

OPINION

by Professor Georgi Vladimirov Ignatov, PhD,

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Regarding: reviewed scientific works and academic activity

of Assoc. Prof. Tsanko Angelov Tsankov, PhD,

the only applicant for participation in a procedure for filling the academic position Professor, announced by the National Sports Academy „Vasil Levski” in State Gazette, Issue 97 of 13 November 2020, under professional strand 7.6. Sports, specialty Sports (basketball) at the Department of „Basketball, volleyball, handball“ at the Faculty of Pedagogy of NSA „Vasil Levski”.

I.Procedure details

The competition was announced for the needs of the Department of Athletics at the Faculty of Pedagogy at NSA „Vasil Levski”, according to the Decision of the Faculty Council under protocol №7 / 21 December 2020. I participate in the scientific jury of the competition according to Order № ZP-1833 / 22.12.2020 of the Rector of NSA „Vasil Levski”.

II.Applicant details

Tsanko Tsankov was born on November 12, 1963 in the town of Shumen. In 1988 he graduated from Higher Institute of Physical Education „G. Dimitrov” with two specialties – „Physical Education Teacher” and „Basketball Coach”. In the same year, 1988, through a competition he won, he was appointed basketball assistant at the Higher Institute of Physical Education „G. Dimitrov”. In 2004 he defended his dissertation and received the title "PhD". In 2007 he became an Associate Professor.

The candidate has an extremely rich coaching career. He was the assistant coach of the men's basketball team of Academic (Sofia) in 1992/1993. From 1993 to 2000 he was the head coach of the men's basketball team of National Sports Academy (NSA), a participant in „A” and „B” groups. He was also the head coach of the women's basketball team of NSA, participant in „A” and „A1” groups from 2005 to 2012 and from 2014 to 2019. He has consistently been the head coach of the National Teams of Bulgaria, as follows: in 2011/2012 – cadets under 16, in 2013 – girls under 18, in 2013/2014 – women under 20. In 2014 he was also an assistant coach for girls under 18. As a coach with different ages of the National Teams of Bulgaria, he has a number of prestigious rankings. Tsanko Tsankov has been the head coach of the children's school at the NSA Basketball Club since 2000. With different ages he is a four-time State Champion and once a winner of the Bulgaria Cup. He has also won four second places in state championships. He was the head coach of the men's and women's student team of NSA. With the male he became three times State Champion, and

with the female four times. Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD manages and participates in a significant number of socially useful activities and initiatives such as: Head of the Basketball Sector at NSA „Vasil Levski” from 2010 to 2016, as well as from 2020 to the present. Head of the Department of Basketball, Volleyball, Handball and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Education in the period 2016 – 2020. He has been a member of the Academic Council of NSA „Vasil Levski” since 2016. Chairman of the General Assembly of the Faculty of Teacher Education at NSA for two terms. President of Basketball Club at NSA – Sofia. Chairman of the Licensing Commission of the Bulgarian Basketball Federation since 2016. Member of the Commission for Pupils and Students in the Bulgarian Olympic Committee. Member of the Coaching Commission of the Bulgarian Basketball Federation from 2003 to 2016 and from 2018 until now. Chief Coordinator of the Technical Commission on Basketball at the Association for University Sports „Academic”. Member of the Management Board of the multi-sports club of NSA „Vasil Levski” in the period 2019/2020.

III. Summarized quantitative and qualitative data for the pedagogical and research activity of the candidate

The scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD fulfills the criteria for science such as truthfulness, reliability, innovation, contribution to science and practice and other features specific to scientific knowledge. The evaluation of the scientific results of the candidate, which he presents as scientometric data, written by National Center for Information and Documentation are as follows:

- Indicators in group A: a total of 50 points.
- Indicators in group B: total 100 points.
- Indicators in group G: total 485,3 points.
- Indicators in group D: total 290 points.
- Indicators in group E: total 281 points.

As can be seen, the scientometric indicators of the scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD in all three groups (G, D and E) significantly exceed the values of the required minimum requirements, according to Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

As a result of his many years of training, Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD has acquired specialized scientific knowledge and specific professional skills and competencies, which he successfully applies academically and professionally, in research and project activities. The candidate has participated in 5 national research and educational projects in the field of physical education and sports. Evidence of the high professionalization of Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD is found in the citation of his 37 scientific papers, which is undoubtedly valuable for all professionals.

