



Analysis of Sportsmanship's Impact on FAFAGE Academy Sumedang Futsal Performance

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Abstract

This study aimed to analyze the role of sportsmanship in improving the quality of futsal performance among athletes of FAFAGE Sumedang Academy. Sportsmanship is an essential value in sport that includes honesty, adherence to rules, respect for opponents and referees, and the ability to control emotions during competition. This study employed a qualitative approach with a case study design involving 18 participants, consisting of one coach and seventeen active athletes selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation, and analyzed using the Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña interactive model, including data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The findings revealed that sportsmanship played a significant role in enhancing the quality of futsal performance through the implementation of honesty and fair play, compliance with rules, emotional regulation, respect for referees' decisions, and positive attitudes toward opponents. Emotional control and maintaining focus during matches emerged as the most dominant aspects influencing game quality. In addition, consistent sportsmanship coaching conducted by coaches through fair play education, discipline, and character development contributed to the formation of positive athlete behavior and supported team performance. The study also found that sportsmanship not only functions as a moral value but also serves as an important factor in improving technical performance, decision-making, teamwork, and concentration during matches. The novelty of this research lies in its integrated examination of the relationship between sportsmanship and futsal performance through technical, psychological, and social dimensions within the context of youth athlete development in a futsal academy environment.

Keywords: sportsmanship, game quality, futsal, athlete coaching, fair play.

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A. Introduction

The FAFAGE Akademi Sumedang Club is a problem that needs attention because it can affect the quality of the game and the formation of athletes' character. In the process of training and matches, behaviors such as excessive protest against the referee's decision, deliberate fouls, lack of respect for the opponent, and inability to control emotions when under match pressure. According to (Gaffney, 2015), sportsmanship is a commitment to uphold the values of ethics, honesty, respect, and fair play in sports activities. Low sportsmanship has the potential to have an impact in the form of decreased teamwork, increased conflicts between players, disruption of playing concentration, and reduced effectiveness of technical skills such as passing, shooting, and decision-making on the field. In addition, (Lerner, 2019) explained that good character is not only reflected in knowledge of moral values, but also from real will and actions in applying these values. Therefore, a study is needed to understand how sportsmanship can affect the technical skills of futsal players, identify key factors of sportsmanship that have an impact on match results, analyze training strategies that can improve sportsmanship and skills at the same time, and examine the influence of players' emotions or temperament on sportsmanship attitudes during competitions. This research is important because sports function as a means of character formation and moral values that can support the improvement of the quality of the game and the development of athletes in a sustainable manner (Naylor & Yeager, 2013).

Although sportsmanship is widely recognized as an essential value in sports, preliminary observations conducted at FAFAGE Academy Sumedang indicated several behavioral issues during training sessions and competitive matches. These included excessive protests toward referees' decisions, tactical fouls

committed intentionally to stop opponents' attacks, emotional outbursts after unfavorable situations, and occasional conflicts between players. According to the coach's match records during the 2024–2025 competitive season, emotional reactions and disciplinary violations frequently affected team concentration and game flow. Such conditions suggest that sportsmanship is not merely a moral issue but may also influence athletes' performance and the overall quality of futsal matches.

Sportsmanship has become an important topic in sports science because it contributes not only to ethical behavior but also to psychological stability, teamwork, and decision-making during competition. Athletes who demonstrate high levels of sportsmanship tend to maintain better emotional regulation, respect game regulations, and establish positive interactions with teammates and opponents. Consequently, sportsmanship may serve as a supporting factor for technical and tactical performance during matches.

Previous studies have examined sportsmanship from various perspectives. Burd et al. (2023) investigated the implementation of the Sport Education Model and found that it improved students' sportsmanship attitudes through cooperative and responsibility-based learning. Burgueño and Medina-Casaubón (2020) focused on sportsmanship orientation among high school students, while De Cabo-Agustín et al. (2022) examined fair-play attitudes among primary school students. Furthermore, Makaje et al. (2012) compared sportsmanship levels among students participating in different sports activities.

However, these studies predominantly investigated sportsmanship as an outcome of character education, moral development, or educational interventions. Limited research has explored sportsmanship as a multidimensional factor that directly contributes to sports performance through technical, psychological, and social

mechanisms, particularly within youth futsal development programs. Moreover, studies specifically examining how sportsmanship influences game quality, emotional control, teamwork, concentration, and decision-making in futsal academies remain scarce.

Therefore, this study seeks to fill this research gap by investigating the role of sportsmanship in improving futsal performance among youth athletes at FAFAGE Academy Sumedang. The novelty of this study lies in its integrated analysis of sportsmanship as both a moral value and a performance-supporting factor through technical, psychological, and social dimensions within a competitive futsal environment.

