STUDY ON THE EFFICIENCY
OF THE CURRENT SELECTION FOR FIRST
STAGE IN ATHLETICS IN ROMANIA

Corina Dulceanu
„Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad, Romania

Abstract.

The aim *of the research is to demonstrate the efficiency and make relevant conclusions on the current selection system for the first formative stage in Romania, in athletics.* ***Methods****: For this, we made a bibliographic study on the volumes "Technical Results" of the Romanian Athletics Federation, whose objective was to know the efficiency of the selection system for the first stage formative in athletics, system that was promoted in the 80s, and still available. The study was conducted by researching the evolution of three generations of athletes, who began their sportive activity at the Children category I, in 1988, 1989 and 1990.* ***Results****: Following this general analysis of the three generations, we can say that athletes selected on the basis of current criteria fail to cover the necessary talent, a claim supported by the fact that only a small percentage of the athletes had a representative and longevive career in sports and valorous results.* ***Conclusions:*** *We found that the current selection from Romania, to the many samples that are selected for future athletic performers, has a limited number of tests, physical only, which does not offer the possibility to select young professionals with high predisposition favoring practicing athletics performance and recovery performance potential in various athletic events.*

Key words: *selection system, real data, evaluation*

Contact: corina.dulceanu@yahoo.com

Introduction. For appreciate the efficiency of the current selection system in Romania and for demonstrate that the tests of which is composed this system highlights the complexity of the skills of the future athletes, we achieved a research on three generations of athletes who have evolved from Children under Senior career category, selected according to the tests and standards in force.

Methods. The target group of this research were the athletes that I found in the volumes „Technical Results" developed by the Romanian Athletics Federation. Thus, we inventoried athletes of the 1988, 1989 and 1990 generations of children, who participated in the indoor and outdoor national championships, by name, and studied their evolution in his sports career.

We studied every indoor and outdoor national championship, each athletic event from the competition, each performance and each place occupied by the subjects for highlight stagnations, backwards, performances and abandonment of the sport career by the subjects.

Since 1989 more results are centralized in the national championships, so it was possible both to identify athletes who continued their sportive career and new entrants in competitive activity.

The study aimed to research the following issues: evolution in performance, stagnation, regression, longevity, dropping in both sexes and, therefore, the analysis will be conducted separately on female and male.

Results and discussions

1988 Generation. 88' Female Generation was characterized by a concentration of athletes participation in speed events: 60m -18 % of the total participations, 200m -16% and 100m-14 %. It is also remarkable evidence of hurdles events, 50m and 80m at a rate of 9% respectively 6% and triple jump event at a rate of 7%. (fig.1)
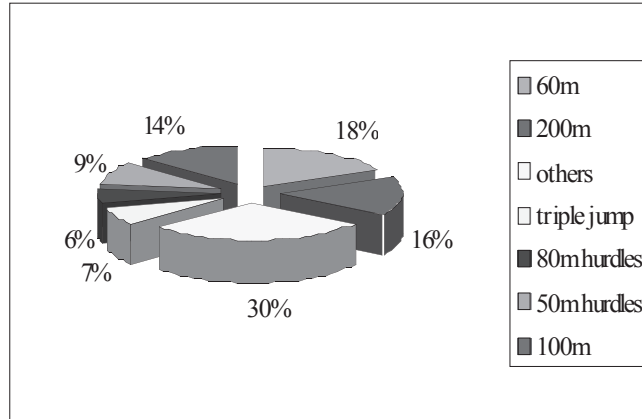
Figure 1. Graphical reprezentation of the athletic events expressed
as a percentage of 1988 female generation

For generation 1988 competition years 1990 and 1991 repre-
sented a peak of participation in National Championships with 12
participations of athletes of this generation; in the following year,
the number of participations decreased slightly to 11, after which,
since 1993, the junior I athletes have withdrawn from athletic
competitions, their results were no longer found in any National
Championship.(fig. 2)
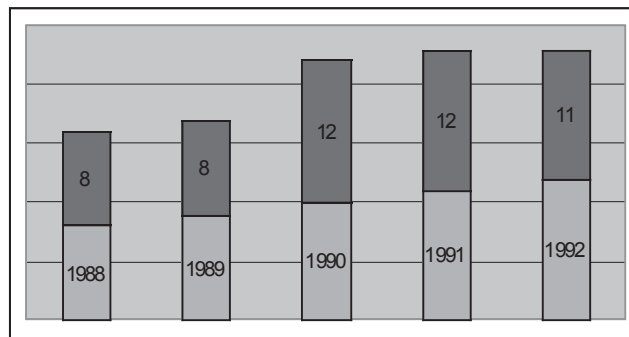
Figure 2. Total number of participations of 1988 female generation
in competitive activity