IV. Description of the scientific works

For his participation in the competition Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD. presents for review in theoretical, scientific-applied and practical aspects a total of 28 scientific papers in the field of Physical Education and Sports, of which by type:

1. Monograph – 1
2. Collective monograph – 1 pc.
3. Textbooks, manuals and aids – 3 pcs.
4. Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases – 4 pcs.
5. Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review – 18 pcs.
6. Dissertation work – 1 pc.

The author's share of scientific publications is: independent author – 11 works and co-authors – 4 works, of which one is the first author, eight is the second, four is the third, one is the fourth and three is the fifth author.

The presented scientific production can be distributed thematically as follows:

- Characteristic features in the construction, implementation and programming of long-term sports training for basketball players (dissertation with №1 and monograph with №2 from the list of scientific papers);
- Historical retrospective of the appearance of the three sports games – basketball, volleyball and handball since the establishment of the Higher School of Physical Education, as well as the history of the Department of Basketball, Volleyball and Handball at NSA (collective monograph with №3 and publication with №21 from the list of scientific works);
- Theory and methodology of basketball, necessary for teaching the teaching material in the Bulgarian high school, incl. and in sports schools and distance learning in basketball at the NSA (textbook with №4, manual with №5, textbook with №6 and publication with №28 from the list of scientific papers);
- Management, development and management of basketball in the complex modern social and economic environment (publications with №7, 8 and 9 from the list of scientific papers);
- Monitoring the changes in the morphofunctional indicators and in the anaerobic possibilities in basketball players (publications with №10, 24, 25 and 26 from the list of scientific papers);
- Analysis of sports readiness, competitive activity and optimization of the training process for basketball players (publications with №11, 18 and 20 from the list of scientific papers);
- Study of the factors causing stress among basketball players and revealing ways to eliminate it (publications with №12 and 13 from the list of scientific papers);
- Defining criteria for building a system for annual ranking of organized sports in the Republic of Bulgaria (publications with №14 and 15 from the list of scientific papers);

- Basketball among students from non-specialized sports schools (publications with №16 and 17 from the list of scientific papers);
- Raising the level of students from basketball teams from colleges in Turkey and analyzing the specific endurance of basketball players from several age groups in Kazakhstan (publications with №19 and 22 from the list of scientific papers);
- Psychological training and personal characteristics of basketball players (publications with №23 and 27 from the list of scientific papers).

V. Scientific contributions

Of significant interest is the monograph „Long-term training of basketball players”, published in 2020, which is a work of high practical value. The work is focused on basketball coaches. It is structured in eight chapters, which cover the different aspects of multi-year basketball training: stages, nature and features of sports training, training features in the development of motor skills, methods and principles in basketball training, technical and tactical training, periodization of training in basketball, control and management of some aspects of sports training in basketball.

As a continuation of this topic are the publications tracking the changes in the morphofunctional indicators and in the anaerobic possibilities in basketball players. The author creates an anthropometric and anaerobic profile of elite basketball players from the women's National Team of Bulgaria under 20. Establishes the level of physical development of the basketball players of the National Team of Bulgaria – cadets and reveals the average levels and variability of the main signs of physical development of the observed basketball players. Makes a successful attempt to optimize the training process of NSA basketball players by analyzing their physical development and their specific performance.

Another continuation of this topic is the analysis of sports fitness, competitive activity and optimization of the training process for basketball players. The author makes a competent analysis of the competitive activity of the National Team of Bulgaria – cadets under 16, participant in the European Championship in Tallinn, Estonia. In two other publications, the author makes a detailed analysis of the relationship between sports fitness and the game realization of the National Team of Bulgaria – cadets born in 1996-1997, as well as the women's National Team of Bulgaria under 20 in 2014.

An important area in the scientific research of Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD is the theory and methodology of basketball, necessary for teaching the teaching material in the Bulgarian high school, incl. and in sports schools. The co-authored "Basketball Textbook" offers basic knowledge in the theory and methodology of basketball, necessary for teaching the subject in the Bulgarian high school. The guide „Rule of Basketball and Mini-Basketball for NSA Students” is an edited excerpt from the official FIBA Regulations in Basketball and Mini-Basketball. It aims to support and meet the requirements for the preparation of 1st and 2nd year students at NSA. The textbook „Curricula for

training in sports training in sports schools" presents a basketball curriculum for students from 5th to 11th grade of sports schools. The training sessions are in accordance with the orientation of the process of preparation of basketball players from different age groups to high sports achievements. The publication co-authored „Distance learning in basketball at NSA" examines the opinion of first-year students of NSA for distance learning in basketball – practical classes.