In the process of training and matches, behaviors such as excessive protest against the referee's decision, deliberate fouls, lack of respect for the opponent, and inability to control emotions when under match pressure. Sportsmanship itself is a commitment to uphold the values of ethics, honesty, respect, and *fair play* in sports activities (Whysall, 2014). Low sportsmanship has the potential to have an impact in the form of decreased teamwork, increased conflicts between players, disruption of playing concentration, and reduced effectiveness of technical skills such as *passing*, *shooting*, and decision-making on the field. Good character is not only reflected in knowledge of moral values, but also in the willingness and real actions in applying these values in daily life (Miller, 2023). Previous research has shown that the application of the sports education model is able to improve sportsmanship through playing experiences, cooperation, and responsibility during sports activities (Abad Robles et al., 2021). In addition, there is a difference in the level of sportsmanship between volleyball and futsal extracurricular participants which is influenced by the characteristics of the sports activities carried out (Spyrou et al., 2020). Another study found that most

learners have a good level of sportsmanship in the aspects of respecting opponents, obeying rules, and accepting the results of matches (Sevilmiş et al., 2021), while educator examples, consistent application of rules, and positive reinforcement are proven to be important factors in shaping sportsmanship behavior (Richards, 2018) However, research that specifically examines the role of sportsmanship in improving the quality of futsal games at the FAFAGE Akademi Sumedang Club is still limited. Therefore, this study has a novelty by examining the relationship between sportsmanship and players' technical skills, match results, training strategies, and emotional management in an integrated manner in the context of fostering futsal athletes. This research also contributes to the achievement of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) through the development of a healthy and positive sports environment and SDG 4 (Quality Education) through strengthening character education, discipline, responsibility, and *fair play* in the development of young athletes.

B. Methods

This study employed a case study design within a qualitative approach to gain an in-depth understanding of the role of sportsmanship in improving the quality of futsal performance at FAFAGE Academy Sumedang. The case study design was selected because it enables researchers to comprehensively explore a phenomenon within its real-life context through multiple sources of evidence, such as interviews, observations, and documentation. This design is appropriate for the objectives of the study, which aim to examine the relationship between sportsmanship, technical skills, training strategies, and players' emotional management within a futsal club environment in a comprehensive and contextual manner (Nascimento Junior et al., 2022).

The research was conducted through four stages: preparation, data collection, data analysis, and report writing. During the preparation stage, the researcher developed the research instruments, determined the research subjects, obtained the necessary permissions, and prepared the procedures for data collection. The data collection stage involved conducting interviews, observations, and document reviews to obtain comprehensive information regarding the implementation of sportsmanship and its contribution to the improvement of futsal performance. Subsequently, the collected data were analyzed systematically using qualitative data analysis techniques. Finally, the

findings were compiled and presented in the form of a research report.

Research proposals, taking care of licensing, and preparing research instruments. The data collection stage is focused on the implementation of observations, in-depth interviews, and documentation to obtain information related to the sportsmanship and quality of futsal games. The data analysis stage is carried out by organizing, reducing, and interpreting the data that has been obtained. Furthermore, the reporting stage aims to systematically compile research results so that they can provide a complete picture of the phenomenon being studied (Busetto et al., 2020).

Table 1. Intrument

Data Source	Instrument	Focus
Athletes	Semi-structured Interview	Sportsmanship behavior and experiences
Coach	In-depth Interview	Coaching strategies and character development
Observation	Observation Sheet	Sportsmanship during training and matches
Documentation	Match reports, photos, videos	

The research participants consisted of 18 people who were selected using the purposive sampling technique because they were considered to have experience and knowledge relevant to the phenomenon being studied. Participants include 1 head coach and 17 active players of the FAFAGE Sumedang Academy Club. All participants were male, from Sumedang Regency, West Java. The players who became participants were in the age range of 12-17 years old and were still students at the junior high school/high school level in grades X to XI. The selection of participants was carried out to obtain in-depth information about the application of sportsmanship in training activities and futsal matches (Sarikhani et al., 2022).

The interview protocol consisted of twelve semi-structured questions focusing

on athletes' understanding of sportsmanship, experiences during training and matches, emotional regulation, respect for referees and opponents, adherence to rules, and perceptions of how sportsmanship affects game performance. Each interview lasted approximately 30–45 minutes and was audio-recorded with participants' consent.

