Differences in Body Composition of Football Players of Two Top Football Clubs

Jovan Gardasevic¹, Dusko Bjelica¹, Ivan Vasiljevic¹, Marin Corluka²

¹University of Montenegro, Faculty for Sport and Physical Education, Niksic, Montenegro, ²University of Mostar, Faculty of Mathematics and Science Education, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Abstract

The aim of this research was to determine the differences among the football players of the football club in Bosnia and Herzegovina, CSC Zrinjski Mostar and the football players of the football club in Montenegro FC Sutjeska Niksic, in the anthropometric characteristics and body composition. A sample of 51 subjects was divided into two sub-samples. The first sub-sample of the subjects consisted of 28 football players of CSC Zrinjski Mostar of the average age 24.36±4.14, the champions of the Bosnia and Herzegovina in the season 2016/17, while the other sub-sample consisted of 23 players of FC Sutjeska Niksic of the average age of 21.69±4.30, the winner of the Cup of Montenegro in the season 2016/17. Football players were tested immediately after the end of the competition season 2016/17. Anthropometric characteristics in the body composition were evaluated by a battery of 10 variables: body height, body weight, waist circumference, triceps skinfold, biceps skinfold, skinfold of the back, abdominal skinfold, body mass index, fat percentage and muscle mass. The significance of the differences between the football players of the top two football clubs in the Anthropometric characteristics and variables for assessing body composition was determined by a t-test for independent samples. It was found that the football players of the two mentioned clubs have statistically significant differences by the three variables that estimate the waist circumference, triceps skinfold and skinfold of the back, in a favor of FC Sutjeska Niksic.

Key words: Anthropometric Characteristics, Body Composition, Football Players

Introduction

A football game is said to be the most important secondary thing in the world, it gathers huge masses at stadiums and in front of TVs (Gardašević, 2010; Gardašević, Bjelica, Popović, & Milašinović, 2016). It is a highly dynamic and fast team game which, with its richness of movement, falls under category of polystructural sports games (Bjelica, 2005; Gardašević i Goranović, 2011; Gardašević i Bjelica, 2013; Gardašević & Bjelica, 2014a; Gardasevic i Bjelica, 2014b). Football is a sport that is characterized by numerous and various complex and dynamic kinesiological activities which are then characterized by either cyclical (Gardašević, Vasiljević i Bojanić, 2015; Bjelica, Popović, & Gardašević, 2016a; Bjelica, Popović i Gardašević, 2016b; Sermahaj, Popovic, Bjelica, Gardasevic, & Arifi, 2017; Gardasevic, Bjelica, & Vasiljevic, 2017a; Gardasevic, Bjelica, & Vasiljevic, 2017b) or acyclical movement (Gardašević, 2015; Gardašević i sar., 2015; Gardašević, Bjelica i Vasiljević, 2016a; Gardašević, Bjelica i Vasiljević, 2016b; Gardasevic, Bjelica, Milasinovic i Vasiljevic, 2016; Gardašević i Vasiljević, 2016; Gardasevic, Popovic, & Bjelica, 2016). In football, top score can be achieved only under conditions of well-programmed training process (Gardašević, Bjelica i Popović, 2015). High quality management of the training process depends on the knowing of the structure of certain anthropological capabilities and player’s characteristics, as well as their development (Bjelica i Popović, 2012; Bjelica, 2013). Various researches are to be done in order to establish certain principles and norms for the transformational processes of the anthropological characteristics important for football (Gardašević, Bjelica, Georgiev, & Popović, 2012); with
anthropometric characteristics and body composition among them as expected. Findings regarding anthropometric characteristics and body composition are of crucial importance for complex sports games such as football. The anthropometric space is defined by the longitudinal dimension of the skeleton, the transversal dimensionality of the skeleton, the mass and volume of the body (Bjelica & Fratić, 2011). The purpose of knowing anthropometric characteristics is to improve skills in many sports (Carter & Heath, 1990). The anthropometric status of top level athletes is relatively homogeneous, depending on the sport, and it can be defined as a model of athletic achievement (Mišigoj-Duraković, Matković, & Medved, 1995). Research on anthropometric characteristics and body composition among athletes of different sports indicates that athletes of different sports have their own specific characteristics. Muscle mass improves performance in activities that require muscular strength and endurance, but also in those that require enviable aerobic ability (Ramanad & Byrd, 1987; Green, 1992; Rico-Sanz, 1998).

