

The Degree of Aggressive Behavior in Sports Stadiums from the Point of View of Team Game Players

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Abstract

This study aimed to identify the degree of aggressive behavior in sports stadiums from the point of view of team game players according to different variables (type of game, place of residence, financial income, academic level of the player, academic level of the father, academic level of the mother, marital status of the player). A descriptive approach was used, where the study sample consisted of (500) team game players. The researchers' built a tool to measure aggressive behavior and consisted of (26) items. Arithmetic means, standard deviations, multiple analysis of variance (N-Anova), LSD test for dimensionality comparison, and correlation coefficient (Pearson) were used to analyze the data. The results of the study showed that the degree of aggressive behavior among team sports players was low. In contrast, the results showed that there were differences in the degree of aggressive behavior on the game type variables between basketball and handball, in favor of both games, as well as on the place of residence variable, in favor of the desert population. While there were no statistically significant differences between the rest of the variables, and considering the results of the study, the researchers recommends that lectures be held to motivate the players and encourage them to compete fairly without resorting to aggressive behavior.

Keywords: Aggressive behavior; Sports, Stadiums, Team game players.

1. Introduction

Physical education is one of the essential life activities that play a vital role in developing nations and peoples and transferring culture between them (Siedentop & Van der Mars, 2022). Many studies have indicated that sports play a crucial role in suppressing many natural instincts in humans as a result of the rapid technological development in human life, which has affected social life by increasing life pressures on individuals (Umirzokov, 2024). Studies by Bartlett & Abrams (2019), Sofia (2013) indicated the importance of practicing sports activities to get rid of negative emotions as a compensatory behavior for the instinct of aggression, and thus, this behavior becomes socially

acceptable. Physical education scientists have been interested in conducting scientific research in order to reach its positive impact on individuals (Thomas et al., 2023).

Aggression and violence in sports are considered essential topics in the field of sports psychology and sociology (Krahé, 2020). They will remain one of the topics worthies of research, scrutiny, and studies, as many researchers' believe that aggressive behavior, like any human behavior, is multidimensional, intertwined with variables and diverse causes, such that we cannot attribute it to a single explanation. With the multiplicity of forms of aggression and its motives, the theories that explain aggressive behavior have multiplied (Drndarević, 2021; Moore, 2021).

Aggression and violence are some of the social problems facing the elements of the sports community, which must have a high spirit, whether they are players, referees, administrators, or fans, where there is love, peace, cooperation, altruism, and accepting defeat with high spirit (Mokhtari Dinani et al., 2023; Woods & Butler, 2020). There are no two people who disagree on the morals, kindness, and humility enjoyed by those interested in the sports field, the character of positivity, and staying away from negativity and everything that disturbs the peace of others or harms them (Ching & Chan, 2020).

Tetiana et al, (2021) points out that the diversity of manifestations of aggressive behavior among athletes is such that there is hardly a sports season in any sport that is free of manifestations of this behavior, which may sometimes be controlled by specialists (captain, coach, administrator, and security agencies) or may lose control over it, so it appears and is talked about by various media outlets. We must differentiate between two types of aggression and violence in sports, which are the aggression and violence of athletes within the stadium and the aggression and violence of fans inside and outside the stands. The phenomenon of aggression and violence in sports, especially in sports competitions, and the factors of rioting and fanaticism associated with them occupy a clear place in the interests of many people, athletes and non-athletes because it has recently increased. Its causes are multifaceted and complex, and it is difficult to explain them from a single perspective (Valent, 2020).

(Hart & Ostrov (2020) believes that the features of aggressive behavior are evident in the transgressions and unacceptable actions issued by some individuals inside and outside the walls of sports stadiums, which is an unfortunate aggressive phenomenon that worries all current societies.

(Keramati et al., 2023) confirmed that aggressive behavior indicates behaviors issued by an official or one of the parties to the sports game or the audience when practicing this game or because of it. (Alseiri et al., 2022) believes that the phenomenon of aggression and violence in stadiums has

become one of the negative phenomena in sports societies, as this phenomenon means that some individuals, players or fans, depart from sports norms, principles, and laws for unspecified goals, which results in stadium riots. This riot may often move outside the stadium or sports cities, resulting in material and human losses that we can do without, and such actions are alien and far removed from sports and are inconsistent with sportsmanship and good morals.