To ensure data credibility, member checking was conducted by returning interview summaries to participants for verification. In addition, source triangulation was applied by comparing information obtained from athletes, coaches, and supporting documents, while methodological triangulation was achieved through the combination of interviews, observations, and documentation.

Table 2. Research Instruments

Data Source	Instrument	Focus
Athletes	Semi-structured Interview	Sportsmanship behavior and experiences
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Research Instrument

The research data was analyzed using the Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña interactive model which consisted of three main components, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. The data analyzed included the results of interviews on the understanding and application of sportsmanship, the results of observation of player behavior during training and matches, and data documentation relating to club activities. The analysis was carried out repeatedly until patterns, themes, and meanings were obtained that could answer the formulation of research problems regarding the role of sportsmanship in improving the quality of futsal games (Flores-Kanter & Medrano, 2019).

study is carried out through *content validity* by requesting an assessment from experts on interview guidelines and observation sheets to suit the purpose of the research. The validity of the data is also strengthened through source triangulation and triangulation techniques by comparing data from interviews, observations, and documentation. Meanwhile, the reliability of qualitative research is maintained through the consistency of the data collection process, systematic data recording, and the use of the same interview guidelines for all participants so that the data obtained can be trusted and accounted for (Muliana et al., 2020).

The validity of the instrument in this

C. Result and Discussion

Picture 1 Word Cloud Wawancara Atlet

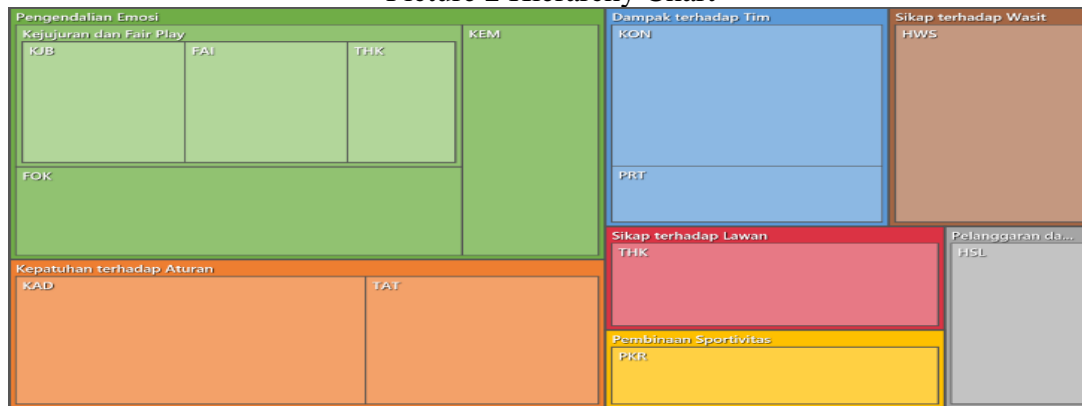


Based on the visualization of the word cloud results from the interview of athletes of the FAFAGE Club of the Sumedang Academy, it can be seen that the word "sportsmanship" is the most dominant word and has the largest size compared to other words. The dominance of the word shows that athletes view

sportsmanship as the main aspect in futsal games related to behavior, attitude, and quality of play. These findings show that the value of sportsmanship is not only understood as adherence to the rules, but is also reflected in the player's interaction with the opponent, the referee, as well as the ability to control oneself

during the match. According to (Abad, 2010), sportsmanship is a behavior that reflects respect for the rules, opponents, and the spirit of fair play in sports.

Picture 2 Hierarchy Chart



Based on the results of the **Hierarchy Chart**, it can be seen that the category that has the most dominant proportion is **Emotion Control**, which consists of the code [FOK] **Focus on the game**, [KEM] **Control emotions**, and supported by **Honesty and Fair Play aspects** such as [KJB] **Honest play**, [FAI] **Fair play**, and [THK] **Not cheating**. The dominance of this category shows that FAFAGE Akademi Sumedang athletes view the ability to control emotions and maintain focus during matches as a tangible form of sportsmanship that affects the quality of the game. These findings are in line with the opinion (Marcos-Rivero et al., 2026) that emotional control is an important psychological factor that helps athletes maintain optimal performance and make informed decisions during matches.

The next category that has a high frequency is **Compliance with Rules**, which is indicated by the code [KAD] **Maintaining match fairness** and [TAT] **Obeying futsal rules**. This shows that most athletes understand that obeying the rules of the game is the main foundation in creating fair and quality matches. The findings support the view (Mortimer et al., 2021) that adherence to rules reflects the moral character of individuals who play a role in

establishing sportsmanship behavior in sports activities.