Today, football is certainly the number one sport in the world for its view and popularity (Gardašević, Georgiev, & Bjelica, 2012; Vasiljević, Gardašević, & Bojanić, 2013; Gardašević, Bjelica, Vasiljević, Arifi, & Sermahxaj, 2019), and the same applies to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro (Bjelica, Gardašević, Vasiljević, Arifi, & Sermahxaj, 2019). The two clubs that are at the top of the Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the First Montenegrin Telecom League, in the 2016/17 competitive season, they both have achieved a staggering success, CSC Zrinjski Mostar was the champion of Bosnia and Herzegovina and FC Sutjeska-Niksic was the winner of the Cup of Montenegro. Based on these two trophies that they have won at the end of the competitive season, both clubs have acquired the right to play on the international football scene within the framework of UEFA’s Champions League qualification and UEFA’s Europa League qualification. It became as interesting for researchers to determine the models of anthropometric characteristics and body composition of the players who play for these clubs as to determine the differences among them.

The aim of this research was to determine anthropometric characteristics and body composition of elite football players, players of CSC Zrinjski Mostar who compete in the Telecom Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina and players of FC Sutjeska-Niksic, who compete in the First Montenegrin Telecom League. Afterwhich, compare the variables between these football players and determine the possible differences between them.

**Method**

The data obtained in the study of anthropometric characteristics and body composition are checked and prepared for processing according to the set goal. Data bases are arranged according to the features and prepared for planned statistical processing. The results obtained by statistical analysis are presented in the tables and analyzed by the corresponding logical units. In general, the results of the research, through gradualness in the explanation of individual relationships, allow seeing differences in the observed anthropometric measures and body composition in accordance with the aim of the research, that is, they contribute to a clearer application of the obtained results in practice. In terms of time constraint, the research is of transversal character, and it consists of a one-off measurement of the corresponding anthropometric characteristics and body composition of top-level senior football players.

**Sample of subjects**

A sample of the subjects consists of a total of 51 top-level senior football players who performed in the Premier League of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the First Montenegrin Telecom League, divided into two sub-samples. The first one consists of 28 football players of CSC Zrinjski Mostar, the average age of 24.36±4.14, Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Championship winner in season 2016/17, and the second one that consists of 23 football players of FC Sutjeska Niksic of the average age 21.69±4.30, the winner of the Cup of Montenegro in the season 2016/17. The football players were tested immediately after the 2016/17 season ended.

**Sample of measures**

Anthropometric research has been carried out with respect to the basic rules and principles related to the selection of measuring instruments and measurement techniques standardized in accordance with the International Biological Program guidelines. For the purpose of this study, 7 anthropometric measures have been taken: body height, body weight, waist circumference, triceps skinfold, biceps skinfold, skinfold of the back and abdominal skinfold, and 3 body composition assessment variables: body mass index (BMI), fat percentage and muscle mass. Anthropometer, caliper, and measuring tape were used for anthropometric measurements. To evaluate the body composition, Tanita body fat scale - model BC-418MA, was used. The principle of this scale is based on indirect measurement of the body composition; a safe electrical signal is transmitted through the body via electrodes located in the standalone unit. The Tanita Scale, thanks to its athletics mode, enables athletes to closely monitor their body weight, health condition and form with all relevant parameters.

**Method of data processing**

The data obtained through the research are processed by descriptive and comparative statistical procedures. For each variable, central and dispersion parameters, as well as asymmetry and flattening measures are processed. Differences in anthropometric characteristics and the composition of the body of the football players of these two clubs were determined by using a discriminatory parametric procedure with t-test for small independent samples, with statistical significance of p<0.05.

**Results**

In Tables 1 and 2, basic descriptive statistical parameters of anthropometric variables and body composition of the football players of the two clubs, where the values of central measurements and dispersion tendencies are calculated, are shown: arithmetic mean (Mean), standard deviation (S.D.), variance, minimal (Min) and maximal (Max) values, coefficient of curvature (Skewness) and elongation (Kurtosis). First, the central and dispersion parameters of the variables were analyzed to evaluate the anthropometric characteristics and body composition of the football players of CSC Zrinjski Mostar (Table 1).
Based on the central and dispersion parameters, the values of the skewness and the kurtosis, it can be noted that all the variables are placed within the normal distribution boundaries. Generally, according to all statistical parameters, it can be concluded that here we have some top football players; that there is a normal distribution in all variables and that the results that prevail are superior to the arithmetic mean, which is not statistically significant because it is to be expected that regarding football players of a professional football club, there is no too large a span between the results of analyzed variables. Table 2 showed the central and dispersion parameters of the variables were analyzed to evaluate the anthropometric characteristics and body composition of the football players of FC Sutjeska Niksic.

