

OPINION

From Assoc. Prof. Georgi Venelinov Brestnichki, PhD,
Lecturer at Department of "Basketball, Volleyball, Handball"
at the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski", Sofia. Sofia

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, with professional field 7.6. Sport, specialty "Sport" (Basketball), for the needs of the Department of "Basketball, Volleyball, Handball", announced in the State Newspaper – issue 34 of 11.04.2023 (page 58)

Only one person has submitted documents for the announced competition. This is Maria Tsankova Tsankova-Kaloyanova, currently Head Assistant at the Department of "Basketball, Volleyball, Handball", at the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski".

From the scientific data presented to us, the candidate meets the minimum national requirements for scientific, educational, and sports activities set out in the Law on the Development of Scientific Staff, by which Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova is admitted to participate in the announced competition for "Associate Professor" in professional field 7.6. Sports, specialty "Basketball" for the Department of "Basketball, Volleyball, Handball" needs.

From the scientific-metric data head assistant. Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova has presented the following things to the scientific jury:

- According to indicator A, 50 points are needed, which she covers with the dissertation she defended at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. Kliment Ohridski". St. Cyril and Methodius" in October 2017 on the topic "Impact of sports preparedness on the competitive realization of youth basketball players". A topic through which the candidate has set a trend of her interests and future work with adolescents and their realization. It is a very discussed issue in women's basketball in our modern society.

- The theme of the adolescent basketball players and their technical-tactical preparation is continued in the monographic work, which is the next requirement that

the candidate covers from the scientific data. With the presented monograph to us, the author adds 100 points in point 3 of Section C, for a written habilitation work. In addition to the fact that with this work she covers another requirement, with it she enriches the basketball library of books. This monograph is a complex work that provides a lot of guidance for reflection and work with adolescent basketball players and I appreciate it as a positive material for future coaches.

- In indicator D according to the national scientific-metric requirements for the academic position "associate professor" is needed 290 points. According to this indicator, the candidate has submitted four reports in refereed and indexed scientific journals. Only one of the papers submitted is co-authored. These reports earned her 210 points. In the case of non-refereed reports, the candidate has submitted 16 papers to us, 5 of which she is the only author and the remaining 11 are in co-authorship. They all score 291 points. Thus, on this point, Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova has reached and even exceeded the minimum number of points. In the reports presented to us, we are impressed by the variety of topics, which makes the author a broad-minded researcher with a rich sports worldview, which is positive for its further development.

- The next section of the national requirements is about the popularity of the candidate and the actuality of the scientific fields in which she writes. This thing is appreciated through the citations of her works in various scientific publications. According to the information presented, Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova is cited in three refereed and indexed journals, which is of great importance for gaining interest internationally in her scientific work. Also, the candidate for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the NSA has 6 citations in monographic works and thirteen citations in non-refereed journals, which shows that her publications arouse interest and material for observation in other researchers. With all the above-mentioned Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova collects enough points from the required by law for citations of her publications.

- According to indicator E, for the academic position "associate professor" a total of 100 points are required. For this section, Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova has presented participation in two national educational projects and one scientific national project, as well as in three international educational projects, which shows the activity of the applicant in project activities and her successful participation, with which she collected 105 points from project activity. Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova has also presented official notes of her rich sports career as a competitor and coach. On this point, she has scored 40 points, which I suppose she collects from her performances

as a competitor who has won two women's championship titles, and as a coach, she has one championship title in the student championship and one in the new Olympic sport 3x3.

Last in the attestation card is a guide for graduate students. During the years of her teaching activity, two bachelors have successfully defended their theses under her leadership, which is another testimonial of a successful combination of scientific work with teaching. Thus, Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova collects 185 points out of the required 100 points for the academic degree "Associate Professor" award in the attestation card.

With all that has been mentioned so far about the scientific-metric data, there is no dispute that the candidate head assistant Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova has fully fulfilled and fully meets the National Requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor.

As for her academic work, head assistant Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova joined the National Sports Academy as an assistant at the beginning of 2018. In 2019, she successfully won a competition for Head Assistant. During all these years, she has been conscientiously fulfilling her duties and has covered the required norm.

Her publications show continuous activity in the research work. The variety of topics in the articles shows the wide range of studies and interests on her part.

My personal opinion is that Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova with the experience she has gained over the years of sports career, research, and teaching, is a worthy candidate for the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor.

In conclusion from all of the foregoing, I believe that the head assistant. Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova meets the necessary requirements for an academic position and with full conviction, I give my positive vote to be elected "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, with professional field 7.6. Sports, specialty "Basketball" for the Department of "Basketball, Volleyball, Handball" needs.

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Sofia

Prepared the opinion:

/Assoc. Georgi Brestnichki, PhD/