Therefore, specialists in psychology and sociology have been interested in aggression and sports violence in terms of identifying its causes and forms; perhaps aggressive behavior is a compensation for the continuous frustrations that people suffer from in the near or distant future (Delaney & Madigan, 2021). Sports federations must play a vital role in reducing this phenomenon by implementing regulations and instructions and imposing deterrent penalties on those responsible, including players, administrators, and fans of clubs under their umbrella (Bayle, 2025). The administrators of these federations must develop instructions to suit the extent of the spread of this phenomenon and have a role in combating it with all that is available to them according to the regulations and laws through which we seek a sport free of violence and aggression. (GÜLAY, 2023) indicates that sports competitions are characterized by their occurrence in the presence of large audiences of spectators, which does not happen in many branches of daily life activities, and the impact of spectators on players, athletes, or sports teams differs clearly in light of many factors and variables.

(Al-Zorfi, 2020) states that acts of violence are carried out by adolescents as they resort to cursing, screaming, and other behavioral patterns that indicate some aggressive tendencies and low awareness of the concept of sportsmanship and commitment. The World Health Organization (2005) suggests that no country or society in this world has been affected by violence and its issues, such that it has become a global problem that threatens the lives and security of people. Due to its widespread prevalence, some have come to view it as an unavoidable human reality. Moreover, violence is a highly sensitive topic that many people find difficult to confront because engaging in it touches on complex issues related to culture and ideology. Based on the above, studying the aggressive behavior of players is of great importance in order to determine its levels, given its repercussions on society in general and sports in particular. (Dimmock & Grove, 2005) conducted a study that aimed to identify the impact of fanaticism on fans of professional sports teams in Australia in their responses to crowd violence. The researchers' used the descriptive survey method because it is suitable for the nature of this study. The sample included (231) fans of these teams. The results showed that fans who are classified as more fanatical towards a particular team were less in control of their aggressive behavior in matches than

fans who are characterized by moderate or simple fanaticism. (Armutcu et al, 2023), (Guilbert, 2006) conducted a study on perceptions of violence in sports. The study aimed to identify athletes' perceptions of the nature of violence associated with various sports activities. The researchers' asked 420 individuals aged 18 to 30 who practice competitive sports in clubs in Strasbourg and its suburbs. Through this study, the researchers were able to determine that football is among the sports that are perceived to carry a type of physical violence.

Problem of Study

Aggressive behavior and violence are phenomena that have become associated with sports worldwide (Ardiyanto et al., 2024). This phenomenon has become one of the main problems facing and threatening sports at this time due to the friction, tension, and emotions that accompany sports activities and competitions between competing parties, as well as the tension and anxiety experienced by fans due to the intensity of competition and the events that accompany it, which sometimes develop into what is called violence and sports riots among players. Aggressive behavior in sports stadiums is one of the problems that increase in severity and thus casts its shadow on society at a time when sports are supposed to play a role in achieving harmony among young people and developing a spirit of positive competition among them (Bangura, 2024). We find that the phenomenon of violence in sports stadiums, especially among players, works in the opposite direction. Instead of players having positive effects on society, as a result of their violent behavior, hostility is generated among fans, which causes more feelings of hatred and animosity among members of society.

Through the researchers' experience of the Board of Directors of the Jordanian Federation, university faculty members, and members of the discipline, committees, they noticed, the extent of the phenomenon of aggressive behavior and violence in sports stadiums in its various forms. Through hem review of the records of sports federations, it became clear that the number of penalties reached about (128) penalties in football, (73) penalties in handball, (42) penalties in volleyball, and (23) penalties in basketball, most of which were imposed on club players due to their behavior on the field towards competitors, fans, or sports facilities. Consequently, this phenomenon has become a concern for those in charge of Jordanian sports due to its significant increase and the inability to find appropriate solutions for it.

Therefore, the researchers' decided to conduct this study to identify aggressive behavior among team sports players from the players' point of view, given its importance in searching for its behavioral causes to find solutions to this phenomenon. The importance of this study help spread and disseminate

sports culture among players to combat this phenomenon and avoid what may happen in the future. Identifying the causes of violence in sports stadiums from the point of view of team game players and trying to find solutions to these obstacles or reduce them. This study is considered one of the first Arab studies that seek to reveal the degree of aggressive behavior among team game players in Jordan. it discusses aggressive behavior among a crucial segment in sports, which are players of competitive sports clubs for team games. The researchers' hope that the results of this study will help sports federations, clubs, and researchers' identify the most critical aggressive behaviors among players in order to develop a strategy to address these negative behaviors.