Based on the central and dispersion parameters, the values of skewness and kurtosis of the football players of FC Sutjeska-Niksic, it can be stated that all the variables are within the normal distribution boundaries and that the values are very similar to those of the football players of CSC Zrinjski Mostar. It can also be stated that the football players of FC Sutjeska-Niksic are younger on average. It can also be concluded that almost all variables of quantitative value are better with football players of FC Sutjeska-Niksic. However, a comparative statistical procedure, t-test (Table 3), will show whether it is statistically significant. By the value of the skewness, it can be noticed that in the variables of the biceps skinfold and skinfold of the back, there was a slight inclination on the side of the lower results, which is good because subcutaneous fat is a disrupting factor for professional athletes. In order to determine whether there are statistically significant differences in the analyzed variables in the top football players of these two clubs, the statistical procedure t-test (Table 3) was applied.

### Table 1. Central and dispersion parameters of variables for assessment of anthropometric characteristics and body composition of football players of CSC Zrinjski Mostar (N=28)

| Variables            | Min   | Max   | Mean±S.D. | Variance | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Body height          | 170.8 | 193.0 | 182.59±4.82 | 23.27    | -.07     | .25      |
| Body weight          | 70.0  | 90.5  | 78.85±5.80  | 33.68    | .13      | -.92     |
| Waist circumference  | 77.0  | 98.0  | 86.39±4.35  | 18.91    | .34      | .95      |
| Triceps skinfold     | 4.6   | 13.0  | 7.59±2.09   | 4.39     | .88      | .63      |
| Biceps skinfold      | 3.3   | 6.2   | 4.33±.74    | .55      | 1.07     | .59      |
| Skinfold of the back | 3.7   | 13.8  | 9.23±2.18   | 4.74     | .31      | .92      |
| Abdominal skinfold   | 4.0   | 15.0  | 8.02±2.77   | 7.66     | .89      | .36      |
| BMI-body mass index  | 21.4  | 26.1  | 23.63±1.14  | 1.30     | .16      | -.47     |
| Fat percentage       | 3.9   | 14.6  | 8.79±3.18   | 10.14    | -.05     | -.88     |
| Muscle mass          | 35.5  | 46.9  | 40.67±2.67  | 7.12     | .05      | -.03     |

### Table 2. Central and dispersion parameters of variables for assessment of anthropometric characteristics and body composition of football players of FC Sutjeska Niksic (N=23)

| Variables            | Min   | Max   | Mean±S.D. | Variance | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Body height          | 166.0 | 195.0 | 182.99±6.77 | 45.83    | -.55     | .61      |
| Body weight          | 68.0  | 91.7  | 78.33±7.71  | 59.43    | .48      | -1.16    |
| Waist circumference  | 76.0  | 90.0  | 83.00±3.82  | 14.64    | .28      | -.54     |
| Triceps skinfold     | 3.4   | 9.8   | 6.46±1.66   | 2.77     | .26      | -.22     |
| Biceps skinfold      | 3.1   | 7.7   | 4.52±1.22   | 1.49     | 1.12     | .94      |
| Skinfold of the back | 6.4   | 11.8  | 8.13±1.42   | 2.01     | 1.10     | 1.15     |
| Abdominal skinfold   | 5.4   | 14.0  | 8.25±2.38   | 5.65     | .85      | .03      |
| BMI-body mass index  | 21.7  | 25.8  | 23.36±1.41  | 1.99     | .43      | -1.33    |
| Fat percentage       | 2.6   | 13.6  | 8.66±2.92   | 8.53     | -.38     | -.51     |
| Muscle mass          | 34.1  | 46.8  | 40.56±3.81  | 14.51    | -.03     | -1.19    |

### Table 3. T-test values between the arithmetic mean of variables for the evaluation of anthropometric characteristics and body composition of football players of CSC Zrinjski Mostar (N=28) and FC Sutjeska Niksic (N=23)

| Variables            | Club        | Mean±. D. | Mean Difference | t-test | Sig.  |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| Body Height          | CSC Zrinjski| 182.59±4.82 | -.3984          | -.245  | .807  |
|                      | FC Sutjeska | 182.99±6.77 |                  |        |       |
| Body Weight          | CSC Zrinjski| 78.85±5.80  | .5239            | .277   | .783  |
|                      | FC Sutjeska | 78.33±7.71  |                  |        |       |
| Waist Circumference  | CSC Zrinjski| 86.39±4.35  | 3.3929           | 2.925  | .005  |
|                      | FC Sutjeska | 83.00±3.82  |                  |        |       |
| Triceps Skinfold     | CSC Zrinjski| 7.59±2.09   | 1.1241           | .2087  | .042  |
|                      | FC Sutjeska | 6.46±1.66   |                  |        |       |

