

## DIFFERENCES IN SITUATIONAL-MOTOR ABILITIES OF YOUNG WATER POLO PLAYERS

## RAZLIKE U SITUACIONO-MOTORIČKIM SPOSOBNOSTIMA MLADIH VATERPOLISTA

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**Abstract:** The research was carried out with the aim of determining the differences in situational-motor abilities between younger (14-16 years) and older juniors (16-18 years) in water polo. The total sample consisted of 174 participants from the following water polo clubs: VK "Borac" from Banja Luka, VK "Mladost", VK "Torpedo" and VK "Invictum" all from Sarajevo, divided into two age categories according to the rules of the BiH Water Polo Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Twelve variables specific to water polo were used to assess situational-motor abilities in the treated sample of subjects. To assess situational-motor abilities in the examined sample, twelve variables specific to water polo performance were applied. For all applied variables, basic central and dispersion parameters were calculated. To determine differences in situational-motor abilities between younger and older junior players, an independent samples T-test was used. The calculated basic and central dispersion parameters show a normal distribution for most variables in both groups of young water polo players. The obtained T-test results show statistically significant differences between the groups in variables that directly determine offensive efficiency and ball handing in favor of older juniors: goals scored (SMGS), goals from play (SMGFP), ball handing 3x5m (BH3x5M) and ball speed (BALLSP) at the level of statistical significance ( $p < 0.05$ ). In the remaining variables, no statistically significant differences were found, indicating a similar level of situational-motor abilities in both groups. The results suggest that longer training experience and greater age contribute to higher situational efficiency in water polo performance. Furthermore, the findings highlight the need for targeted training of younger juniors toward the development of speed, coordination, and technique in executing offensive elements, thereby enabling a more effective transition to older categories. The obtained results may assist coaches in implementing more effective selection, diagnostics and planning of individualized training process for young water polo players.

**Sažetak:** Istraživanje je izvršeno s ciljem utvrđivanja razlika u situaciono-motoričkim sposobnostima između mladih (14–16 godina) i starijih juniora (16–18 godina) u vaterpolu. Ukupan uzorak ispitanika činilo je 174 ispitanika iz sljedećih vaterpolo klubova: VK „Borac“ iz Banja Luke, VK „Mladost“, VK „Torpedo“ i VK „Invictum“ svi iz Sarajeva podijeljenih u dvije uzrasne kategorije prema pravilima Vaterpolo saveza BiH. Za procjenu situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti na tretiranom uzorku ispitanika primijenjeno je dvanaest varijabli specifičnih za vaterpolo igru. Za sve primijenjene varijable situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti izračunati su osnovni centralni i disperzioni parametri. Za utvrđivanje razlika u situaciono-motoričkim sposobnostima između mladih i starijih juniora u vaterpolu primijenjena je analiza rezultata T-testa za nezavisne uzorke. Izračunati osnovni i centralni disperzioni parametri pokazuju normalnu distribuciju kod većine varijabli za obje grupe ispitanika-mladih vaterpolista. Dobijeni rezultati T-testa ukazuju na statistički značajne razlike između grupa ispitanika u varijablama koje direktno određuju napadačku efikasnost i manipulaciju loptom u korist starijih juniora: postignuti golovi (SMPOGO), golovi iz igre (SMGOIG), vođenje lopte 3x5m (VL3x5M) i brzina lopte (BRZLOP) na nivou statističke značajnosti ( $p < 0,05$ ). U ostalim varijablama nisu registrovane statistički značajne razlike, što ukazuje na sličan nivo ispoljavanja situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti kod obje grupe ispitanika. Dobijeni rezultati upućuju na zaključak da duže trenajno iskustvo i veća starosna dob doprinose većoj situacionoj efikasnosti u vaterpolo igri. Takođe, rezultati upućuju na potrebu posebnog usmjerenja mladih juniora ka razvoju brzine, koordinacije i tehnike u realizaciji napadačkih elemenata, čime se omogućava kvalitetniji prelazak u starije kategorije. Dobijeni rezultati mogu poslužiti trenerima u sprovođenju kvalitetnije selekcije, dijagnostici i planiranju individualizovanog trenažnog procesa kod mladih vaterpolista.

**Keywords:** juniors, situational-motor abilities, game efficiency, water polo

## INTRODUCTION

Water polo is a complex team sport that requires a high level of physical, technical and situational-motor abilities, with continuous adaptation to the tactical demands of the under real conditions. Modern water polo is a highly demanding sport characterized by high swimming speed, a combination of swimming, and ball handling, explosiveness in executing offensive actions, frequent direct contact between players, and effectiveness in duels under opponent pressure. Particularly important are ball manipulation skills, as well as the precision and speed of executing technical elements, which directly influence game efficiency and the final match outcome (Lozovina & Pavičić, 2004). Water polo is a sport that requires players to possess considerable strength to perform fast, powerful, and accurate shots, successfully block opponents, and maintain physical dominance during matches (Van de Werde, 2005).

The dynamic nature of water polo is reflected in specific swimming techniques, strong musculature, and a highly competitive style of play in all phases of the game (both offense and defense). The modern development of water polo has led to increased strength, stronger shooting power, faster swimming speed, and a higher tempo of play, while defensive tactics have evolved to the level where stopping the attacker at all costs has become a priority. Contemporary water polo has become intense, fast, and dynamic, requiring players to achieve an exceptionally high level of overall preparedness (physical, technical, tactical, and psychological). Consequently, the development of a high-quality water polo player is an extremely demanding and long-term process (Lupo, Tessitore, Minganti, & Capranica, 2010).

The junior age period represents a crucial phase in the development of young water polo players, as significant functional, morphological, and motor adaptations occur during this stage. The difference between younger and older juniors is not only reflected in biological maturation but also in acquired technical-tactical experience, which contributes to better recognition and more successful resolution of complex game situations. In practice, it is often assumed that older juniors achieve a higher level of sports performance; however, it is necessary to scientifically confirm and quantify these differences in specific elements of water polo.

Situational-motor abilities represent a measurable indicator of performance under real competitive conditions. Measuring goals scored, offensive and defensive actions, ball speed, and technical manipulation during swimming with the ball enables an objective assessment of player performance

**Ključne reči:** juniori, situaciono-motoričke sposobnosti, efikasnost u igri, vaterpolo

## UVOD

Vaterpolo predstavlja kompleksan timski sport koji zahtijeva visok nivo fizičkih, tehničkih i situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti, uz kontinuirano prilagođavanje taktičkim zahtjevima igre u realnim uslovima. Savremeni vaterpolo je vrlo zahtjevna sportska igra koju karakteriše velika brzina kretanja u vodi, kombinacija plivanja, manipulacija sa loptom, eksplozivnost u realizaciji napadačkih akcija, veliki broj neposrednih kontakata između igrača i uspješnost u duelima pod pritiskom protivnika. Posebno važnu ulogu imaju sposobnosti manipulacije loptom, preciznost i brzina izvođenja tehničkih elemenata, koje direktno utiču na efikasnost u igri i konačni rezultat utakmice (Lozovina & Pavičić, 2004.). Vaterpolo je igra koja od igrača zahtijeva značajnu snagu da izvede brz, snažan i precizan šut, uspješno blokiranje i odgurne druge igrače tokom utakmice (Van de Werde, 2005.).