Compared to the female generation, the male generation showed a higher participation rate in events of running longer distances, the predominant event being 200m running, with a percentage of 18 %, and 400m running -16%, while events like 400m hurdles and 800m had a participation rate of 6%. (fig. 3)
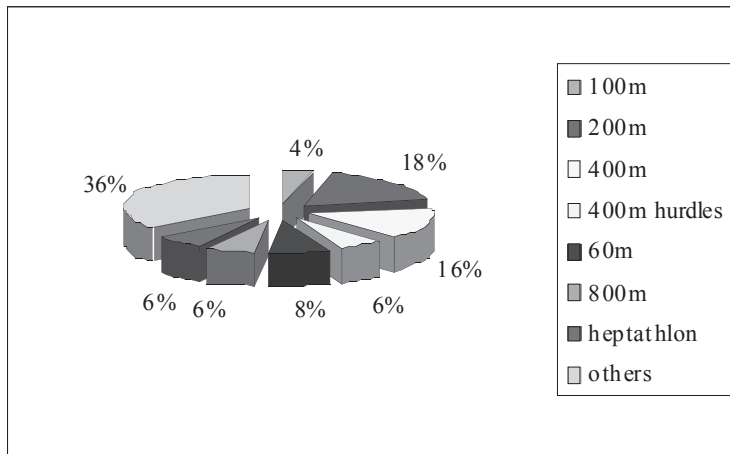

Figure 3. Graphical representation of the athletic events expressed as a percentage of 1988 male generation
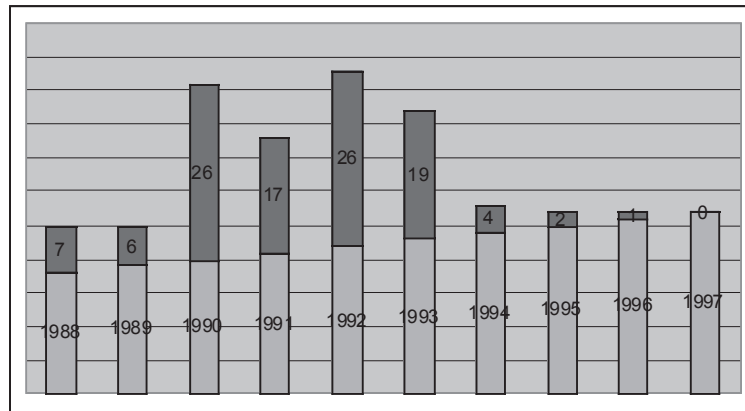

Figure 4. Total number of participations of 1988 male generation in competitive activity

1989 Generation. Compared with the generation 1988 predominating running events, in the case of female generation 1989,

participation in jumping events was predominant. So, long jump event received 25% of total participations to the national championships, and the triple jump 15%. This participation rate is due to highlight in this generation of some valuable athletes.(fig.5)
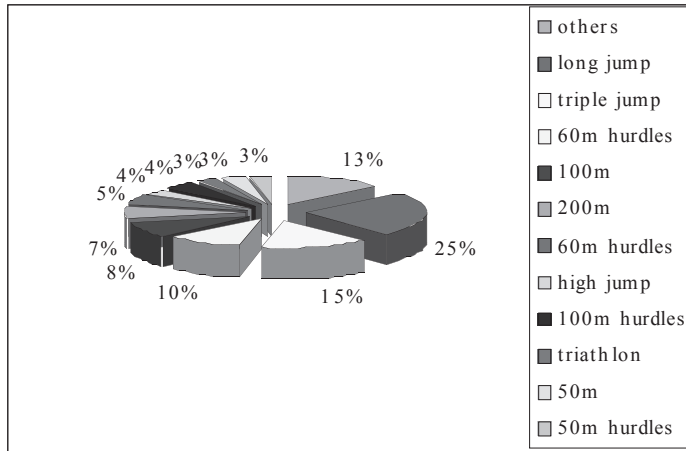