Another area in the scientific research of Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD is basketball among students from non-specialized sports universities. The author establishes the correlations between the studied signs of physical capacity and the specific technical and tactical readiness of students from higher schools.

Other areas of the author's research are related to the history of the Department of „Basketball, Volleyball and Handball" at the NSA and a historical retrospective of the emergence of the three sports games – basketball, volleyball and handball since the establishment of the Higher School of Physical Education. The author also works in the field of management, development and management of basketball in the complex modern social and economic environment. Takes an active part in determining the criteria for building a system for annual ranking of organized sports in the Republic of Bulgaria. The author's interests continue in the field of raising the level of students from basketball teams from colleges in Turkey and analyzing the specific endurance of basketball players from several age groups in Kazakhstan.

An important part of the research of Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD are the studies presented by him of the factors causing stress among basketball players and revealing ways to eliminate it. Also of interest is the assessment of visualization as an aid in the psychological training of basketball players aged 12-15 years and the determination of the personal characteristics of female basketball players and their influence on the team game.

The presented scientific production in a wide range, its content, results and conclusions give us reason to define the author as a leader in the problems of fitness among students and highly qualified athletes, as well as in the field of fitness industry in our country. From the analysis of the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD. impresses the high competence and interpretation of scientific research.

The scientific production proposed by Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD. meets the requirements for the academic position „Professor".

VI. Academic and scientific research activities

The announced competition has a full study load with the respective compulsory and elective courses.

Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD is a keynote lecturer at the Department of „Basketball, Volleyball, Handball" at the Faculty of Pedagogy at the National Sports Academy „Vasil Levski".

He is a teacher of basketball students from all faculties of NSA „Vasil Levski" and a leading specialty „Sports – Basketball" in the coaching faculty in bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as coaching courses for postgraduate

qualification of NSA. As such, he is the author of a number of innovative basketball programs for the needs of educational work with students. This fact testifies that he is excellently prepared to create, present and update the content of his lecture courses. In terms of content, the created courses and programs reveal the classic look of sports science, but also its modern achievements, further illustrated with numerous examples from practice. All this makes them not only theoretical and applied, but also especially useful and attractive to a wide audience of students, PhD students, athletes and professionals.

Assoc. Prof. Tsankov PhD. is the scientific supervisor of 1 student – master (graduate), who has successfully created and defended his thesis under his expert scientific guidance. He is also the research supervisor of two doctoral students, and the topics of their dissertations are a kind of continuation of his research and many years of research experience. In this way, he practically shares with them his effective ways and practices of how to teach and how to achieve high quality research and publication. All this testifies that he puts long, consistent and purposeful efforts in his academic training and in achieving high professionalism.

The presented production for review does not duplicate works by other authors and there is no plagiarism.

We do not have common publications with Assoc. Prof. Tsankov, PhD.

No violations were found during the competition.

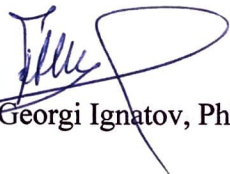
VII. Conclusion

Based on the overall analysis of the presented scientific production, my long-term personal impressions, I believe that the candidate for the academic position „Professor” Assoc. Prof. Tsanko Angelov Tsankov, PhD has the necessary professional, pedagogical and scientific training. Tsanko Tsankov is a respected lecturer with extremely rich practical and excellent theoretical training. He successfully combines research with specific teaching and work. He enjoys respect among students and colleagues.

Based on the above and the qualities of the candidate, I confidently propose to the Distinguished Members of the Scientific Jury to award Assoc. Prof. Tsanko Angelov Tsankov, PhD – the academic position „Professor” in the professional field 7.6. Sports, specialty Sports (basketball) at the Department of „Basketball, volleyball, handball“ at the Faculty of Pedagogy of NSA „Vasil Levski”.

15 February 2021
Sofia

Opinion written by:


/Prof. Georgi Ignatov, PhD/