Dinamičnost vaterpolo igre izražava se u specifičnim tehnikama plivanja, snažnoj muskulaturi i borbenoj igri u svim fazama igre (u napadu i odbrani). Savremeni razvoj vaterpola uticao je na povećanje snage, jačinu šuta, brzinu plivanja, povećanje tempa igre, a taktika igre u odbrani razvila se do nivoa da se napadač zaustavi po svaku cijenu. Savremeni vaterpolo postao je oštar, brz, dinamičan zbog čega od igrača zahtijeva izrazito visok nivo ukupne pripremljenosti (fizičke, tehničke, taktičke, psihološke), zbog čega je formiranje kvalitetnog vaterpoliste izuzetno težak i dugoročan proces (Lupo, Tessitore, Minganti i Capranica, 2010.).

Period juniorske dobi predstavlja ključnu fazu u razvoju mladih vaterpolista, jer se u tom uzrastu događaju intenzivne funkcionalne, morfološke i motoričke adaptacije. Razlika između mladih i starijih juniora ne ogleda se samo u biološkom sazrijevanju, već i u stečenom tehničko-taktičkom iskustvu, koje doprinosi kvalitetnijem prepoznavanju i uspješnom rješavanju složenih situacija u igri. U praksi se često pretpostavlja da stariji juniore postižu veći nivo sportske uspješnosti, ali je neophodno naučno potvrditi i kvantifikovati ove razlike u specifičnim elementima vaterpola.

Situaciono-motoričke sposobnosti predstavljaju mjerljiv prikaz uspješnosti u realnim uslovima takmičarske aktivnosti. Mjerenje postignutih pogodaka, napadačkih i odbrambenih akcija, brzine lopte te tehničke manipulacije u plivanju s loptom omogućava objektivnu procjenu uspješnosti vaterpolista tokom igre. Analizom ovih pokazatelja moguće je prepoznati razvojne potrebe

during the game. By analyzing these indicators, it is possible to identify the developmental needs of young water polo players, evaluate the quality of the selection process, and provide guidelines for improving the training process.

Research addressing differences between age categories in water polo is still relatively limited, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Therefore, there is a need for a scientific approach to evaluating situational-motor abilities in order to obtain relevant information for coaches, selectors, and sports professionals necessary for effective planning and programming of training processes for young water polo players.

## METHOD OF WORK

### *Sample of Participants*

The sample included a total of 174 participants—young water polo players from clubs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The total sample was divided into two groups according to age, in line with the rules of the Water Polo Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The first group consisted of 87 younger juniors aged 14 to 16 years, while the second group also consisted of 87 older juniors aged 16 to 18 years.

The study included only those participants who were healthy at the time of testing and actively involved in regular training processes within their clubs. The research was conducted during regular training sessions under appropriate conditions required for testing.

### *Sample of Variables*

A set of 12 variables was applied to assess situational-motor abilities, describing offensive and defensive elements of technical-tactical performance in water polo, as well as ball manipulation speed:

#### **Variables for assessing situational-motor abilities:**

1. Goals scored .....(SMGS)
2. Shots on goal .....(SMSHOG)
3. Goals from play ..... (SMGFP)
4. Center (hole set) goals ..... (SMCG)
5. Penalty shots ..... (SMPSH)
6. Goals from penalties ..... (SMGFP)
7. Penalty saves ..... (SMPS)
8. Goals with player advantage ..... (SMGWPA)
9. Shots from fouls ..... (SMSHFF)
10. Goals from fouls ..... (SMGFF)
11. Ball handling 3×5 meters ..... (BH3x5M)
12. Ball speed .....(BALLSP)

### *Data Processing*

For all applied variables assessing situational-motor abilities, basic central and dispersion parameters were calculated, including: Range, Minimum (Min), Maxi-

mladih vaterpolista, kvalitet procesa selekcije i smjernice za unapređenje trenajnog procesa.

Istraživanja koja se bave razlikama između uzrasnih kategorija u vaterpolu još uvijek su relativno ograničena, posebno na prostoru Bosne i Hercegovine. Zbog toga se javlja potreba za naučnim pristupom evaluaciji situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti kako bi se dobile relevantne informacije za trenere, selektore i sportske stručnjake potrebne za kvalitetno planiranje i programiranje trenajnog rada sa mladim vaterpolistima.

## METOD RADA

### *Uzorak ispitanika*

U uzorak ispitanika uključeno je ukupno 174 ispitanika-mladih vaterpolista iz klubova Bosne i Hercegovine. Ukupan uzorak ispitanika podijeljen je u dvije grupe u odnosu na uzrasnu dob, a prema pravilima Vaterpolo saveza Bosne i Hercegovine. Prvu grupu ispitanika, njih 87 činili su mlađi juniori uzrasta od 14 do 16 godina, a drugu grupu, takođe njih 87 činili su stariji juniri uzrasta od 16 do 18 godina. Istraživanjem su bili obuhvaćeni samo oni ispitanici koji su u to vrijeme bili potpuno zdravi i koji su bili uključeni u redovan trenajni proces u svojim klubovima. Istraživanje je sprovedeno na redovnom treningu uz odgovarajuće uslove potrebne za testiranje u ovom istraživanju.

### *Uzorak varijabli*

U istraživanju je primijenjen set od **12 varijabli za procjenu situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti** koje opisuju napadačke i odbrambene elemente tehničko-taktičke uspješnosti u vaterpolu, kao i brzinu manipulacije loptom:

#### **Varijable za procjenu situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti:**

1. Postignuti golovi ..... (SMPOGO)
2. Pokušaji na gol ..... (SMPONG)
3. Golovi iz igre ..... (SMGOIG)
4. Golovi sa sidra ..... (SMGOSI)
5. Peterac ..... (SMPETE)
6. Gol iz peterca ..... (SMGPET)
7. Odbrana peterca ..... (SMOPET)
8. Gol iz igrača više ..... (SMGIVI)
9. Šut iz faula ..... (SMŠUFL)
10. Gol iz faula ..... (SMGOFL)
11. Vođenja lopte 3x5 metara ..... (VL3x5M)
12. Brzina lopte .....(BRZLOP)

### *Obrada podataka*

Za sve primijenjene varijable za procjenu situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti izračunati su osnovni centralni i disperzioni parametri koji su uključivali sljedeće para-

mum (Max), Mean (arithmetic average), Standard Deviation (St. Dev.), and Variance.