In the **Team Impact** category, the most prominent codes are [KON] **Playing concentration** and [PRT] **Avoiding team losses**. These results indicate that the athletes are aware that sportsmanship not only impacts individual behavior, but also affects the overall effectiveness of team play. A sportsmanlike attitude helps players stay focused on game strategy and reduces actions that can be detrimental to the team, such as excessive protests or unnecessary fouls. These findings support research that explains that positive behavior in sport contributes to team cohesion and the achievement of common goals.

The **Attitude to the Referee** category also emerged as an important theme through the [HWS] code **Respecting the referee's decision**. Most players stated that they accepted the referee's decision even though it was not always in line with their expectations. This shows that there is an awareness that respecting the authority of the match is part of the value of sportsmanship. Respect for referees reflects the moral development of athletes and is an indicator of sportsmanship behavior in sports competitions.

In the **Attitude to Opponent** category, the most dominant code is [THK] **Does not**

hurt opponents. These findings show that the players are working to keep the opponent safe and avoid abusive actions during the match. This attitude reflects respect for fellow athletes as well as an understanding that victory should not be achieved through actions that harm others. Respect for opponents, rules, and human values in sports.

Meanwhile, the **Sportsmanship Development** category is indicated by the code [PKR] **Character Development**, which shows that coaches have an important role in instilling sportsmanship values in athletes through regular training. Coaches not only develop players' technical skills, but also form character, discipline, and sportsmanship attitudes that support the quality of the game. This is in line with the opinion (Watson II et al., 2011) that coaches function as character educators who play a role in building positive values in young athletes.

The **category of Fouls in Matches** is represented by the code (coaches not only play a role in improving players' technical abilities, but also function as character building agents who instill sportsmanship values as part of the coaching process HSL) **Stopping the opponent's** attack, which illustrates that some athletes still commit tactical fouls in certain situations to prevent the opponent's goal chance. Although these actions are carried out in the interest of the team, this phenomenon shows the dilemma between game strategy and the application of sportsmanship values. These findings show that sportsmanship is not always applied perfectly, but is affected by the competitive pressure that occurs during the game.

Overall, the results of the **Hierarchy Chart** show that **emotional control, honesty, fair play, and compliance with the rules** are the most dominant aspects of sportsmanship in the experience of FAFAGE Sumedang Academy athletes. These findings indicate that the quality of futsal games is not only determined by the technical and tactical abilities of players,

but also by their ability to manage emotions, respect the rules, respect the opponent, and take care of the team's interests. Thus, it can be concluded that sportsmanship plays a role as the foundation for the formation of the quality of futsal games that are effective, disciplined, and oriented towards fair play.

Discussion

The results of the study show that sportsmanship has a significant role in the quality of futsal games of the FAFAGE Akademi Sumedang athletes. Based on the results of the interview, most players interpret sportsmanship as an attitude of playing honestly, respecting the rules, respecting the opponent, and accepting the referee's decision. These findings are reinforced by the results of *the hierarchy chart* which shows that **the categories of Honesty and Fair Play, Compliance with Rules, and Emotional Control** are the most dominant themes that appear in the data. This condition indicates that sportsmanship is not only understood as a norm in the game, but also becomes the basis for player behavior that supports the creation of quality games. According to (Ryder, 2024), sportsmanship is a moral value that is reflected through honesty, respect for the rules, and respect for opponents and match equipment. Therefore, the higher the application of sportsmanship values, the better the quality of interaction and the course of the game displayed by athletes.

The findings of this study are in line with the research conducted by (Kim et al., 2018) which states that sportsmanship is one of the important indicators in the formation of athlete character and affects the quality of sports performance. In the study, it was explained that athletes who have a high level of sportsmanship tend to be able to control behavior during matches, so that it can reduce conflicts and increase the effectiveness of the game. The results of this study also show that most players are able to accept the referee's decision, stay

focused on the match, and control emotions when faced with unfavorable situations. This attitude contributes to the creation of a more conducive match atmosphere and supports the overall performance of the team.

In addition, the results of this study support research by (Popescu & Masari, 2011) which explains that the values of fair play and sportsmanship play a role in shaping positive social behavior of athletes during competitions. In the study, it was found that respect for the rules and opponents can improve the quality of relationships between players so that matches take place more orderly and competitive. The findings of this study show that the majority of FAFAGE Akademi Sumedang players obey the rules of the game and respect their opponents as fellow athletes. This can be seen from the dominance of the (**KAD**) **Code of Maintaining Match Fairness**, (**TAT**) **Obeying Futsal Rules**, and (**VIII**) **Respecting Opponents** that appear in the results of data analysis. Thus, sportsmanship serves as a mechanism that maintains a balance between competitive spirit and moral values in futsal matches.