Figure 5. Graphical representation of the athletic events expressed as a percentage of 1989 female generation
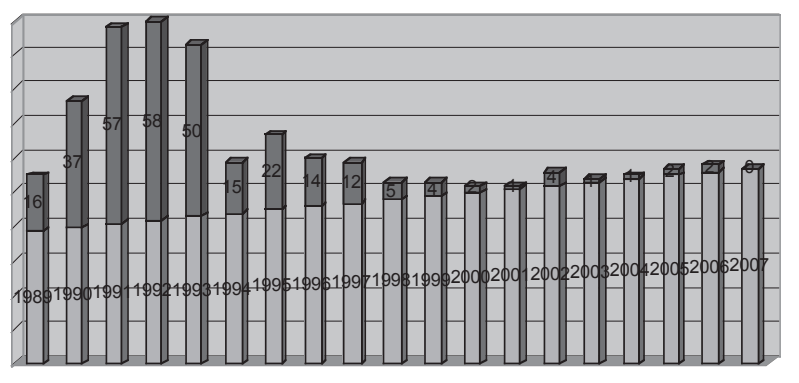

Figure 6. Total number of participations of 1989 female generation in competitive activity

1989 male generation is characterized by the predominance of run events like 200m -13%, 100m-11% and 400m-10% of total participations to the National Championships.(fig.7)
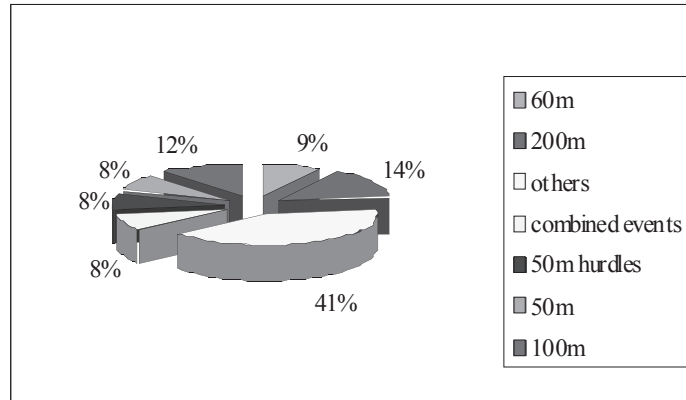

Figure 7. Graphical representation of the athletic events expressed as a percentage of 1989 male generation

Career longevity for 1989 male generation is relatively short (about 15 years), some athletes progressing to the Senior category. The year 2003 is the one when any athlete in this generation was not registered in the database of FRA. (fig. 8)
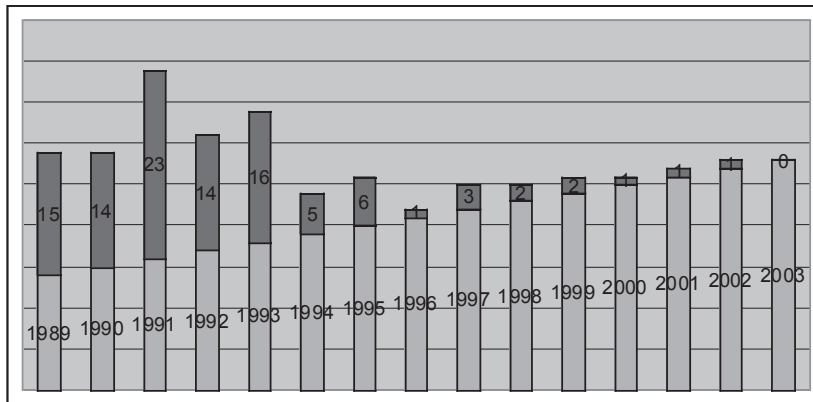

Figure 8. Total number of participations of 1989 male generation in competitive activity

1990 Generation. Regarding the 1990 female generation we notice a diversified athletic events evidence, the long jump event, with a participation of 16%, followed by the top holdings by run event 200m -13 %, 60m - 9% and 60mg - 8%.(fig.9)
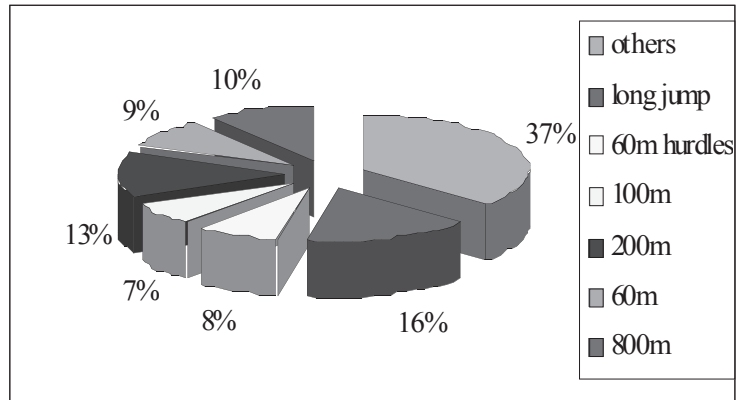