The normality of data distribution was tested based on the values of skewness and kurtosis coefficients, along with their standard errors, in order to determine the justification for applying parametric statistical procedures. To identify statistically significant differences in situational-motor abilities between the groups, an independent samples t-test was applied. The level of statistical significance was set at  $p < 0.05$ .

Effect size was expressed using Eta squared ( $\eta^2$ ), which represents the proportion of total variance in the dependent variable explained by a specific independent factor. It is calculated as the ratio of the sum of squares of the effect to the total sum of squares. Its values range from 0 to 1, with higher values indicating a stronger effect. This measure helps in understanding the practical significance of results beyond statistical significance alone.

Statistical data processing was performed using the software package IBM SPSS Statistics 22.

## RESULTS

### *Analysis of Basic Central and Dispersion Parameters of Variables for Assessing Situational-Motor Abilities in Younger Juniors (14–16 years)*

Table 1 presents the basic central and dispersion parameters of variables used to assess the situational-motor abilities of younger junior players. The analysis of the obtained results shows that the values of these parameters do not significantly deviate from a normal distribution.

Minor deviations are observed in the variables: center (hole set) goals (SMCG), penalty shots (SMPSH), penalty saves (SMPS), and goals with a player advantage (SMGWPA). The values of the kurtosis coefficient for these variables exceed the normal distribution value of 2.75, indicating a mesokurtic distribution, which reflects a higher concentration of results around the mean.

Despite these minor deviations in the distribution of the obtained results, it can be concluded that the central and dispersion parameters of situational-motor abilities in younger junior water polo players indicate an overall normal distribution of results.

metre: Rangey-Rang, Min-minimalni rezultat mjerenja, Max-maksimalni rezultat mjerenja, Mean- aritmetička sredina, St.Dev.-standardna devijacija, Variance-varijansa. Normalnost distribucije podataka provjerena je na osnovu vrijednosti koeficijenta asimetričnosti (Skewness-a) i koeficijenta izduženosti (Kurtosis-a), kao i njihovih standardnih grešaka, kako bi se utvrdila opravdanost primjene parametrijskih statističkih postupaka. Za utvrđivanje statistički značajnih razlika u situaciono-motoričkim sposobnostima između grupa ispitanika primijenjena je analiza rezultata T-testa za nezavisne uzorke. Nivo statističke značajnosti postavljen je na nivou  $p < 0,05$ .

Efekat veličine izražen je Eta kvadratom, koja se koristi u statistici, a označava udio ukupne varijance zavisne varijable koji objašnjava određeni nezavisni faktor. Računa se kao odnos sume kvadrata efekta i ukupne sume kvadrata. Raspon vrijednosti kreće se od 0 do 1, pri čemu veće vrijednosti ukazuju na jači učinak. Pomaže u razumijevanju praktične važnosti rezultata izvan same statističke značajnosti.

Statistička obrada podataka sprovedena je u programu IBM SPSS Statistics 22.

## REZULTATI

### *Analiza rezultata osnovnih centralnih i disperzionih parametara varijabli za procjenu situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti mlađih juniora (14-16 godina)*

U tabeli 1 prikazani su osnovni centralni i disperzionni parametri varijabli za procjenu situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti mlađih juniora. Analizom dobijenih rezultata može se vidjeti da dobijene vrijednosti navedenih parametara ne odstupaju značajno od normalne distribucije.

Manja odstupanja primijetna su kod varijabli: golovi iz sidra (SMGOSI), peterac (SMPETE), odbrana peterca (SMOPET) i gol sa igračem više (SMGIVI). Vrijednosti koeficijenta izduženosti (Kurtosis-a) kod navedenih varijabli kreću se iznad normalne vrijednosti distribucije 2,75, što čini distribuciju mezokurtičnom, što ukazuje na povećanu koncentraciju rezultata oko aritmetičke sredine.

Bez obzira na manja odstupanja u raspodjeli dobijenih rezultata, može se konstatovati da dobijeni rezultati centralnih i disperzivnih parametara situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti kod mlađih juniora u vaterpolu pokazuju da se radi o normalnoj distribuciji rezultata.

**Table 1.** Basic central and dispersion parameters of situational-motor abilities in younger juniors (14–16 years)

	N	Range	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation		Variance	Skewness	Kurtosis		
							Std. Error	Statistic			Std. Error	Statistic	
SMGS	87	1.00	.00	1.00	10.00	.1149	.03439	.32080	.103	2.457	.258	4.132	.511
SMSHOG	87	2.00	.00	2.00	117.00	1.3448	.08778	.81879	.670	-.720	.258	-1.126	.511
SMGFP	87	1.00	.00	1.00	10.00	.1149	.03439	.32080	.103	2.457	.258	4.132	.511
SMCG	87	2.00	.00	2.00	8.00	.0920	.04211	.39273	.154	4.376	.258	18.449	.511
SMPSH	87	2.00	.00	2.00	8.00	.0920	.03880	.36191	.131	4.224	.258	18.138	.511
SMGFP	87	2.00	.00	2.00	15.00	.1724	.05942	.55420	.307	2.999	.258	7.285	.511
SMPS	87	2.00	.00	2.00	9.00	.1034	.04336	.40447	.164	4.054	.258	15.882	.511
SMGWPA	87	3.00	.00	3.00	12.00	.1379	.05934	.55348	.306	4.273	.258	18.068	.511
SMSHFF	87	2.00	.00	2.00	13.00	.1494	.05305	.49483	.245	3.268	.258	9.422	.511
SMGFF	87	3.00	.00	3.00	16.00	.1839	.06014	.56091	.315	3.273	.258	10.585	.511
BH3x5M	87	4.52	11.01	15.53	1172.66	13.4789	.14046	1.31016	1.717	-.188	.258	-.524	.511
BALLSP	87	8.00	16.00	24.00	1754.00	20.1609	.29695	2.76974	7.671	-.063	.258	-1.479	.511
Valid N (listwise)	87												

**Tabela 1.** Osnovni centralni i disperzioni parametri situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti mladih juniora (14-16 godina)

Legend: N – number of participants; Range – range; Min – minimum measurement result; Max – maximum measurement result; Mean – arithmetic mean; St. Dev. – standard deviation; Variance – variance; Skewness – coefficient of asymmetry; Kurtosis – coefficient of kurtosis (peakedness); SMGS – goals scored; SMSHOG – shots on goal; SMGFP – goals from play; SMCG – center (hole set) goals; SMPSH – penalty shots; SMGFP – goals from penalties; SMPS – penalty saves; SMGWPA – goals with player advantage; SMSHFF – shots from fouls; SMGFF – goals from fouls; BH3x5M – ball handling 3 × 5 meters; BALLSP – ball speed.

