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# IS THERE A DIFFERENCE AMONG SOCCER CLUBS' RISK ASSESSMENTS?[1]

# FUTBOL KULÜPLERİNİN RİSK DEĞERLENDİRMELERİ ARASINDA FARKLILIK VAR MIDIR?

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**Öz:** Bu araştırmanın genel amacı futbol kulüplerinin risk değerlendirmeleri arasındaki farklılığı ortaya koymaktır. Araştırma genel tarama modelinde yapılmıştır. Araştırmanın evrenini 2006–2007 sezonu Turkcell Süper Lig'indeki futbol kulüpleri oluşturmuştur. Araştırmaya 15 futbol kulübü katılmıştır. Araştırma verilerinin toplanması amacıyla 30 soruluk iki bölümlü 5 seçenekli Likert ölçeğine göre değerlendirilmesi istenen bir ölçek uygulanmıştır. Araştırmada istatistiksel teknikler olarak frekans dağılımı, yüzde, ortalama, standart sapma kullanılmış ve istatistiksel testler olarak nonparametrik testlerden Kruskal-Wallis Testi kullanılmıştır. Elde edilen sayısal değerler $p<0.01$ anlamlılık seviyeleri ile test edilmiştir. Araştırma sonucunda futbol kulüplerinin finans yönetimi açısından risk değerlendirmeleri arasında ($p=0.00$), sigorta yönetimi açısından risk değerlendirmeleri arasında ($p=0.00$), tesis yönetimi açısından risk değerlendirmeleri arasında ($p=0.00$), sağlık yönetimi açısından risk değerlendirmeleri arasında ($p=0.00$) istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir farklılık bulunmuştur.

***Anahtar Kelimeler:*** Risk, Sporda Risk Yönetimi, Sporda Risk Faktörleri, Risk Değerlendirme

**Abstract:** The main purpose of this research is to clarify a difference among the soccer clubs' risk assessments. The research was performed as a general scanning model. The research population consisted of the soccer clubs in Turkcell Super League in the season 2006-2007. Fifteen soccer clubs participated in research. A two-section scale, including 30 questions each having five options and was required to be evaluated according to the Likert scale, was performed to get the research data. In the research, the frequency distribution, the percentage, the mean, the standard deviations were used as statistical techniques and the Kruskal-Wallis test was used as statistical tests. The quantitative datas were tested with a level of significance of $p<0.01$. As a result of the research; a statistically meaningful difference was found among the soccer clubs' risk assessment related to finance management ($p=0.00$), related to insurance management ($p=0.00$), related to facility management ($p=0.00$), related to injury management ($p=0.00$).

***Key Words:*** Risk, Risk Management in Sports, The Risk Factors in Sports, Risk Assessment

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## INTRODUCTION

Most of the activities that people are carrying out there are a number of risks that depend on the nature of that activity (Fıkırkoca, 2003). Sports clubs are faced with a number of risks in all the activities that made in order to maintain and develop the existence of the club and success of the club. The success of the sports club will increase with the arrival of the prevention of these risks or overcome these risks (Gök, 2006).

Risk is a concept which means uncertainty, probability of occurrence of an event that may cause damage or loss, the possibility of encountering unexpected results (Gök, 2006; Sevil, 2001).

To identify the risks primarily you need to determine the resources, events and effects which create this risk (Fıkırkoca, 2003). There are 4 main sources of risk which are fields, equipment and materials, programs and humans in terms of structure of the sports clubs (Corbett, 2002). Lack of team's fields owned or tranined, unable to build a secure environment in the field, lack of lighting and cleaning can be given as an example in the fields' sources of risk. Don't regularly maintenance and control of the equipment, used in the sports activities, is seen as a source of risk in terms of equipment. Identificate but can not manage of technique, cost, schedule and time risks, to achieve targets developed in line with the team's and the club's general and specific aims, brings with program risk. Athletes, coaches, volunteers, administrators, peers, and fans, have unpredictable and uncertain behaviour, may make mistakes and may cause trouble. In this regard, seen as a source of risk.

Risk management in sport is a method for identifying risks and developing and implementing programs to protect the organization and prevent loss (Special Olympics Coaching Guide, 2003). According to Spengler et al. (2006) risk management in sport is a comprehensive resource for those charged with the responsibility of providing for the safety of participants and spectators in a sport or recreation setting. Risk management in sport is defined as a systematic process not only protects individual members from injury, but also protects the organization to damages due to the financial losses (Bucher and Krotee, 2002). There are a number of fundamental and distinguishing features of risk management in sport (Miller, 2006; Sevil and Çobanoğlu, 2009; US. Youth Soccer Risk Management Committee, 2007). Risk management in sport is a managerial approach that requires plans, programs and strategies, is related to fulfilling the loss and eliminating the resposibilities of the sports events. Risk management in sport is intended to protect the income and the image of the sports organization, clubs and sport organizations, athletes, coaches and managers.

