional basketball player (from 2010 to 2017), as well as a coach with prize-winning finishes in the National Universiade (2018 - 2023).

She was a physical education teacher (September 2017 - January 2018) at 119 secondary school "Acad. Mihail Arnaudov" (Sofia).

Maria Tzankova - Kaloyanova is a lecturer with a total work experience in the specialty - 9 years. 5 of them at the NSA "Vassil Levski":

- ✓ As of 2018, she was an assistant in basketball at the Department of "Basketball, Volleyball, Handball";
- ✓ From 2019 to present day, she is a Chief Assistant at the Department of "Basketball, Volleyball, Handball".

III. Research activity

In the announced competition for associate professor, Maria Tzankova - Kaloyanova participated with 22 scientific papers, of which one monograph (100 pts.) and one dissertation (50 pts.).

For indicator G7 "Publications and reports published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information" four publications were presented (total 210 pts.), of which three standalone (180 pts.) and one co-authored (30 pts.).

For indicator G8 "Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes" are presented -

sixteen publications (total 291 points), of which five are standalone (150 points) and eleven are co-authored (141 points).

A reference to the cited scientific papers of the candidate is presented. Of these, three (45 items) are "Citations or reviews in scientific journals refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes"; six (60 items) are "Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review"; thirteen (65 items) are "Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review".

The attached documentation includes official notes confirming that Maria Tzankova - Kaloyanova has participated in a research project on "Analysis and assessment of physical fitness of secondary school students in the Republic of Bulgaria" (2018) and has conducted classes in English with incoming foreign students under the Erasmus+ programme in the implementation of the following projects:

- ✓ 2017/2018 - Erasmus+DR-21/07.07.2017, №2017-1-BG01-K103-035503
- ✓ 2018/2019 - Erasmus+DR-35/02.08.2018, №2018-1-BG01-K103-047065
- ✓ 2019/2020 - Erasmus+DR-30/19.07.2019, №2019-1-BG01-K103-061321

The monographic work of chief assistant Tzankova – Kaloyanova is on the topic: "Aspects of the technical-tactical training of adolescent basketball players". A thorough analysis of the ability and motor qualities, technical and tactical training, as well as preparation in adolescent basketball players is made. The technical-tactical training is studied. Valuable for practice is the analysed operational thinking and applied training exercises concerning the technical-tactical preparation in adolescents.

The focus of the scientific papers and published articles is on the theme/topic of the competition (basketball) and can be summarized in several directions/areas:

- Game and competition efficiency in basketball

- Game and competition realization in basketball
- Game activity in basketball
- Specific performance in basketball
- Physical development, physical conditions, motor capacity
- Stress factors and psychological preparation in basketball
- History

The main contributions in the scientific research activity of the chief assistant Maria Tzankova - Kaloyanova are:

- Enrichment of the theoretical and methodological requirements for the technical and tactical training of adolescent basketball players
- Research the influence of operational thinking in structuring a long-term training in basketball
- Research the impact of athletic preparedness on competitive performance in adolescent female basketball players.
- Creation of a normative basis for the control of the training of adolescent basketball players (15 - 16 years)
- Research and relationships between physical development and technical-tactical preparedness in adolescent basketball players
- Evaluating the impact of visual aids on psychological training, and experimenting with a novel methodology for improving athletic, technical and mental performance in adolescent female basketball players
- Eliciting stressors and competitive readiness in adolescent female basketball players
- Study and analysis of physical ability in students
- Development of training models for technical-tactical training of adolescent basketball players
- Retrospective analysis of the participation of the Bulgarian national teams in major basketball forums



- Study of competitive performance in national teams

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the documentation presented to me, regarding the scientific, teaching and sporting activities, as well as the professional qualities, I confidently propose to the Distinguished Members of the Specialized Scientific committee to award the academic position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" to chief assistant Maria Tzankova Tzankova - Kaloyanova, PhD, in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.6. Sport, specialty "Sport" (basketball) for the needs of the Department of "Basketball, Volleyball and Handball".

09.08.2023 г.

Sofia

Prepared the opinion:

/Assoc. prof. Vera Antonova, PhD/