Legenda: N-broj ispitanika, Rangey-Rang, Min-minimalni rezultat mjerenja, Max-maksimalni rezultat mjerenja, Mean-aritmetička sredina, St.Dev.-standardna devijacija, Variance-varijansa, Skewness-koeficijent asimetričnosti, Kurtosis-koeficijent spljoštenosti, SMPOGO – Postignuti golovi, SMPONG – Pokušaja na gol, SMGOIG – Golovi iz igre, SMGOSI – Golovi sa sidra, SMPETE –Peterac, SMGPET – Gol iz peterca, SMOPET – Odrana peterca, SMGIVI – Gol iz igrača više, SMSUFL – Šut iz faula, SMGOFL – Gol iz faula, VL3x5M – Vođenje lopte 3 x 5 metara, BRZLOP – Brzina lopte

**Analysis of Basic Central and Dispersion Parameters of Variables for Assessing Situational-Motor Abilities in Older Juniors (16–18 years)**

Table 2 presents the basic central and dispersion parameters of variables used to assess the situational-motor abilities of older junior players (16–18 years). The analysis of the obtained results indicates that the values of the central and dispersion parameters show a normal distribution, with no significant deviations observed.

Minor deviations are noted in the variables: shots from fouls (SMSHFF) and goals from fouls (SMGFF).

Based on the obtained results of the central and dispersion parameters for situational-motor abilities in older junior water polo players, it can be concluded that the values of all applied variables are normally distributed. The distribution of the obtained values of the basic central and dispersion parameters of the functional abilities of the participants—older juniors—fits within the standards specific to the situational-motor abilities of water polo players of this age group.

**Analiza rezultata osnovnih centralnih i disperzionih parametara varijabli za procjenu situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti starijih juniora (16-18 godina)**

U tabeli 2 prikazani su osnovni centralni i disperzioni parametri varijabli za procjenu situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti starijih juniora (16-18 godina). Analizom dobijenih rezultata vidljivo je da vrijednosti centralnih i disperzionih parametara varijabli za procjenu situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti pokazuju normalnu raspodjelu i da u tom kontekstu nema značajnijih odstupanja od normalne raspodjele. Manje odstupanje vidljivo je kod varijabli šut iz faula – SMSUFL i gol iz faula – SMGOFL.

Na osnovu dobijenih rezultata centralnih i disperzionih parametara varijabli za procjenu situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti kod starijih juniora u vaterpolu može se zaključiti da su vrijednosti svih primijenjenih varijabli normalno distribuirane. Distribucija dobijenih vrijednosti osnovnih centralnih i disperzionih parametara funkcionalnih sposobnosti ispitanika – starijih juniora uklapaju se u standarde specifične za situaciono-motoričke sposobnosti vaterpolista ovog uzrasta.

**Table 2.** Basic central and dispersion parameters of situational-motor abilities in older juniors

**Tabela 2.** Osnovni centralni i disperzioni parametri situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti starijih juniora

Descriptive Statistics											
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis			
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
SMGS	87	.00	4.00	67.00	.7701	.11642	1.08586	1.478	.258	1.447	.511
SMSHOG	87	.00	5.00	113.00	1.2989	.13494	1.25860	.952	.258	.647	.511
SMGFP	87	.00	2.00	32.00	.3678	.05921	.55227	1.182	.258	.445	.511
SMCG	87	.00	2.00	16.00	.1839	.05047	.47074	2.618	.258	6.326	.511
SMPSH	87	.00	1.00	16.00	.1839	.04178	.38966	1.661	.258	.775	.511
SMGFP	87	.00	1.00	12.00	.1379	.03718	.34683	2.137	.258	2.627	.511
SMPS	87	.00	1.00	15.00	.1724	.04073	.37993	1.765	.258	1.141	.511
SMGWPA	87	.00	1.00	20.00	.2299	.04537	.42320	1.307	.258	-.300	.511
SMSHFF	87	.00	2.00	12.00	.1379	.04952	.46186	3.404	.258	10.683	.511
SMGFF	87	.00	3.00	17.00	.1954	.06709	.62578	3.332	.258	10.513	.511
BH3x5M	87	10.00	15.90	1035.06	11.8972	.13627	1.27108	1.181	.258	1.645	.511
BALLSP	87	16.00	39.00	2012.00	23.1264	.50202	4.68249	1.268	.258	2.961	.511
Valid N (listwise)	87										

Legend: N – number of participants; Range – range; Min – minimum measurement result; Max – maximum measurement result; Mean – arithmetic mean; St. Dev. – standard deviation; Variance – variance; Skewness – coefficient of asymmetry; Kurtosis – coefficient of kurtosis (peakedness); SMGS – goals scored; SMSHOG – shots on goal; SMGFP – goals from play; SMCG – center (hole set) goals; SMPSH – penalty shots; SMGFP – goals from penalties; SMPS – penalty saves; SMGWPA – goals with player advantage; SMSHFF – shots from fouls; SMGFF – goals from fouls; BH3x5M – ball handling 3 × 5 meters; BALLSP – ball speed.

Legenda: N-broj ispitanika, Rangey-Rang, Min-minimalni rezultat mjerenja, Max-maksimalni rezultat mjerenja, Mean-aritmetička sredina, St.Dev.-standardna devijacija, Variance-varijansa, Skewness-koeficijent asimetričnosti, Kurtosis-koeficijent spljoštenosti, SMPOGO – Postignuti golovi, SMPONG – Pokušaja na gol, SMGOIG – Golovi iz igre, SMGOSI – Golovi sa sidra, SMPETE –Peterac, SMGPET – Gol iz peterca, SMOPET – Odbrana peterca, SMGIVI – Gol iz igrača više, SMŠUFL – Šut iz faula, SMGOFL – Gol iz faula, VL3X5M – Vođenje lopte 3 x 5 metara, BRZLOP – Brzina lopte

**Analysis of Differences in Situational-Motor Abilities Between Younger and Older Juniors in Water Polo**

**Analysis of Differences in Situational-Motor Abilities Using the t-Test**

To determine differences in situational-motor abilities between younger and older junior water polo players, an independent samples t-test was applied (Table 3). The results of the t-test indicate positive and statistically significant differences in four out of twelve tests used to assess situational-motor abilities between the two groups of participants.