Figure 9. Graphical reprezentation of the athletic events expressed as a percentage of 1990 female generation
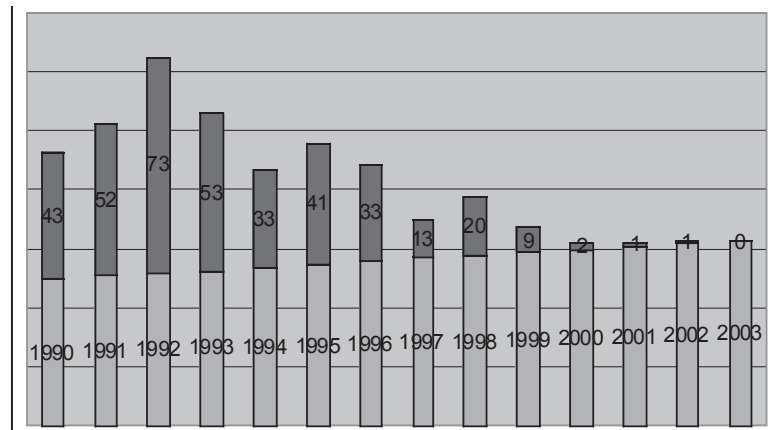

Figure 10. Total number of attendings of 1990 female generation to the athletic events

Similar to the 1990 generation of sports women, the athletes of this generation recorded the highest number of participations in both long jump events — 17% and 200m running — 16% (fig. 11)
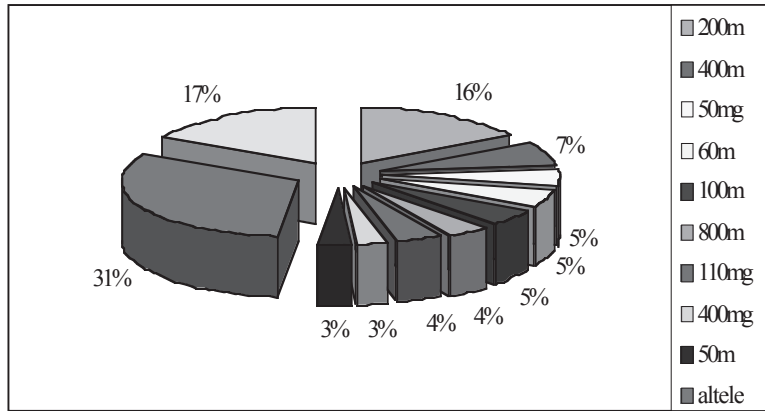
Figure 11. Graphical representation of the athletic events
expressed as a percentage of 1990 male generation

1992 year represented a pick given by the number of attendings in the national championships, being recorded 82 official results of the athletes of 1990's Generation, at Junior III category, later the athletes, little by little, abandoned the competitional activity, resulting a significant decrease in the number of attendings in official contests, as observable in fig. 12.
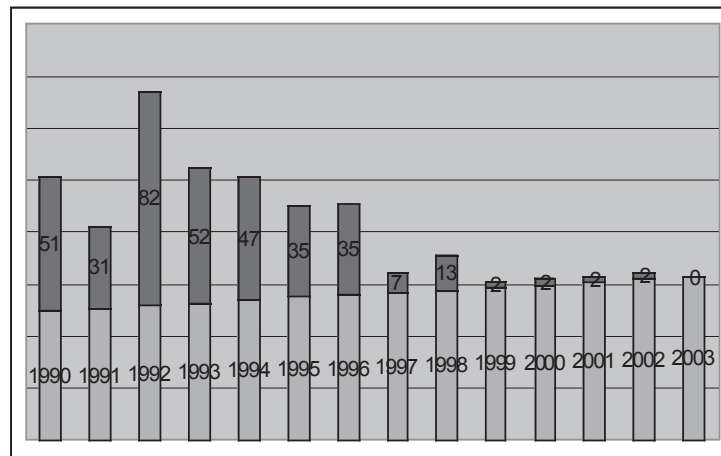

