

## **Investigating the relationship between decision making and performance among Malaysian rugby sevens referee**

### **Abstract**

This study aims to examine the decision making by rugby sevens referees and its relationship with referee's performance. The instruments used in this study are Rugby Referee Decision Making Test ( $\alpha=.74$ ) and Referee Sevens Field Performance Evaluation ( $\alpha=.94$ ). It was administered to 132 rugby sevens referee (mean age  $33.4 \pm 1.5$  years; 132 males) of the Malaysian Rugby Union (MRU) which have been refereeing in 10 rugby sevens tournament in Malaysia. Descriptive and Inferential statistic (one way ANOVA and Pearson Correlation) were use to analyse data. Decision Making ( $\bar{X}=24.13$ ,  $SD=5.24$ ) and performance ( $\bar{X}=136.45$ ,  $SD=4.47$ ) identified at a moderate level. Finding indicated no significant differences [ $F=(3, 128) = .246$ ,  $p>0.05$ ] in decision making across age level but there are significant differences [ $F=(3, 128) = 63.159$ ,  $p<0.05$ ] across experience level. Highly experience referees scored significantly higher in all decision making constructs compare to less experience referees. The research finding showed a positive and significant relationship between decision making ( $r=.61$ ,  $p<.05$ ) to referee performance. In conclusion, the decision making can help in rugby sevens referees performance and recommended the referee coach to increase the use of decision making in future training and assessment. Researcher should investigate the effectiveness of decision making interventions in enhancing referee performance in the future.