Statistically significant differences were found in the following tests:

- **Goals scored – SMGS**  $t(172) = -5.39, p = .000$ . The average increase in this test was 71.31, with a 95% confidence interval ranging from -0.89 to -0.41. Eta squared was 0.14, indicating a large effect size of this variable on the examined sample.
- **Goals from play – SMGFP**  $t(172) = -3.69, p = .000$ . The average increase in this test was 58.37, with a

**Analiza razlika u situaciono-motoričkim sposobnostima između mlađih i starijih juniora u vaterpolu**

**Analiza razlika u situaciono-motoričkim sposobnostima testiranih T-testom**

Za utvrđivanje razlika u situaciono-motoričkim sposobnostima između mlađih i starijih juniora u vaterpolu primijenjena je analiza rezultata T-testa za nezavisne uzorke (tabela 3). Rezultati T-testa ukazuju na pozitivne i statistički značajne razlike kod četiri od dvanaest testova za procjenu situaciono-motoričkih testova između dvije grupe ispitanika.

Statistički značajne razlike utvrđene su kod sljedećih testova:

- **Postignuti golovi – SMPOGO**  $t(172) = -5.39, p = ,000$ . Prosječno povećanje vrijednosti u ovom testu bilo je 71.31, dok se interval 95-procentne pouzdanosti proteže od -.89 do -.41. Eta kvadrat iznosi 0.14 što čini veliki uticaj varijable na istraženi uzorak ispitanika.
- **Golovi iz igre – SMGOIG**  $t(172) = -3.69, p = ,000$ . Prosječno povećanje vrijednosti u ovom testu bilo je

**Table 3. Results of the independent samples t-test for situational-motor abilities**

**Tabela 3. Rezultati T-testa za nezavisne uzorke situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti**

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means							Eta kvadrat
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		
									Lower	Upper	
SMGS	Equal variances assumed	71.315	.000	-5.397	172	.000	-.65517	.12139	-.89478	-.41556	0.14
	Equal variances not assumed			-5.397	100.899	.000	-.65517	.12139	-.89598	-.41436	
SMSHOG	Equal variances assumed	10.796	.001	.286	172	.776	.04598	.16098	-.27177	.36372	
	Equal variances not assumed			.286	147.736	.776	.04598	.16098	-.27214	.36409	
SMGFP	Equal variances assumed	58.375	.000	-3.693	172	.000	-.25287	.06847	-.38803	-.11772	0.07
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.693	138.104	.000	-.25287	.06847	-.38827	-.11748	
SMCG	Equal variances assumed	6.872	.010	-1.399	172	.164	-.09195	.06573	-.22169	.03778	
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.399	166.647	.164	-.09195	.06573	-.22172	.03781	
SMPSH	Equal variances assumed	8.929	.003	-1.613	172	.109	-.09195	.05702	-.20449	.02059	
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.613	171.070	.109	-.09195	.05702	-.20450	.02059	
SMGFP	Equal variances assumed	1.820	.179	.492	172	.623	.03448	.07009	-.10387	.17283	
	Equal variances not assumed			.492	144.405	.623	.03448	.07009	-.10406	.17302	
SMPS	Equal variances assumed	3.980	.048	-1.159	172	.248	-.06897	.05949	-.18640	.04847	
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.159	171.331	.248	-.06897	.05949	-.18640	.04847	
SMGWPA	Equal variances assumed	2.818	.095	-1.231	172	.220	-.09195	.07470	-.23940	.05549	
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.231	160.943	.220	-.09195	.07470	-.23947	.05556	
SMSHFF	Equal variances assumed	.118	.731	.158	172	.874	.01149	.07257	-.13175	.15473	
	Equal variances not assumed			.158	171.189	.874	.01149	.07257	-.13175	.15474	
SMGFF	Equal variances assumed	.113	.737	-.128	172	.899	-.01149	.09010	-.18933	.16634	
	Equal variances not assumed			-.128	169.980	.899	-.01149	.09010	-.18935	.16636	
BH3x5M	Equal variances assumed	.001	.976	8.082	172	.000	1.58161	.19571	1.19531	1.96790	0.27
	Equal variances not assumed			8.082	171.843	.000	1.58161	.19571	1.19531	1.96791	
BALLSP	Equal variances assumed	4.987	.027	-5.084	172	.000	-2.96552	.58326	-4.11679	-1.81424	0.13
	Equal variances not assumed			-5.084	139.617	.000	-2.96552	.58326	-4.11869	-1.81234	

Legend: *t* – t-test; *df* – degrees of freedom; *Sig.* – level of statistical significance; *Mean Difference* – difference between arithmetic means; *Std. Error Difference* – standard error of the mean difference; *SMGS* – goals scored; *SMHOG* – shots on goal; *SMGFP* – goals from play; *SMCG* – center (hole set) goals; *SMPSH* – penalty shots; *SMGFP* – goals from penalties; *SMPS* – penalty saves; *SMGWPA* – goals with player advantage; *SMSHFF* – shots from fouls; *SMGFF* – goals from fouls; *BH3x5M* – ball handling 3 × 5 meters; *BALLSP* – ball throwing speed

Legenda: *t* - T test, *df* - stepeni slobode, *Sig.* - nivo statističke značajnosti, *Mean Difference* - razlika aritmetičkih sredina, *Std. Error Difference* - standardna greška aritmetičkih sredina, *SMPOGO* – Postignuti golovi, *SMPONG* – Pokušaji na gol, *SMGOIG* – Golovi iz igre, *SMGOSI* – Golovi sa sidra, *SMPETE* – Peterac, *SMGPET* – Gol iz peterca, *SMOPET* – Odbrana peterca, *SMGIVI* – Gol iz igrača više, *SMŠUFL* – Šut iz faula, *SMGOFL* – Gol iz faula, *VL3x5M* – Vođenje lopte 3 x 5 metara, *BRZLOP* – Bacanje lopte)

95% confidence interval ranging from -0.38 to -0.11. Eta squared was 0.07, indicating a moderate effect size of this variable on the examined sample.

- **Ball handling 3×5 m – BH3x5M**  $t(172) = 8.08, p = .000$ . The average increase in this test was 0.001, with a 95% confidence interval ranging from 1.19 to 1.96. Eta squared was 0.27, indicating a large effect size of this variable on the examined sample.
- **Ball speed – BALLSP**  $t(172) = -5.08, p = .000$ . The average increase in this test was 4.98, with a 95% confidence interval ranging from -4.11 to -1.81. Eta squared was 0.13, indicating a moderate effect size of this variable on the examined sample.

In the remaining tests, no statistically significant differences in situational-motor abilities were found between younger and older juniors.

## DISCUSSION

The results of this study clearly indicate that there are significant differences in situational-motor abilities between younger and older junior water polo players in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Statistical analysis revealed that the variables Goals scored (SMGS), Goals from play (SMGFP), Ball handling 3×5 m (BH3x5M), and Ball speed (BALLSP) are significantly differentiated between age categories, with older juniors demonstrating superior performance. These findings confirm the expected adaptation of physiological and motor abilities throughout adolescence, including growth, increased strength, coordination, and technical-tactical experience (Uljević, 2013; Idrizović et al., 2013).

