

## **Abstract**

**Title:** Analysis of the level of stickhandling skills in ice hockey in the U10 - U11 category

**Objectives:** The main goal of this thesis is to analyse the level of stickhandling skills among youth ice hockey players in the U10 and U11 categories. Reaching this goal consists of two main steps - first is the implementation of a research standardised test battery focused on puck control in selected Czech ice hockey clubs, which is followed by a comparative analysis and interpretation of the data obtained from this testing.

**Methods:** For this bachelor's thesis, we employed the methods of observation, analysis and comparison. The observation method was used for the implementation of the standardised testing of the level of stickhandling skills for the U10 and U11 categories. An analytical and comparative methodical approach was then used for the evaluation and interpretation of the data obtained from the on-ice testing.

**Results:** A total of 246 players from U10 and U11 categories from 8 different Czech ice hockey clubs took part in the testing of the level of stickhandling skills. The average stickhandling level of players in the U11 category is noticeably higher (reaching a value of 4.3) than that of players from the U10 category (value of 2.9). Players from clubs that hold the status of the Academy of Czech Hockey performed significantly better in testing than players from clubs without this status. The results of the testing clearly show a positive correlation between the level of stickhandling achieved and the player's age and the length of their registration in the hockey club.

**Keywords:** ice hockey, puck control, stickhandling, motor skills, testing, elementary school age