Study objectives

1. Identify the degree of aggressive behavior in sports fields from the perspective of team game players in Jordan.
2. Identify the differences in the causes of aggressive behavior in sports fields from the perspective of team game players in Jordan according to variables (type of game, place of residence, financial income, academic level of the player, academic level of the father, academic level of the mother, social status of the player).

Study questions

1. What is the degree of aggressive behavior among team game players in Jordan?
2. Are there statistically significant differences at the significance level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the causes of aggressive behavior in sports fields from the perspective of team game players in Jordan according to variables (type of game, place of residence, financial income, academic level of the player, academic level of the father, academic level of the mother, social status of the player)?

2. Methodology

A descriptive approach was used in its survey form because it was appropriate for the nature and objectives of the study. The study community consisted of all men's team sports players (first level) in Jordan for the 2023/2024 sports season, totaling (678 players). The study sample was selected using the stratified random method and amounted to (500) players, as shown in table (1).

Table (1). Description of the study sample according to its variables.

Variable	Category	N	[%]
Game type	Football	216	43.2
	Handball	106	21.2
	Volleyball	114	22.8
	Basketball	64	12.8
	Total	500	100.0

Place of residence	City	258	51.6
	Village	198	39.6
	Badiya	44	8.8
	Total	500	100.0
Financial income	< 400 JOD	335	67.0
	400 – 800 JOD	111	22.2
	> 800 JOD	54	10.8
	Total	500	100.0
The academic level of the player	Less than university	289	56.0
	University	211	44.0
	Total	500	100.0
The academic level of the father	Less than university	286	57.2
	University	214	42.8
	Total	500	100.0
The academic level of the mother	Less than university	256	51.2
	University	244	48.8
	Total	500	100.0
Social status of the player	Married	312	62.4
	Single	149	29.8
	Divorced	29	5.8
	Widowed	10	2.0
	Total	500	100.0

2.1 Questionnaire

The researchers' constructed the aggressive behavior questionnaire after reviewing many scales, it consisted of (26) paragraphs, after it was presented to the (8) arbitrators for the purpose of establishing the validity of the tool, and the overall reliability coefficient of the tool was found, which reached 91% according to the Cronbach's alpha internal consistency coefficient (Cascio, 2012). The internal consistency validity of the aggressive behavior questionnaire was also found, as the internal consistency validity between the paragraphs and the total score was calculated by calculating the correlation coefficient between the score of each statement and the total score of the scale on the entire study sample table (2) illustrate it. The survey results were analyzed using three statistical tools: Analyzing descriptive statistics to assess and comprehend the overall state, strategies, and anticipations of aggressive behavior in sports stadiums (Mokhtari Dinani et al., 2023), hypothesis testing tools (ANOVA – M), and LSD test for post hoc comparisons to find statistical relationships between variables (Bakhshalipour et al., 2021).

Table (2). Correlation coefficients between the score of each item and the total score of the aggressive behavior scale (n = 500).

Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Correlation coefficients	0.81**	0.81**	0.84**	0.86**	0.86**	0.88**	0.90**	0.90**	0.91**	0.88**
Significance level	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Item	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Correlation coefficients	0.89**	0.89**	0.91**	0.90**	0.89**	.90**	0.89**	0.89**	0.88**	0.88**
Significance level	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Item	21	22	23	24	25	26				
Correlation coefficients	0.89**	0.87**	0.87**	0.87**	0.87**	0.82**				
Significance level	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				

2.2 Steps for Implementing the Study Tools

Books were obtained to facilitate the task of distributing questionnaires to team sports players. questionnaires were distributed to team sports players. The researchers' fully supervised the distribution of questionnaires to the study sample members. The researchers' transcribed the data and processed it statistically using the SPSS program.

2.3 Study Variables

The degree of aggressive behavior in sports stadiums from the point of view of team game players was investigated by defining one primary dependent variable that represents the aggressive behavior of team game players. On the other hand, we defined seven independent variables to investigate the degree of aggressive behavior in sports stadiums from the point of view of team game players: the player's educational level (There are two levels: less than university, university), game type (There are four levels: football, handball, volleyball, basketball), place of residence (There are three levels: city, village, desert), financial income (There are three levels: less than 400 dinars, 400 - less than 800 dinars, 800 dinars and above), father's educational level (There are two levels: less than university, university), Mother's educational level (There are two levels: less than university, university), and player's marital status (There are four levels: married, single, divorced, widowed).