The variable Goals scored (SMGS) showed the greatest impact on differences between age groups, implying that older juniors possess more developed technical-tactical abilities and greater efficiency in offensive execution. Similar conclusions were reported in studies by Stipić (2022) and Trivun et al. (2019), where situational efficiency—particularly the number of goals from play and defensive actions—was identified as a key indicator of team success. Differences in the variable Goals from play (SMGFP) further indicate a greater ability of older juniors to synchronize technique and tactics, which is expected given their longer training experience and more developed perceptual-motor control. The variable Ball handling 3×5 m (BH3x5M) demonstrated the highest eta squared value (0.27), suggesting that older juniors have better ball control in confined spaces and during directional changes. This result supports the findings of García-Cervantes et al. (2017), who emphasized the importance of technical precision and ball manipulation for success in water polo, particularly for perimeter players.

58.37, dok se interval 95-procentne pouzdanosti proteže od -.38 do -.11. Eta kvadrat iznosi 0.07 što čini srednji uticaj varijable na istraženi uzorak ispitanika.

- **Vođenje lopte 3x5m – VL3X5M**  $t(172) = 8.08, p = .000$  gdje je prosječno povećanje vrijednosti u ovom testu bilo .001, dok se interval 95-procentne pouzdanosti proteže od 1.19 do 1.96. Eta kvadrat iznosi 0.27 što čini veliki uticaj varijable na istraženi uzorak ispitanika.
- **Brzina lopte – BRZLOP**  $t(172) = -5.08, p = .000$ . Prosječno povećanje vrijednosti u ovom testu bilo je 4.98, dok se interval 95-procentne pouzdanosti proteže od -4.11 do -1.81. Eta kvadrat iznosi 0.13 što čini srednji uticaj ili srednje razlike varijable na istraženi uzorak ispitanika.

Kod ostalih testova nije utvrđena statistički značajna razlika u situaciono-motoričkim sposobnostima između mlađih i starijih juniora.

## DISKUSIJA

Rezultati ovog istraživanja jasno pokazuju da postoje značajne razlike u situaciono-motoričkim sposobnostima mlađih i starijih juniora vaterpolista Bosne i Hercegovine. Statistička analiza pokazala je da su varijable Postignuti golovi (SMPOGO), Golovi iz igre (SMGOIG), Vođenje lopte 3x5 m (VL3X5M) i Brzina lopte (BRZLOP) značajno diferencirane između uzrasnih kategorija, pri čemu stariji juniori pokazuju bolje rezultate. Ovi nalazi potvrđuju očekivanu adaptaciju fizioloških i motoričkih sposobnosti sportista kroz razvojni period adolescencije, koja uključuje rast, povećanje snage, koordinacije i tehničko-taktičkog iskustva (Uljević, 2013; Idrizović i sar. 2013).

Varijabla Postignuti golovi (SMPOGO) pokazala je najveći uticaj na razlike između uzrasta, što implicira da stariji juniori imaju razvijenije tehničko-taktičke sposobnosti i bolju efikasnost u realizaciji napada. Slični zaključci su dobijeni i u studijama Stipića (2022) i Trivuna i sar. (2019), gdje je situaciona efikasnost, posebno broj golova iz igre i odbrane, bila ključni pokazatelj uspješnosti vaterpolo ekipe. Razlike u varijabli Golovi iz igre (SMGOIG) također ukazuju na veću sposobnost starijih juniora da sinhronizuju tehniku i taktiku igre, što je očekivano s obzirom na duže trenajno iskustvo i bolju perceptivno-motoričku kontrolu.

Varijabla Vođenje lopte 3x5 m (VL3X5M) pokazala je najviši uticaj eta kvadrata (0,27), što sugerise da stariji juniori bolje manipulišu (kontrolišu) loptom u malom prostoru i sa promjenom pravca kretanja. Ovaj rezultat podržava nalaze García-Cervantesa i sar. (2017), koji ističu značaj tehničke preciznosti i manipulacije loptom za uspješnost u vaterpolu, posebno kod igrača perimetarskih pozicija.

Brzina lopte (BRZLOP) također je pokazala statistički značajne razlike, što ukazuje na unaprijeđenu snagu i tehni-

Ball speed (BALLSP) also showed statistically significant differences, indicating improved throwing strength and technique among older juniors. This ability is crucial in situational-tactical execution and often distinguishes winning from losing teams, as confirmed by Canosa et al. (2020). On the other hand, variables such as Shots on goal (SMSHOG), Center (hole set) goals (SMCG), Penalty shots (SMPSH), Goals from penalties (SMGFP), Penalty saves (SMPS), Goals with player advantage (SMGWPA), Shots from fouls (SMSHFF), and Goals from fouls (SMGFF) did not show statistically significant differences. This may be due to similar training experiences in specific technical segments of the game or the relatively low frequency of such actions during a single match, which makes statistical differentiation more difficult. Similar variability was observed in the study by Uljević (2013), where certain precision and technique-specific tests showed lower reliability in younger age categories. The obtained results confirm the importance of continuous evaluation of situational-motor abilities in the processes of selection and training planning. Coaches can use such data to individualize training loads, emphasize the development of technical elements in younger juniors, and optimize preparation for older categories, with a focus on ball handling efficiency, shot speed, and goal-scoring effectiveness. The study indicates that the development of water polo players during the junior period follows expected adaptations in situational-motor abilities. Differences between younger and older juniors are not universal across all technical-tactical segments; however, key variables demonstrate clear superiority of older juniors, which is consistent with previous research in both domestic and international contexts (Idrizović et al., 2013). Their findings showed that, among all tests, shooting speed demonstrated the highest reliability between participants. Analysis of the overall sample, including national team and club players without division by playing position, revealed multivariate differences in the jump shot test (DSHOOT). In general, national team players were more successful in shooting speed tests compared to club players. When comparing national team and club perimeter players, national team players dominated in shooting speed. Centers did not show differences in any measured tests, while perimeter players achieved significantly better results in shooting, dynamic strength, and sprint swimming abilities.

Uljević (2013) found that, among all sport-specific tests, the lowest reliability was observed in the accuracy test, where significant differences between items indicated instability in measurement results. High reliabil-

ity was observed in the accuracy test, where significant differences between items indicated instability in measurement results. High reliability was observed in the accuracy test, where significant differences between items indicated instability in measurement results. High reliability was observed in the accuracy test, where significant differences between items indicated instability in measurement results.