(continued on next page)
(continued from previous page)

| Variables                  | Club             | Mean±S. D. | Mean Difference | t-test | Sig. |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|--------|-----|
| Biceps Skinfold            | CSC Zrinjski     | 4.33±.74   | -.1932         | -.695  | .490|
|                            | FC Sutjeska      | 4.52±1.22  |                |        |     |
|                            | CSC Zrinjski     | 9.23±2.18  | 1.1017         | 2.088  | .042|
|                            | FC Sutjeska      | 8.13±1.42  |                |        |     |
| Abdominal Skinfold         | CSC Zrinjski     | 8.02±2.77  | -.2300         | -.314  | .755|
|                            | FC Sutjeska      | 8.25±2.38  |                |        |     |
| BMI-Body Mass Index        | CSC Zrinjski     | 23.63±1.14 | .2677          | .749   | .458|
|                            | FC Sutjeska      | 23.36±1.41 |                |        |     |
| Fat Percentage             | CSC Zrinjski     | 8.79±3.18  | .1292          | .150   | .882|
|                            | FC Sutjeska      | 8.66±2.92  |                |        |     |
| Muscle Mass                | CSC Zrinjski     | 40.67±2.67 | .1026          | .113   | .911|
|                            | FC Sutjeska      | 40.56±3.81 |                |        |     |

Based on the obtained values of t-test results, it was found that the football players of the two mentioned clubs have statistically significant differences by the three variables that estimate the waist circumference, triceps skinfold and skinfold of the back, in favor of FC Sutjeska-Niksic.

**Discussion**

The aim of this study was to determine the difference in the anthropometric characteristics and body composition of the top football players of the champions’ football club in Bosnia and Herzegovina, CSC Zrinjski Mostar and the top football players of the winner football club in Montenegro FC Sutjeska Niksic. A sample of 51 respondents was divided into two sub-samples. The first sub-sample consisted of the 28 football players of CSC Zrinjski Mostar of 24.36±4.14 age on average, who were a statistically significant older than the 23 football players of FC Sutjeska Niksic, who made the second sub-sample of 21.69±4.30 age on average. The results were obtained by using a battery of 10 tests in the area of anthropometric characteristics and body composition. By looking into the basic descriptive statistical parameters, it can be concluded that we have examined professional sportsmen indeed. It can be noticed that the football players of both clubs are of the approximately similar mean values of the variables analyzed, which is not surprising because these are the two top football clubs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, a state where there are also a great concentration of good football players. The t-test results showed that the football players of the two mentioned clubs have statistically significant differences by the three variables that estimate the waist circumference, triceps skinfold and skinfold of the back, in favor of FC Sutjeska-Niksic. The first variable in which a statistically significant difference has been found is a variable that estimates waist circumference, where the football players of CSC Zrinjski Mostar also have a statistically higher value than the football players of FC Sutjeska Niksic. Also, at the variables of triceps skinfold and skinfold of the back, football players of CSC Zrinjski Mostar have shown statistically better values because a smaller number means a better result when the disrupting factor of subcutaneous fat on playing football is taken into account. Very similar characteristics of football players were obtained in the region, which shows that football players have similar the anthropometric characteristics and body composition in the whole region (Gardasevic, Bjelica, Popovic, Vasiljevic, & Milesevic, 2018; Bjelica, Gardasevic, & Vasiljevic, 2018; Corluka & Vasiljevic, 2018; Bjelica, & Gardasevic, 2019; Gardasevic, Bjelica, & Vasiljevic, 2019; Bjelica, Gardasevic, Vasiljevic, Jeleskovic, & Covic, 2019).

For other variables, some values are better for football players of CSC Zrinjski Mostar and some for football players of FC Sutjeska Niksic, although, insignificantly for statistics, which indicates that these football players have very similar anthropometric parameters and body composition, which is again, not surprising, considering that these two football clubs are the best in their countries in the 2016/17 competitive season. The values obtained in this research can be useful for coaches of these football clubs for making a comparison of their football players with others and formulate their work in a way that enables reduction of those parameters that are not good, and raise those that are good to a higher level. That will surely make their football players even better and more successful. Also, both clubs should turn to other researches and check the functional-motoric status, psychological preparation as well as tactical training of their football players and analyze whether there is room for their improvement. The results obtained in this research can serve as model parameters for the estimated variables for football players of all other football clubs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, because the football players that have been analyzed here, were among the best and the most successful football players in those two countries at the end of the competitive season 2016/17.

