

Abstract

Title: Relative Age Effect in Czech Sport Climbing

Objective: The aim of this thesis is to investigate the manifestation of the Relative Age Effect in selected talented youth and the adult national team of sport climbing in the Czech Republic.

Methods: The study analyzes the statistical significance of the expected and actual distribution of birth months in the sample studied. The research sample includes 173 subjects who have been selected for Youth Sports Centers, Elite Sports Centers for Youth, or National Sports Centers for Youth and the national sport climbing team. The chi-squared test, in the form of a goodness-of-fit test, is used to assess the manifestation of the Relative Age Effect.

Results: In the overall sample studied (173 subjects), no statistically significant difference was found in the frequency of births between the first and second halves of the year. The Relative Age Effect was not demonstrated in men, while in women, a statistically significant difference was found, with a higher number of births in the first half of the year. This indicates the presence of RAE in women in Czech sport climbing. Further results relate to specific groups within the sample, such as members of youth sports centers and national teams.

Conclusion: The manifestation of the Relative Age Effect was demonstrated only in women in the studied sample. The overall sample studied, as well as its other examined parts, does not exhibit the Relative Age Effect phenomenon.

Key Words: talent identification; athletic performance; influence of birth date; sports talent