Risk management consists of 4 main ongoing process. (Appenzeller, 1998; Bucher and Krotee, 2002; Fıkırkoca, 2003; Mull et al., 2005). These processes are risk planning, risk assessment, risk



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mitigation, risk monitoring and control. The risk assessment process is stage of risk identification as determined by the concept of the probability and consequences of risk and analyzed (quantified, rated and prioritized) (Küçük, 2003). The impact of risk can be rated as low, medium and high (Fıkırkoca, 2003).

As evidenced by the description of the risk management in terms of risk management approach sports organizations can be possible to examine four key management approach (Corbett, 2002; Delforge, 2002; Parks et al., 2007; Sawyer and Smith, 1999; Special Olympics Coaching Guide, 2003). These are financial management, insurance management, facility management and injury management.

*Risk Factors in Sports*

*Risk Factors Relating to Financial*

Sports clubs continue their existence and their image through a number of financial support. The income of football clubs; the audience income, broadcasting rights sales revenue, sponsorship income, transfer income and other income (membership fees, publications of the association, lotteries, entertainment, concerts and sports competitions revenues, grants, subsidies, advertising revenue and so on) (Dorukkaya et al., 1998).

*Risk Factors Relating to Insurance*

Insurance ensures financial results under a certain risk. Insurance related to sport can be listed as personal accident and life insurance for athletes, assets for the club, profit loss and liability insurance. In general liability insurance policy applied in sports clubs. Sports clubs transferred the significant risks to someone else by means insurance and contracts that they don't want to take on them. Insurance is used as a risk transfer means (Gök, 2006).

*Risk Factors Relating to Facility*

Don't take measures against natural disasters (such as lightning), heating and/or cooling problem indoor space, insufficient safety distance between the audience and the players area, insufficient training or competition field, insufficient lighting of the field or the hall's, lack of cleanliness of the facility, the playing area/floor that has lost its stability, to provide failure security in the field and/or facility, don't make control exactly (Miller, 1997).

*Risk Factors Relating to Injury*

General health status of the athlete (acute and sudden death induced by chronic problems), injuries resulting from equipment (lack of supervision on clothes, shoes and the tools on playground), overloading in training, overtraining and other factors (nutrition, experience, education and culture, game rules) (Acar, 2001; Ateş and Gür, 2005; Bavlı and Kozanoğlu, 2007; Bompa, 2001; Ergen et al., 2003; Kuter, 2007; Miller, 1997; US. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 1995;

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US. Youth Soccer Risk Management Committee, 2007).

Risk management in sport that make easily to guarantee the future of the sports club on every aspect, is of paramount importance. The purpose of this research is to reveal the differences between the risk assessment of the football clubs. For purpose of the study will be sought answers to the following questions.

1. For soccer clubs is it a risk that does not fairly implement to finance management, insurance management, facility management and injury management?

2. Is there a difference among soccer clubs' risk assesments in terms of finance management, insurance management, facility management and injury management?

## METHODS and MATERIALS

*Research Model*

General screening models are screening arrangement on all of the universe or a sample to be taken from, consist of many components in the universe, with the purpose of reaching an overall judgment about the universe (Karasar, 2005). This research was conducted in the general screening model.

*Sample*

The universe of this research constituted Turkcell Super League' clubs in 2006-2007 soccer season in Turkey. Due to the universe was accessible, 'self-sampling universe' has been recognized as the universe in the research.

*Participants*

Contributions for research based on willingness. 426 scale were distributed during the research. 273 scale were answered one of them, 153 scale did not answer of them. Scale return rate of 64%. Fifteen soccer clubs participated in the research situated in the Turkcell Super League of the 18 soccer clubs. Trabzonspor, Gaziantepspor and Konyaspor did not participate in the study.

*Reliability and Validity of Risk Assessment Scale in Soccer*

Soccer Risk Assesment Scale applied for the purpose of the collection of research data had been prepared based on Appenzeller Risk Management Form developed by Appenzeller (1998), the risk factors in sport (Kuter, 2007) and Volleyball Risk Assessment Scale (Gök, 2006). Soccer Risk Assessment Scale was composed of two parts. In the first section of the scale, there were questions about players' age, educational background, professional age, tenure and status at the club their questions. In the second section, there were statements related to finance management, insurance management, facility management and injury management, each having five options and was required to be evaluated according to the Likert scale 5-choice requested 25 expression. Reliability analysis of Soccer Risk Assessment Scale was made and the Alpha value was found



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as 0.933. At this point, it said that the scale was reliable (Kangalgil et al., 2006; Tunçkol and Güven, 2014). Soccer Risk Assessment Scale had been prepared by some scientists' studies (Appenzeller, 1998; Gök, 2006; Kuter, 2007) who previously worked risk management field and had been benefited from two experts within the scope of validity. Scale could be said was valid in that context.

