

42 A research on preliminary selection of table tennis athletes

Y. Cheng

Physical Education Department, Shenzhen Polytechnic, Shenzhen, China, 518055. dzgwc@163.com.

1 Introduction

Selection, training and management are the three factors that restrict the development of ping – pong. The scientific selection of ping – pong players is a major problem nowadays in China. The issuance of Standard of the selection of infant and juvenile athletes in the early of 1990s accelerates the development of ping – pong of our country.

However, the standard caters for key P. E. schools, that is, the medium level. There still is a urgent need to solve the problem of preliminary selection. The medium level should be based on the preliminary one. We here put forward a research of the preliminary selection to perfect the preliminary selection mode and improve its quality.

2 The characteristics and analysis of the current preliminary selection

2.1 The characteristics

2.1.1 Universality

The main task of the preliminary P. E. schools is to choose the talented pupils to develop their interest in the game and to equip them with basic skills. The selection of this level has the characteristics of universality. Effective ways should be used to find, identify and grasp those hardly found real genius on the basis of large scale testing.

2.1.2 Feasibility

Because the preliminary selection is on a large scale, the testing items should be practical. Its difficulties should be suitable to juvenile physical and mental characteristics. The means should be simple and easy to carry out so as to fit the large collectivity.

2.1.3 Validity

The testing targets should not follow the medium selection mode. Uncontrollable and stable factors should be used in the testing and judging. Only after a

newly learned child receive systematic training can we see whether he is suitable for the game or not. Because the objects of preliminary selection are not systematic trained, it is meaningless to use the results of some special testing. Owing to the differences in region, age, education, family economic background, mental and physical state, intelligence, etc, the scoring standard should not simply follow those already existed chart to avoid inaccurate evaluation.

2.2 Analysis of current means of selection

Since the end of 2002, we have had an investigation to the tutors in amateur ping - pong schools, key ping - pong schools and ping - pong clubs in more than 10 regions in Guangdong province and discuss with them about the problem of preliminary selection. The investigation shows that problems still exist in the preliminary selection in many ordinary basic amateur P. E. schools. Without a scientific testing system, the testing is simple and impractical.

The medium selection standard is tailored to the samples from medium level athletes and isn't in accord with the characteristics of preliminary selection. Using the medium standard to choose the basic level athletes will easily ignore those really talented ones. Because of the judgmental attitude of some tutors, some children with high sports potential are not trained in their early stage. The traditional experiential selection mode hinders the development of scientific preliminary selection and vice versa.

3 Choice of the targets

From the above analysis, we hold that the target should be based on its own characteristics. The basic principles are followings. (1) simple and easy to carry out for large scale testing. (2) effective so as to identify and find the potential talent of the juniors. (3) the general testing and the special testing should be divided into stages; the targets should be different from one another. Based on the principles mentioned above, our long - term experiment and research meanwhile referring to theory and means of other sport items, we establish a target system of preliminary selection (Figure 1).

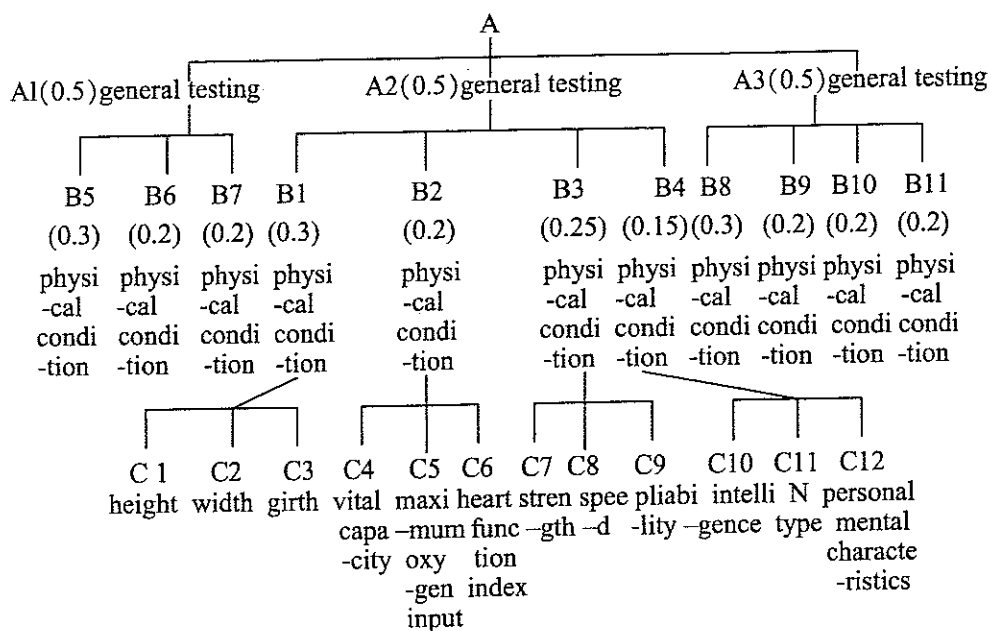


Figure 1. choice of the targets

According to the above division and classification, we set up specific testing items of the third level C. write – in methods is used in B4 to test the intelligence. A2 is a special quality testing decided by the tutors according to the special characteristics of ping – pong. B8 is related with the 80.8 nerve type testing methods. Considering the recent reformation of the management system in amateur P. E. schools and the maturing rule of ping – pong players, we add B9, B10 and B11 to A3. The 3 targets play an important role in the development of the skills of the ping – pong players.

4 Establishment and application of the standard

The scoring and evaluation of the testing results are important in the selection. Firstly, we should consider the importance of the targets that are on the same level. In order to decide which the more important one is, we can consult the experts, refer to literature about different kinds of selection, ask the opinions of tutors from different levels, etc. Then we establish the standard of scoring. We can refer to relevant mode charts but should modify and justify them to suit our needs.

Some tutors are used to borrowing existed mode chart, which will lead to low scores in the testing. The mode charts often adopt the means of adding and the low scores are very close. The lack of difference in the low scores makes us hard to identify the different levels of ping – pong players. Thus, inaccurate evaluation will appear. Our method is to classify the original scores and calculate the average score and standard one in every item. Based on the

theory of positive distribution, we decide on the levels of scoring standard. Generally, we regard $X \pm 0.55$ as 60; $X \pm 0.75$ as 70; $X \pm 15$ as 80 - 90 ; $X \pm 35$ as 100. After conversion of the importance, we add them as individual total scores to decide whether we choose the individual or not. Experiments show that this method is very effective.