3. Results and Discussion

First question: What is the degree of aggressive behavior among team sports players in Jordan? Table (3) shows that the arithmetic means of the level of aggressive behavior among team game players in Jordan came at the overall level with a low degree with an arithmetic mean of (1.727), while at the paragraph level, paragraph No. (12), which states: "I speak in a provocative tone with the opposing

players,” came in first place, with an arithmetic mean of (1.910), and a degree lower than the average, and in last place came paragraph No. (1), which states: “I feel comfortable when I see fear in the eyes of the competitors.” With an arithmetic mean of (1.458) and a low degree, the researchers’ attribute this to the players of team games and the entry of professionalism into their championships and their signing of contracts. As a result of the strict instructions, their thinking has become focused on their performance and controlling their behavior for fear of receiving penalties and the reflection of that on the financial fines that they may receive, as well as because of the existence of good relationships between the players, especially since the transfers between sports teams are periodic and the players’ desire to maintain good relationships, which is reflected in the possibility of their transfer to other teams. This result differs from what was stated in the studies Weingarten & Wei, (2023), Bani Hani, (2013) which indicated that the aggressive behavior of the players was at an average degree. Perhaps the reason is that the players in the study are amateurs, while in the current study, most of them are professionals.

Table (3). Arithmetic means and standard deviations of the degree of aggressive behavior among team sports players in Jordan.

#	Paragraph	M	SD	Score
1	I speak in a provocative tone to opposing players.	1.910	1.152	below average
2	I respond to opponents' criticism with hurtful words.	1.900	1.140	below average
3	I deliberately hit or pushed players for no reason.	1.908	1.173	below average
4	I call players ridiculous and mocking names.	1.892	1.158	below average
5	I harass younger players.	1.890	1.146	below average
6	I threaten players and promise to hurt and beat them.	1.885	1.142	below average
7	I seek to disrupt my opponents' play.	1.877	1.156	below average
8	I try to provoke players when speaking to them.	1.872	1.158	below average
9	I forcefully get what I want from my opponents.	1.866	1.165	below average
10	I blackmail my teammates.	1.863	1.144	below average
11	I deliberately trip my teammates with my feet as they pass in front of me.	1.856	1.143	below average
12	I fabricate false reasons to fight with others.	1.853	1.164	below average
13	I ask my teammates not to help those in need.	1.845	1.114	below average
14	I intentionally distance myself from a teammate to make them feel inferior.	1.780	1.133	Low
15	I force my opinions on my teammates.	1.722	1.139	Low
16	I intentionally criticize and ridicule my teammates for no reason.	1.706	1.161	Low
17	I intentionally threaten my teammates during practice.	1.674	1.144	Low
18	I use foul language toward some players.	1.672	1.122	Low
19	I vandalize and damage my teammates' property.	1.640	1.102	Low
20	I look at some players with mockery to make them angry.	1.633	1.141	Low
21	I invite some teammates against others during training.	1.575	1.169	Low

22	I force my teammates to do things they don't want to do.	1.565	1.125	Low
23	I stir up strife among my fellow players.	1.546	1.148	Low
24	I spread rumors and lies about some players.	1.535	1.103	Low
25	I feel happy when I insult opposing players.	1.484	1.134	Low
26	I feel relieved when I see fear in the eyes of my opponents.	1.458	1.093	Low
Total		1.727	1.001	Low

The second question: Are there statistically significant differences at the significance level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) for the reasons for aggressive behavior in sports fields from the perspective of team sports players in Jordan according to the variables (type of game, place of residence, financial income, educational level of the player, educational level of the father, educational level of the mother, social status of the player)?

Table (4). Arithmetic means and standard deviations in the degree of aggressive behavior among team game players according to the study variables.

Variable	Category	Number	M	SD
Game	Football	216	1.691	.962
	Handball	106	1.813	1.113
	Volleyball	114	1.894	1.067
	Basketball	64	1.483	.737
	Total	500	1.730	1.001
Place of Residence	City	258	1.690	.987
	Village	198	1.687	.963
	Badia	44	2.077	1.148
	Total	500	1.730	1.001
Income Level	Less 400 dinars	335	1.771	1.059
	400 - 800 dinars	111	1.560	.846
	Above 800 dinars	54	1.830	.885
	Total	500	1.730	1.001
Player's Educational Level	Less than a university	289	1.731	.972
	University degree	211	1.729	1.031
	Total	500	1.730	1.008
Father's Educational Level	Less than a university	286	1.603	.859
	University degree	214	1.849	1.121
	Total	500	1.729	1.001
Mother's Educational Level	Less than a university	256	1.887	1.078
	University degree	244	1.578	.874
	Total	500	1.728	1.001
Player's Marital Status	Married	312	1.759	1.024
	Single	149	1.578	1.004
	Divorced	29	1.627	.724
	Widowed	10	1.675	.607
	Total	500	1.728	1.001

The data in Table (4) indicate the presence of apparent differences in the arithmetic means in the level of aggressive behavior among team game players depending on their variables. Multiple analysis of variance (M- ANOVA) was used to reveal whether these differences are statistically significant, and Table 5 shows the results.