*Data Analysis*

For the analysis of the data SPSS 18.0 for Windows Program was used. As the statistical techniques, frequency, percentage, average, standard deviation were used and Kruskal-Wallis test was used as statistical tests. The obtained numerical values were tested $p<0.01$ significance level.

## RESULTS

Soccer clubs and players participated in research is given on Tablo 1.

**Tablo 1. Soccer Clubs and Players Participated in Research**

| Soccer Clubs | Players Participated in Research | Rate (%) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Fenerbahce | 10 | 3,7 |
| 2. Besiktas | 10 | 3,7 |
| 3. Galatasaray | 15 | 5,5 |
| 4. Genclerbirligi | 10 | 3,7 |
| 5. Sivasspor | 16 | 5,9 |
| 6. Vestel Manisaspor | 16 | 5,9 |
| 7. Sakaryaspor | 17 | 6,2 |
| 8. Caykur Rizespor | 23 | 8,4 |
| 9. Ankaragücü | 26 | 9,5 |
| 10. Antalyaspor | 24 | 8,8 |
| 11. Erciyesspor | 25 | 9,2 |
| 12. Bursaspor | 27 | 9,9 |
| 13. Ankaraspor | 26 | 9,5 |
| 14. Kayserispor | 23 | 8,4 |
| 15. Denizlispor | 5 | 1,8 |
| **Total** | 273 | 100 |

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When Table 1. investigated, 15 soccer clubs participated in the research situated in the Turkcell Super League of the 18 soccer clubs. Trabzonspor, Gaziantepspor and Konyaspor did not participate in the research.

**Table 2. Kruskal-Wallis Test Results in terms of the Financial Management Risk Assessment of the Soccer Clubs**

| | Soccer Clubs | N | Mean Rank | Kruskal-Wallis Test Statistics | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Finance Management | Fenerbahce | 10 | 190,40 | | |
| | Besiktas | 10 | 188,90 | | |
| | Galatasaray | 15 | 116,40 | | |
| | Genclerbirligi | 9 | 93,00 | | |
| | Sivasspor | 15 | 145,57 | | |
| | VestelManisaSpor | 16 | 215,56 | | |
| | Sakaryaspor | 17 | 125,26 | | |
| | CaykurRizespor | 23 | 171,57 | | |
| | Ankaragucu | 26 | 107,17 | | |
| | Antalyaspor | 23 | 78,24 | | |
| | Erciyesspor | 25 | 112,18 | | |
| | Bursaspor | 27 | 86,91 | | |
| | Ankaraspor | 26 | 158,77 | | |
| | Kayserispor | 23 | 156,83 | | |
| | Denizlispor | 5 | 205,80 | | |
| | **Total** | **270** | | | |
| | | | | **Chi-square** | 72,319 |
| | | | | **df** | 14 |
| | | | | **Asymp. Sig. (p)** | 0,000* |

***p<0.01**

When Table 2. investigated, a statistically significant difference was found between the risk assessment level of soccer clubs in terms of financial management (p=0.00<0.01).



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**Table 3. Kruskal-Wallis Test Results in terms of the Insurance Management Risk Assessment of the Soccer Clubs**

| | Soccer Clubs | N | Mean Rank | Kruskal-Wallis Test Statistics | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Insurance Management | Fenerbahce | 10 | 193,00 | | |
| | Besiktas | 10 | 184,25 | | |
| | Galatasaray | 15 | 136,37 | | |
| | Genclerbirligi | 10 | 103,00 | | |
| | Sivasspor | 16 | 77,59 | | |
| | VestelManisaSpor | 16 | 200,53 | | |
| | Sakaryaspor | 16 | 147,28 | | |
| | CaykurRizespor | 23 | 203,24 | | |
| | Ankaragucu | 26 | 111,25 | | |
| | Antalyaspor | 24 | 94,65 | | |
| | Erciyesspor | 25 | 88,12 | | |
| | Bursaspor | 27 | 112,98 | | |
| | Ankaraspor | 26 | 184,60 | | |
| | Kayserispor | 23 | 127,09 | | |
| | Denizlispor | 5 | 131,80 | | |
| | **Total** | **272** | | | |
| | | | | **Chi-square** | 78,571 |
| | | | | **df** | 14 |
| | | | | **Asymp. Sig. (p)** | 0,000* |

***p<0.01**

When Table 3. investigated, a statistically significant difference was found between the risk assessment level of soccer clubs in terms of insurance management (p=0.00<0.01).