This study also strengthens the results of research conducted by (Lane et al., 2012) which states that the ability to control emotions is an important factor in supporting athletes' performance when competing. Athletes who are able to control their emotions tend to have better concentration and are able to make decisions effectively in stressful match situations. In this study, the **Emotion Control** category became one of the dominant themes with the emergence of the codes (**KEM**) **Controlling Emotions**, (**TEN**) **Stay Calm**, and (**FOK**) **Focus on Games**. The findings show that sportsmanship is not only related to external behavior, but also related to the ability to self-regulate which has a direct impact on the quality of futsal play.

On the other hand, the study found that some players still committed tactical fouls

to stop opponents' attacks or pretended to fall in order to gain an advantage for the team. Even if the action is carried out in certain situations, the player realizes that the behavior is contrary to the value of sportsmanship. These findings show a contradiction between the desire to win the game and the application of fair play values. However, the results of the interviews show that these actions are not the dominant behavior because most players still place honesty and obedience to the rules as the main principles in playing.

Another important finding is the role of coaches in instilling sportsmanship values in athletes. The **Sportsmanship Development** category which is dominated by the code (**PKR**) **Character Development**, (**PPT**) **Role of Coach**, and (**FFP**) **Fair Play Learning** shows that the formation of sportsmanship is carried out consistently through training programs. These results support the view (Hasan et al., 2025) that explains that character education carried out in a sustainable manner can shape positive behavior in students and athletes. In the context of this study, coaches not only play a role in improving players' technical abilities, but also function as character building agents who instill sportsmanship values as part of the coaching process.

Based on the findings, sportsmanship can be conceptualized as a multidimensional construct that influences futsal performance through technical, psychological, and social pathways. The analysis revealed that emotional regulation, adherence to rules, fair play, respect for referees, and respect for opponents are interconnected dimensions that collectively contribute to the quality of futsal performance.

Athletes who demonstrate strong sportsmanship values tend to maintain emotional stability during competition, allowing them to sustain concentration and make more effective tactical decisions. Furthermore, compliance with game regulations and fair-play principles

minimizes unnecessary conflicts and disciplinary sanctions, thereby supporting team cohesion and match effectiveness. Respectful interactions with referees and opponents also contribute to a positive competitive environment that promotes constructive communication and teamwork.

The findings suggest a conceptual pathway in which sportsmanship influences emotional regulation, emotional regulation supports concentration and decision-making, and these factors ultimately contribute to improved futsal performance. Therefore, sportsmanship should be viewed not only as a moral value but also as a performance-supporting factor within athlete development programs.

D. Conclusion

This study aims to analyze the role of sportsmanship on the quality of futsal games of FAFAGE Sumedang Academy athletes. The results of the study show that sportsmanship values, which include honesty and fair play, obedience to rules, emotional control, attitude towards referees, attitude towards opponents, and sportsmanship coaching, have a positive contribution to the quality of futsal games. Athletes who show a high level of sportsmanship tend to be able to maintain concentration, control emotions, respect the referee's decision, and establish positive interactions with opponents so that the match takes place more orderly, competitively, and qualityly. These findings show that sportsmanship not only functions as a moral value in sport, but also plays a role as a supporting factor for game performance through improved discipline, focus, teamwork, and decision-making during matches.

This study also found that sportsmanship coaching carried out consistently by coaches through the cultivation of fair play, discipline, and character education values is an important factor in shaping positive athlete behavior.

Thus, the quality of futsal games is not only determined by technical and tactical skills, but also influenced by the internalization of sportsmanship values in players. The findings reinforce the view that character development and game skill development must run in a balanced manner in the process of coaching young athletes.

Based on the results of the research, future development can be focused on the preparation of a more structured and integrated sportsmanship coaching program in the futsal training curriculum. Further research can expand the scope of research subjects in various age groups, competition levels, and other futsal clubs to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the influence of sportsmanship on athlete performance. In addition, further research can use a mixed methods approach or measure the relationship between sportsmanship level and match performance indicators quantitatively so that a deeper understanding of the contribution of sportsmanship to improving the quality of futsal games is obtained.

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F. Conflict of Interest

The author states that there is no conflict of interest in the implementation or publication of this

research. The research was conducted solely for academic purposes and scientific development related to the role of sportsmanship on the quality of futsal games of FAFAGE Sumedang Academy athletes. The author has no financial, commercial, personal, or institutional interests that may affect the research process, data analysis, interpretation of results, or the preparation of this article.

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