Table (5). Results of the multiple variance analysis to detect differences in the estimates of the study sample members regarding the degree of aggressive behavior among team game players in Jordan according to their variables.

Source of variance	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	M	F	Sig
Game	10.048		3.35	3.526	.015*
Place of Residence	6.273	2	3.14	3.303	.038*
Income Level	3.495	2	1.75	1.840	.160
Player's Educational Level	335	1	.334	.353	.553
Father's Educational Level	5.662	1	1.89	1.987	.115
Mother's Educational Level	3.624	1	1.21	1.272	.283
Player's Marital Status	4.196	3	1.40	1.473	.221
Error	453.974	478	.948		
Total	1996.697	500			

*Significant at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) level.

The data in Table (5) indicate that there are no statistically significant differences at a significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the estimates of the study sample members regarding the degree of aggressive behavior among team game players in Jordan according to the variables (level of financial income, educational level of the player, educational level of the father, educational level of the mother, and social status of the player). The researchers' attribute this to the fact that there is a remarkable similarity in the conditions of the players, especially since professionalism has made practicing sports a profession and a job. Thus, this is reflected in their behavior and their ability to isolate these variables so that they do not affect their performance during sports competitions. The results of Table (5) also

indicate the presence of statistically significant differences at a significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the estimates of the study sample members regarding the degree of aggressive behavior among team game players according to the variables (type of game, place of residence). To discover in whose favor the differences are due according to the variable of the number of family members, the (LSD) test was used for post-comparisons Table (6).

Table (6). LSD test for post hoc comparisons of the variables (type of game and place of residence).

Variable	M		Football	Handball	Volleyball	Basketball
Game	1.691	Football				
	1.813	Handball				
	1.894	Volleyball				
	1.483	Basketball		0.330*	0.411*	
Place of Residence	M	Categories	City	Village	Badia	
	1.690	City				
	1.687	Village				
	2.077	Badia	0.387*	0.390*		

*Significant at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) level.

The results in Table (6) show that there are statistically significant differences in the estimates of sample members regarding the degree of aggressive behavior among team sports players in Jordan, depending on the type of game, between handball players and basketball players, in favor of handball players. The researchers' attributes this to the fact that handball directly allows for friction between players, and the nature of the game and its rules allow for physical contact and physical force, which may generate aggressive behavior at times. In contrast, the rules of basketball do not permit all of this. The researchers' attribute the existence of differences between volleyball players and basketball players in favor of volleyball players. The researchers' can attribute this to the fact that volleyball is characterized by indirect aggression, especially if the ball is hit toward the head and face of the opposing team players with great force, while any simple friction in basketball results in a violation against the offending player, and obtaining five fouls leads to his exclusion from the game. Therefore, friction is at its lowest levels. The results also showed differences in the variable of place of residence between the desert, the city, and the village in favor of the desert. The researchers' can attribute this to the fact that the nature of life in the city and the village differs in terms of social relations, population proximity, and construction compared to the desert. Therefore, the behavior of the people of the desert

differs from the behavior of the people of the city and the village. Many customs and traditions vary in terms of their view of some behaviors or the use of some words that may be understood as a form of aggressive behavior. This is evident through practicing some sports exercises and their reactions to some situations during them.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

In conclusion, professionalism has played an effective role in reducing the level of aggressive behavior among players, especially football and basketball players. Some players feel a desire to harm their opponents during matches to achieve a good result. Additionally, sometimes, some players resort to using inappropriate language during matches to impact their opponents' performance negatively. Finally, social variables have not played an effective role in the level of aggressive behavior among players. Therefore, it is necessary to hold lectures to motivate players and encourage them to compete fairly without resorting to aggressive behavior. In addition, work to educate athletes through lectures, seminars, and media programs to clarify the negative effects of aggressive behavior during sports competitions and work to develop educational concepts for players regarding the laws and penalties associated with aggressive behavior during matches.

Data availability

Unprocessed data were available upon request from the corresponding researchers

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Conflicts of interest

The researchers declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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