

## **Identifying basketball talent in 11–15 year olds using sport search**

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### **Abstract**

This study aims to identify the talents and potential of basketball athletes aged 11–15 years who are members of the Tanaka Basketball Club in North Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province. The study used a descriptive method with a quantitative approach. The research subjects consisted of 35 athletes, comprising 20 male athletes and 15 female athletes. The instrument used was the Sport Search talent identification test, which included measurements of biomotor abilities such as coordination, strength, explosive power, agility, speed, and endurance. Data analysis was performed using percentage techniques to group the athletes' talent levels. The results showed that of the 35 athletes, 3% were in the highly potential category, 28% in the potential category, 32% in the moderately potential category, 34% in the less potential category, and 3% in the not potential category. These findings indicate that most athletes fall into the moderately potential and less potential categories, thus requiring further targeted training according to the athletes' talent profiles. The Sport Search method has been proven to be a useful initial tool in guiding early-age basketball talent.

**Keywords:** talent identification, sport search, basketball, ages 11–15.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Identifying athletic talent is a very important initial stage in developing competitive sports, especially among children and adolescents. This process aims to objectively recognize individual potential so that training can be targeted and sustainable. Vaeyens et al. (2017) explain that talent identification is a multidimensional process that considers physical, physiological, and motor skill factors as the basis for long-term athlete performance development. During early adolescence, particularly between the ages of 11 and 15, individuals experience rapid development in physical aspects and motor skills. This development includes increases in strength, speed, agility, coordination, and endurance, which greatly influence an athlete's ability to learn and master basic sports techniques (Bukhovets et al., 2020; Hakman et al., 2018; Lloyd et al., 2015). Therefore, this phase is a strategic period for systematic identification of athletic talent. Basketball is a sport that requires complex physical and biomotor skills. Basketball athletes are required to have running speed, leg muscle power, agility, hand-eye coordination, and good endurance to support their performance (Siahaan et al., 2020; Koryahin et al., 2019; Ziv & Lidor, 2009). Research shows that physical characteristics and biomotor performance have a significant relationship with the level of play and performance of young basketball athletes (García-Gil et al., 2018; Darisman et al., 2017). One method used in identifying athletic talent is Sport Search, which is a talent scouting method based on measuring biomotor abilities through a series of standardized physical tests.

This method is used to map an individual's potential for a particular sport based on test results that include coordination, strength, explosive power, speed, agility, and endurance

(Syafei et al, 2020). This approach is considered practical and applicable for use in schools and sports clubs. Several studies in Indonesia show that the application of the Sport Search method is able to provide an objective picture of the level of talent of young athletes in various sports. Research by Syaifullah (2019) found that the results of talent identification can be used as a basis for developing more targeted training programs according to the characteristics of the athletes. However, the application of this method at the regional club level is still relatively limited, so that athlete development is often not based on scientific data. Based on this description, it is necessary to conduct research on identifying basketball talent in athletes aged 11–15 years at the Tanaka Club in North Lombok Regency using the Sport Search method. The results of this study are expected to form the basis for the development of a more systematic, measurable, and long-term performance-oriented athlete development program.

## **METHOD**

This study is a quantitative descriptive study that aims to identify the level of basketball talent in young athletes. A descriptive approach was used to describe the objective conditions of the athletes' potential based on the results of talent assessment tests without treating or manipulating the research variables. The research subjects were all beginner athletes who were members of the Tanaka Basketball Club in North Lombok Regency, aged 11–15 years. The sampling technique used was total sampling, so that the entire population became the research subjects. There were 35 research subjects, consisting of 20 male athletes and 15 female athletes. The instrument used in this study was the Sport Search Talent Guidance Test. This instrument was designed to measure biomotor abilities and physical characteristics relevant to the demands of basketball.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This study aims to identify the level of talent among 11–15-year-old basketball players at the Tanaka Club in North Lombok Regency using the Sport Search method. The results show that the level of talent among athletes varies, ranging from highly promising to not promising.

### **Distribution of Athlete Talent Levels**

Based on the results of data analysis, the distribution of athletes' burnout levels can be seen in Table 1. Table 1. Distribution of Talent Levels Among 11–15-Year-Old Basketball Players

<b>Talent Category</b>	<b>Number of Athletes</b>
<b>Highly Potential</b>	1
<b>Potential</b>	10
<b>Moderately Potential</b>	11
<b>Less Potential</b>	12
<b>Not Potential</b>	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>

Based on Table 1, most basketball athletes aged 11–15 years at the Tanaka Club, North Lombok Regency, fall into the moderate potential (32%) and low potential (34%) categories. This condition indicates that most athletes still have basic biomotor skills that have not been optimally developed, so they need more structured physical and technical training. Athletes in the potential (28%) and high potential (3%) categories show better alignment between their physical abilities and the demands of basketball. Athletes in this category have a greater chance of being developed into competitive athletes through specific advanced training programs. Conversely, athletes in the less potential and no potential categories (3%) still have the opportunity to develop if they receive systematic training, considering that the age of 11–15 years is still a phase of dynamic physical development. The distribution of these results proves that the Sport Search method is effective as a tool for initial mapping of athletes' talents. This study is in line with Suryadia's (2020) research, which states that the use of the Sport Search method is very useful for the sustainability of athletes in the future. Further research by Afrian et al (2021) explains the potential of junior high school children in sports skills. Sport search is a tool for identifying sports interests and talents (Bramantha, 2018). In addition, identifying athletic talent from an early age by teachers, coaches, and even parents aims to discover promising young athletes as an effort to improve athletic performance (Malik et al., 2020). This is an effort in long-term talent guidance (Yulianto et al.,

2019). This talent distribution data can be used by coaches as a basis for developing more targeted training programs oriented towards long-term performance development.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion, it can be concluded that the level of talent among 11–15-year-old basketball players at the Tanaka Club in North Lombok Regency varies, with the majority of athletes falling into the moderately talented and less talented categories. A small number of athletes are in the talented and highly talented categories, indicating potential for further development as competitive athletes. The Sport Search method has proven to be effective as a tool for initial mapping of basketball talent because it provides an objective picture of athletes' biomotor abilities. The results of this talent identification can be used as a basis for developing more targeted, measurable training programs that are tailored to the characteristics of the athletes, thereby supporting long-term sports performance development.

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