**Acknowledgements**

There are no acknowledgements.

**Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

**Received:** 30 July 2019 | **Accepted:** 18 August 2019 | **Published:** 11 October 2019

**References**

Bjelica, D. (2005). Sistematizacija sportskih disciplina i sportski trening. Podgorica: Crnogorska sport ska akademija.
Bjelica, D. (2013). Teorija sportskog treninga. Podgorica: Univerzitet Crne Gore. Bjelica, D., & Freatric, F. (2011). Sportski trening: teorija, metodika i dijagnostika. Nikšić: Fakultet za fizičko vaspitanje. Bjelica, D., i Popovic, S. (2012). Fudball-teorija, tehnika i taktika. Podgorica: Crnogorska sport ska akademija. Bjelica, D., Popović, S., i Gardašević, J. (2016a). Modeli fizičke pripreme vrhunskih sportaša i doziranje opterećenja. U Zborniku radova 14. godišnje međunarodne konferencije “Kondicijska priprema sportska” (185-189), Zagreb: Udrug kondicijski trener Hrvatske. Bjelica, D., Popović, S., i Gardašević, J. (2016b). Opći principi planiranja i programiranja fizičkih priprema sportaša. U Zborniku radova 14. godišnje međunarodne konferencije “Kondicijska priprema sportska” (190-192), Zagreb: Udrug kondicijski trener Hrvatske.
Bjelica, D., Gardasevic, J., & Vasiljevic, I. (2018). Differences in the Anthropometric characteristics and body composition of soccer players CF Surtjeska and FC Mladost in Montenegro. *Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education, 3*(2), 29-34. doi: 10.26773/jasp.e.180406

Bjelica, D., Gardasevic, J., Vasiljevic, I., Arifi, F., & Sermahaj, S. (2019). Anthropometric measures and body composition of soccer players of Montenegro and Montenegro. *Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education, 3*(2), 29-34. doi: 10.26773/jasp.e.180406

Gardašević, J., Bjelica, D., & Vasiljević, I. (2016a). Six-Week Preparation Period and its Effects on Transformation Movement Speed with Soccer Players Under 16. *Sport Mont, 14*(1), 13-16.

Gardašević, J., Bjelica, D., & Vasiljević, I. (2016b). The Effects of the Training in the Preparation Period on the Repetitive Strength Transformation with Cadet Level Soccer Players. In *Proceeding book of the 16th International Scientific Conference on Transformation Processes in Sport “Sport Performance”* (43), Podgorica: Montenegro Sports Academy.

Gardašević, J., Djelić, D., Milasimov, R., & Vasiljević, I. (2016). The Effects of the Training in the Preparation Period on the Repetitive Strength Transformation with Cadet Level Soccer Players. *Sport Mont, 14*(1), 13-16.

Gardašević, J., Bjelica, D., & Vasiljević, I. (2015). Six-week preparation period and its effects on transformation movement speed with soccer players under 16. *Sport Mont, 13*(43-45), 355-360.

Gardašević, J., Bjelica, D., & Vasiljević, I. (2016a). Six-Week Preparation Period and its Effects on Transformation Movement Speed with Soccer Players Under 16. *Sport Mont, 14*(1), 13-16.

Gardašević, J., Bjelica, D., & Vasiljević, I. (2016b). The Effects of the Training in the Preparation Period on the Repetitive Strength Transformation with Cadet Level Soccer Players. In *Proceeding book of the 16th International Scientific Conference on Transformation Processes in Sport “Sport Performance”* (43), Podgorica: Montenegro Sports Academy.

Gardašević, J., Bjelica, D., Milasimov, R., & Vasiljević, I. (2016). The Effects of the Training in the Preparation Period on the Repetitive Strength Transformation with Cadet Level Soccer Players. *Sport Mont, 14*(1), 13-16.

Gardašević, J., & Vasiljević, I. (2016). Effects of Preparation Period on Endurance in U16 Soccer Players. In *Book of Abstracts of the 4TH International Scientific Conference “Exercise and Quality of Life”* (108), Novi Sad: University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Sport and Physical Education.