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ity was obtained in all three ball speed tests, but not in the “shot after fake” test (2FAKE), where a decreasing trend in ball speed was observed. Post hoc analysis revealed a statistically significant difference between the first and third attempts. Factor analysis identified three factors: the first factor had high projections of jump tests, the second factor included ball speed variables, and the third factor was defined by swimming speed and accuracy tests. García-Cervantes et al. (2017) identified statistically significant differences between male and female water polo players in average maximum ball throwing speed. Significant differences were also observed in the percentage of throws performed from different positions, with both groups most frequently executing throws from lateral positions. No significant differences were found in throwing speed over distance; however, significant differences were identified between throws taken from distances of five meters or less and those taken from distances greater than five meters. There were no significant differences between variables such as small-area play, throwing from different positions, and distance. Additionally, no differences were found between throwing speed from center and lateral positions. Stipić (2022), in a study on situational efficiency of elite water polo players at the Olympic tournament in Tokyo (2021), found statistically significant differences between winning and losing teams in variables such as goals from play, goalkeeper saves, blocks, and exclusions. Winning teams scored more goals from play, while their goalkeepers recorded nearly two more saves on average compared to those of losing teams. Players from winning teams also achieved twice as many blocks. Interestingly, exclusions had a negative impact on situational efficiency, as winning teams recorded more exclusions than losing teams. In female water polo, results differed slightly, with winning teams outperforming losing teams in multiple variables, including goals from play, counterattack shots, counterattack goals, goals with player advantage, goalkeeper saves, opponent shots on goal, blocks, and swimming for the ball. As in male teams, goalkeepers of winning teams had nearly two more saves on average. These results may be attributed to effective player selection and higher individual quality. Trivun et al. (2019), through match analysis in the A1 Regional League, found differences between winning and losing teams in most team efficiency variables. Winning teams performed better in shooting efficiency, goalkeeper performance, shot blocking, utilization of player advantage, and swimming for the ball. No significant differences were found in turnovers, ball recoveries, percentage of shots from five me-

utvrđena statistički značajna razlika između prvog i trećeg pokušaja. Faktorskom analizom su dobijena tri faktora pa je prvi faktor imao visoku projekciju testova iskoka, drugi faktor je imao projekcije brzine leta lopte, dok je treći faktor određen projekcijama brzina plivanja i testom preciznosti.

García-Cervantes i sar. (2017) su došli do statistički značajnih razlika između vaterpolistica i vaterpolista u vrijednostima prosječne maksimalne brzine bacanja lopte. Uočena je također statistički značajna razlika između muških i ženskih igrača u procentu izvedenih bacanja sa različitim pozicija pa su najčešće i jedni i drugi bacanja izvršavali sa bočnih pozicija. Nema statistički značajne razlike u brzini bacanja udalj. Nađene su statistički značajne razlike u brzini bacanja sa udaljenosti od pet metara ili manje i bacanja lopte sa više od pet metara. Nije bilo statistički značajne razlike između varijabli (igra na malom prostoru, bacanje sa različitim pozicija i udaljenost). Nema razlika između brzine bacanja sa pozicija centra i sa strane.

Stipić (2022) se u svojoj naučnoj studiji također bavio razlikama situacione efikasnosti vrhunskih vaterpolista i vaterpolistica sa olimpijskog turnira u Tokiju održanom 2021. godine. Statistička analiza je pokazala da je statistički značajna razlika između pobjedničkih i poraženih ekipa u varijablama situacione efikasnosti bila u sljedećim parametrima: golovi iz igre, odbrane vratara, blokovi i isključenja. Pobjednički timovi su u prosjeku postizali više golova iz igre od poraženih timova. Golmani pobjedničkih timova su imali skoro dvije odbrane više od golmana poraženih timova. Vaterpolisti pobjedničkih timova su ostvarili duplo više blokada od vaterpolista poraženih timova. Varijabla koja je imala negativan uticaj na situacionu efikasnost u vaterpolo igri je broj isključenja u kojoj su pobjednički timovi imali više isključenja za razliku od poraženih što je vrlo neobično i neočekivano. Kod vaterpolistica rezultati su malo drugačiji nego kod muških vaterpolista. Pobjednički timovi od poraženih se razlikuju u više varijabli situacione efikasnosti: golovi iz igre, šutevi iz kontre, golovi iz kontre, golovi s igračem više, odbrane golmana, protivnički šutevi u okvir gola, blokovi i plivanje za loptu. Kao i kod muških kolega i golmanice pobjedničkih ekipa su imale skoro dvije odbrane više od golmanica poraženih ekipa. Razloge za dobijanje ovakvih rezultata koji čine razliku u varijablama golovi iz igre, odbrana golmana i blokovi kao i kod vaterpolista mogu se pripisati odlično odrađenoj selekciji igrača kao i većoj individualnoj kvaliteti pojedinih igrača.

Trivun i sr. (2019) su analizom utakmica utvrdili razlike između pobjedničkih i poraženih ekipa u regularnom dijelu takmičenja A1 Regionalne lige u većini varijabli timske efikasnosti pa su pobjedničke ekipa bile znatno bolje u skoro svim varijablama koje su se odnosile na efikasnost šuta,

ters, or total fouls per match. In a similar study, Canosa et al. (2020) analyzed differences in shooting performance among winning, drawing, and losing teams at the 15th FINA World Championship. Higher shot speeds were recorded at longer distances compared to central areas near the goal. Shooting was most frequently performed from mid-range positions, with approximately 50% efficiency, and from 3 to 6 meters, where efficiency exceeded 75%, with winning teams achieving better results. Winning teams outperformed losing teams in shooting from zone 2 and the 2-meter goal area, as well as in shots from the center forward position and in situations without defensive blocking. Argudo-Iturriaga et al. (2022) identified differences among elite female water polo players ranked 1st to 4th compared to lower-ranked players (5th–8th and 9th–12th) in various shooting situations, including lob shots, rebound shots, short-range unequal situations, counterattacks from the left side, shots with fakes from the center position, direct shots, and jump shots from the water.

## CONCLUSION

The results of the study indicate the existence of statistically significant differences in situational-motor abilities between younger and older junior water polo players in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Older juniors achieved better results in most variables that are crucial for the successful execution of offensive and technical elements in the game, suggesting a progressive development of abilities depending on age, training experience, and the functional maturity of athletes. The identified differences confirm that older juniors possess a higher level of ball manipulation speed, shooting accuracy, efficiency in executing offensive situations, and swimming speed in combination with technical tasks. Younger juniors, on the other hand, are still in a phase of intensive acquisition of technical-tactical knowledge, and their development of situational-motor abilities is ongoing. The obtained data represent a valuable indicator for coaches and sports professionals in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as they enable more effective planning and programming of the training process, with an emphasis on those elements that require additional work and improvement in younger categories. The results may also serve as guidelines for the selection and monitoring of athletes across different age groups.

tj. imale su efikasnijeg golmana, efikasniji učinak u blokadi šuta, bolju iskorišćenost igrača više i efikasnije plivače prilikom plivanja za loptu. Nisu utvrđene statistički značajne razlike u varijablama izgubljene lopte, osvojene lopte, procentat šuta sa 5 metara i ukupan broj prekršaja na utakmici.