Figure 12. Total number of participations of 1990 male generation
in competitive activity

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An overview of the 3 male athlets, related to the continuity of the performance activity, quantified in the maximum number of years as expression of the sportive career longevity, shows us an increase in the longevity for 1989 Generation compared to 1988 Generation, from age of 10 to age of 14. For 1990 Generation, the maximal longevity of the sportive career is of 13 years. (fig. 13)
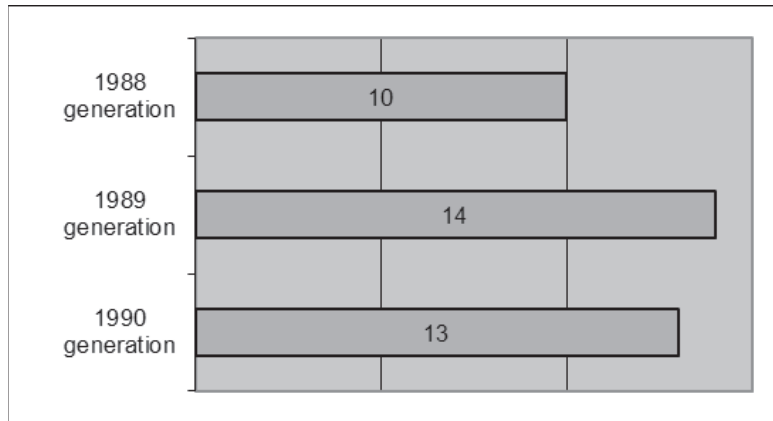

Figure 13. Athletic career's lenght for the observed male generations

Regarding the female athletes sportive career longevity for the girls of the observed generations, the 1989 Generation recorded the longest sportive career (18 years), meanwhile, for 1988 Generation, there are female athletes with recorded results within just 5 years after the launching year in the competitions. For 1990 Generation, the maximal longevity was just 13 years. (fig. 14)
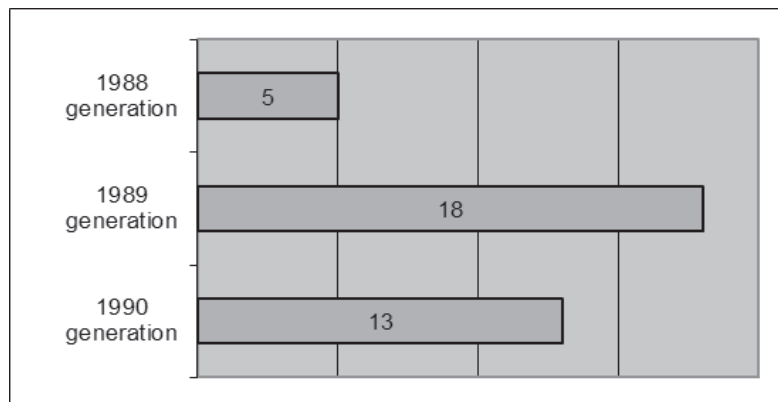

Figure 14. Athletic career's lenght for the observed female generations

Conclusions. Concluding this overall analysis of the 3 observed generations, we can state that the athletes selected according to the present criteria do not succeed to cover the needed talents, statement sustained by the fact that only a small percentage of the observed athletes had a representative and long sportive career and valuable official results also.

It has been observed that the present Romanian selection system, as opposed to the multitude of the athletic trials for which the future performant athletes are selected, has a limited number of tests, solely physic-related. These tests do not offer the specialists the possibility to select young people with favorable skills for high performance athletic activity and for competitive potential's capitalization within different athletic trials. As a proof, many athletes from the preliminary stage research have been standing aside after only 1 or 3 championship participations. One of the explanations would be that these were not properly selected / oriented or did not behavioral and bio motility-related respond to the type of athletic trial practiced.

In the light of the above-mentioned, we state that if the selection within the first forming athletic stage would use a wider array of trials and tests from the motility, psycho- motility and coordination skills, correlated to 9 to 12 age's particularities and specific activities for athletic orientation, then the quality of selection allows early discovery of elements with real aptitudes for a this athletic field, with a highly-broad range of competitive trials.

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