Gardašević, J., Bjelica, D., Popović, S., & Milasimov, R. (2016). Preparation Period and its Effects on the Speed of Ball Leading at Players U16. In *Book of Summaries of 11th FIEP European Congress “Anthropological Aspects of Sport, Physical Education and Recreation”* (30-33), Banjaluka: University of Banjaluka, Faculty of Physical Education and Sport.

Gardašević, J., Popović, S., & Bjelica, D. (2016). After preparation period ball shooting accuracy at players U15. In *Abstract Book of the 8th Conference for Youth Sport* (88), Ljubljana: University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Sport.

Gardašević, J., Bjelica, D., & Vasiljević, I. (2017a). The strength of kicking the ball after preparation period with U15 soccer players. In *Book of Abstracts of the 14th International Scientific Conference on Transformation Processes in Sport “Sport Performance”* (65-66), Podgorica: Montenegro Sports Academy.

Gardašević, J., Bjelica, D., & Vasiljević, I. (2017b). The Strength of Kicking the Ball after Preparation Period with U15 Soccer Players. *Sport Mont, 15*(2), 39-42.

Gardašević, J., Bjelica, D., Popović, S., Vasiljević, I., & Arifi, F. (2016a). Differences in the Anthropometric and Body Composition of Soccer Players FC Buducnost and FC Mladost in Montenegro. *Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education, 2*(1), 51-55. doi: 10.26773/jasp.e.180109

Gardašević, J., Bjelica, D., Vasiljević, I., Arifi, F., & Sermahaj, S. (2019). Differences in anthropometric measures of soccers, cup winners of Montenegro and Montenegro. *Journal of Anthropology of Sport and Physical Education, 3*(1), 23-27. doi: 10.26773/jasp.e.190105

Gardašević, J., Bjelica, D., & Vasiljević, I. (2019). Body composition and anthropometric measures of soccer players, champions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. In *Book of Abstracts of the 16th International Scientific Conference of Montenegro Sports Academy “Sport, Physical Activity and Health: Contemporary Perspectives”* (74-75), Podgorica: Montenegro Sports Academy.

Green, S. (1992). Anthropometric and physiological characteristics of south Australian soccer players. *Australian Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport, 24*, 3-7.

Milosig-Durakovic, M., Matkovic, B., & Medved, R. (1995). Morfološka antropometrija u sportskom. *Anthropometričkaneformetrije u sportskim* Zagreb, Croatia: Fakultet za fizičku kultuру.

Ramadan, J., & Byrd, R. (1987). Physical characteristics of elite soccer players. *Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness, 27*, 424-428.

Rico-Sanz, J. (1998). Body composition and nutritional assessments in soccer. *International Journal of Sport Nutrition, 8*, 113-123.

Sermahaj, S., Popovic, S., Bjelica, D., Gardasevic, J., & Arifi, F. (2017). Effect of recuperation with static stretching in isokinetic force of young soccer players. *Journal of Physical Education and Sport, 17*(3), 1948-1953. doi: 10.7752/jpes.2017.03191

Vasiljević, I., Gardašević, J., & Bojanić, D. (2013). Uporedna analiza motoričkog prostora između aktivnih fudbalera kadetskog uzrasta i učenika srednje škole. U *Zborniku naučnih i stručnih radova VI međunarodni simpozijum “Sport i zdravlje”* (212-215), Tuzla: Fakultet za tjelesnu odgoj i sport.
Football is a game played between two teams having eleven players each. The game is played by hitting a football by foot and passing it on from one team member to another, until the goal in opposite team is scored. The other team tries to take the ball in its command, so that it can also score a goal. The game of football is an advance version of an ancient Chinese game Cuju played during 2nd and 3rd century BC. There are scientific evidences to prove ancient game of Cuju and it is also mentioned military manual. Ancient Romans and Greeks also are known to have played several ball games, some ancient handball rule in football. Football Lawes of the Game allow outfield players to touch the ball with any part of the body except their hands. For a handball, the team is awarded a direct free-kick or a penalty kick, which is performed by the player of the opposing team. The Laws of the Game of handball in football include two other very important points: the goal net in football must be consistent with the size of the goal and must be strong. Football nets of the following size are usually used: 2.50 x 7.50 x 1.00 x 2.00 m. Football pitch construction: Grass turf does not allow to take more than two games per week. The grass is brought to the field in special rolls of turf cover. Very often on the football pitch, one can see the grass of two colors (striped pitch), it is due to the peculiarities of turf care.