U vrlo sličnom istraživanju Canosa i sar. (2020) su se bavili procjenom razlika u izvođenju šutiranja između pobjedničkih, timova koji su remizirali i gubitničkih vaterpolo timova sa 15<sup>th</sup> FINA svjetskog prvenstva. Pronađene su veće vrijednosti brzine šuta na daljim udaljenostima od cilja nego u središnjim područjima blizu cilja. Izvođenje šutiranja je najčešće bilo sa srednjih pozicija sa visokim procentom učinkovitosti od 50% i sa područja od 3 i 6 metara sa preko 75% učinkovitosti gdje su pobjedničke ekipe postigle bolje rezultate. Pobjedničke ekipe u odnosu na poražene imale su bolje rezultate u šutiranju iz zone 2 i prema gol zoni od 2 metra udaljenosti. Osim toga, pobjednici su ostvarili i bolju efikasnost u udarcima prema gol zoni 1, na polju centarfora, kao i u šutevima bez prednje odbrane bloka.

Argudo-Iturriaga i sar. (2022) su utvrdili razlike između vaterpolistkinja na najvišem takmičarskom nivou koje su rangirane od 1. do 4. mjesta, u odnosu na vaterpolistkinje drugih manjih rangova (srednji rang su igračice od 5. do 8. mjesta, najniži rang su igračice od 9. do 12. mjesta) u više vrsta šutiranja i u situacijama kao što su: lob udarci, povratni udarci, nejednakosti kratkih udaraca u stativu, kontranapadima sa šutiranjem sa lijeve strane, u udarcima sa fintom sa pozicije centra, direktnim udarcima i udarcima sa skokom iz vode.

Lemeš i sar. (2020) su se takođe bavili razlikama između pobjedničkih i poraženih ekipa na uzorku od sedam ekipa od ukupno 21 utakmica državnog prvenstva Bosne i Hercegovine u vaterpolu za kadete i na osnovu analize dobivenih rezultata uočene su statistički značajne razlike između vaterpolista koji su igrali u pobjedničkim ekipama i vaterpolista koji su igrali u ekipama koje su poražene. Pojedinačnom analizom varijabli može se primijetiti da su od ukupnog broja postignutih golova pobjedničke ekipe postigle procentualno više golova (13,57% ili 89 golova po utakmici) za razliku od poraženih ekipa koje su postigle procentualno 9,06% ili 52 gola po utakmici. Pobjedničke ekipe su imale manji broj pokušaja na gol sa 22,56% dok su poražene ekipe imale veći broj pokušaja sa 25,44%. Najmanja razlika između ekipa koje su pobjeđivale i ekipa koje su gubile su bile u izvođenju penala i kontranapada.

Ademović i sar. (2020) su dobili rezultate koji govore da postoje značajne statističke razlike u analizama različitih dijelova vaterpolo igre između vaterpolo ekipa na turniru u Sisku u odnosu na ekipe na turniru u Sarajevu u kategorijama juniori i kadeti. Ekipe koje su učestvovala na turniru u

Sisku ostvarile su bolje rezultate u postignutim golovima iz kontranapada i većem broju zabilježenih pokušaja šuta na gol što govori da su vaterpolisti brže plivali i bili više aktivni u toku vaterpolo igre. Ekipe koje su učestvovala na turniru u Sarajevu su bile samo bolje u većem uspjehu realizacije penala što govori da su vaterpolo igrači bili dosta grublji i agresivniji u duel igri.

Noronha i sar. (2022) imali su rezultate koji pokazuju da su igrači grupe 2 (13–14 godina) bili brži u plivanju i efikasniji u šutiranju poslije driblinga, dok su vrijednosti direktnog šutiranja bez pomjeranja i procenta šuta poslije driblinga ili pomjeranja su bile slične između sve tri grupe ispitanika (grupa 1 od 12 do 13 godina, grupa 2 od 13 do 14 godina i grupa 3 od 14 do 15 godina).

Panero i sar. (2022) su sproveli eksperimentalne testove na 11 vaterpolistkinja (godina:  $22,3 \pm 3,5$ ) tako što su uzete tri različite vrste šutiranja a praćena je kinematika gornjih ekstremiteta, snaga i preciznost udarca prilikom izvođenja eksperimentalnih testova kao i njihovo poređenje prije i poslije 45 dana specifičnog trening programa. Od subjekata se zahtijevalo da izvode tri različita šutiranja: penal šut, šut iz dodavanja i finta šut poslije dodavanja. Također je izvršena analiza korelacije između uglova ramena, lakta, kao i brzine bacanja. Kod treće vrste udarca (finta šut poslije dodavanja) povećao se ugao ramena za  $7^\circ$  poslije treninga a maksimalna brzina ( $V_{max_7}$ ) je bila niža poslije treninga i iznosila je 13,9 m/s a prije treninga je iznosila 14,7 m/s. Video snimak druge vrste šutiranja (šut poslije dodavanja) pokazuje da je rezultat preciznosti bio povećan za dva poena poslije treninga. Do statistički značajnih razlika nije došlo u poređenju uglova lakta i rezultata snage kao što nije bilo ni razlika između regresionih linija prije i poslije trening programa.

## ZAKLJUČAK

rezultati istraživanja su ukazali na postojanje statistički značajnih razlika u situaciono-motoričkim sposobnostima između mlađih i starijih juniora vaterpolista Bosne i Hercegovine. Stariji juniori ostvarili su bolje rezultate u većini varijabli koje su ključne za uspješno izvođenje napadačkih i tehničkih elemenata u igri, što ukazuje na progresivan razvoj sposobnosti u zavisnosti od uzrasta, trenajnog iskustva i funkcionalne zrelosti sportista.

Utvrđene razlike potvrđuju da stariji juniori posjeduju veći nivo brzine manipulacije loptom, preciznosti šuta, uspješnosti realizacije napadačkih situacija i brzine plivanja u kombinaciji sa tehničkim zadacima. Kod mlađih juniora uočeno je da se još uvijek nalaze u fazi intenzivnog usvajanja tehničko-taktičkih znanja, te da je njihov razvoj situaciono-motoričkih sposobnosti u toku.

Dobijeni podaci predstavljaju vrijedan pokazatelj trenerima i sportskim stručnjacima u Bosni i Hercegovini, jer omogućavaju kvalitetnije planiranje i programiranje trenajnog procesa, s naglaskom na one elemente koji kod mlađih kategorija zahtijevaju dodatni rad i unapređenje. Rezultati takođe mogu poslužiti kao smjernice u selekciji i praćenju sportista u različitim uzrasnim kategorijama.

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