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**Table 4. Kruskal-Wallis Test Results in terms of the Facility Management Risk Assessment of the Soccer Clubs**

| | Soccer Clubs | N | Mean Rank | Kruskal-Wallis Test Statistics |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Facility Management | Fenerbahce | 10 | 211,30 | |
| | Besiktas | 10 | 150,20 | |
| | Galatasaray | 15 | 170,60 | |
| | Genclerbirligi | 10 | 104,85 | |
| | Sivasspor | 14 | 76,14 | Chi-square 73,139 |
| | VestelManisaSpor | 16 | 168,09 | df 14 |
| | Sakaryaspor | 14 | 153,54 | Asymp. Sig. (p) 0,000* |
| | CaykurRizespor | 22 | 115,23 | |
| | Ankaragucu | 26 | 151,38 | |
| | Antalyaspor | 22 | 111,80 | |
| | Erciyesspor | 25 | 64,98 | |
| | Bursaspor | 27 | 148,87 | |
| | Ankaraspor | 26 | 183,58 | |
| | Kayserispor | 22 | 98,20 | |
| | Denizlispor | 5 | 68,90 | |
| | **Total** | **264** | | |

***p<0.01**

When Table 4. investigated, a statistically significant difference was found between the risk assessment level of soccer clubs in terms of facility management (p=0.00<0.01).



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**Table 5. Kruskal-Wallis Test Results in terms of the Injury Management Risk Assessment of the Soccer Clubs**

| | Soccer Clubs | N | Mean Rank | Kruskal-Wallis Test Statistics |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Injury Management | Fenerbahce | 10 | 208,10 | |
| | Besiktas | 10 | 180,35 | |
| | Galatasaray | 15 | 161,33 | |
| | Genclerbirligi | 10 | 83,65 | |
| | Sivasspor | 13 | 84,35 | Chi-square 113,786 |
| | VestelManisaSpor | 14 | 217,46 | df 14 |
| | Sakaryaspor | 16 | 125,34 | Asymp. Sig. (p) 0,000* |
| | CaykurRizespor | 23 | 150,43 | |
| | Ankaragucu | 24 | 99,10 | |
| | Antalyaspor | 20 | 81,83 | |
| | Erciyesspor | 25 | 55,24 | |
| | Bursaspor | 27 | 111,31 | |
| | Ankaraspor | 26 | 204,40 | |
| | Kayserispor | 20 | 115,03 | |
| | Denizlispor | 5 | 129,40 | |
| | **Total** | **258** | | |

***p<0.01**

When Table 5. investigated, a statistically significant difference was found between the risk assessment level of soccer clubs in terms of injury management (p=0.00<0.01).

## DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION

A statistically significant difference found among the risk assessment level in terms of financial management of football clubs found. The differences between risk assessment level of the soccer clubs in terms of financial management may be due to differences in financial support provided.

A statistically significant difference found among the risk assessment level in terms of insurance management of soccer clubs. Cobanoglu and Seville (2013) stated that soccer players who play soccer long term in his club evaluate insurance risk as high risk, whereas soccer players who play soccer short term in his club evaluate insurance risk as low risk.

A statistically significant difference found among the risk assessment level in terms of facility management of soccer clubs. The fact that the financial possibilities' differences lead to the dif-

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ferent facility in soccer clubs. Therefore facility risks in soccer clubs will differ also.

A statistically significant difference found among the risk assessment level in terms of injury management of soccer clubs. In their study Çobanoglu and Sevil (2013) stated that risk assessments level of soccer players differs from according to the age.

Kuter (2007) also emphasized that age is an important factor in risk assessment. Inexperience for the young athletes is an important risk factor. In this age group do not hesitate to take risks without thinking about their future lives. These athletes are at risk in training or competition without realizing themselves. These risks may sometimes lead to injury them or their friends. In addition, inexperienced behavior may bring with it the unnecessary waste of energy and poor performance. This would jeopardize the overall performance of the team.

In their study Çobanoglu and Sevil (2013) stated that soccer players' risk assessment level differs according to education level. Kuter (2007) stated that players' level of education and culture will affect the performance and the risk taken by revealing the sport will allow them to better analyze performance.

Although it is a very important administrative unit of risk management in sports today is still unknown by sports federations and sports clubs in Turkey. Located in different areas such as finance, insurance, facility and injury risk management is a management approach that requires expertise. Therefore, as a result of the research our suggestion is risk management experts must work in the Turkish soccer clubs.

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