INTRODUCTION

The game foot ball is played in Asian and Olympic games and has attained an impressive level of popularity at National and International level sports. The game also played in various countries as a professional game including Asia. In India it is one of the simple and popular games.

The game began in England in the 12th century but Edward II banned it in 1389 and Henry in 1401. The Monarch could not stop the interest of peoples and football became popular. The football rules were first framed in 1862 and were revised in 1863. The same year football association of England was formed. Considering the popularity of the game, seven Nations met on 21st May 1904 to form the Federation International De Football Association (FIFA). FIFA organized world football championship in 1930.

The game football combines skills from other games like handball, hockey etc. It involves skills like running, dribbling, passing, kicking, goal keeping etc.

Its recreational values and enjoyment level keeps attention of male and females at professional as well as collegiate levels. This is the game of accuracy, agility, flexibility, endurance and perception. The theme of the game football requires players’ athletic ability as well as good motor ability.

The game football with its rules and regulations and playing setup is being popularly played in India. The Indian talent also represent nation at International level with full of spirit. The Govt. of India spends a handful of amount in this sports with a view to gain an international recognition at the platform of world sports.

Football in India

Football in India was spread during the days of the British Empire. Many football clubs in India were created during this time, and pre-date many of the organisations and clubs, such as FIFA, which are predominant in the game today. Initially games were played between army teams, however clubs were soon set up around the country. Mohun Bagan Athletic Club was set up in what is now West Bengal and is considered the oldest football club in Asia. The club
became famous in 1911 when it became the first Indian team to lift the IFA Shield, a tournament previously won only by British teams based in India. It defeated the Eastern Yorkshire Regiment 2-1 in the final of the tournament in a victory that is still regarded by many as the greatest by an Indian team before Independence. The national football team was also quite successful until the 1970s, qualifying for Olympic tournaments and the FIFA World Cup. The team qualified for the 1950 World Cup finals in Brazil, but could not appear as they still played in their bare feet at that time. The Indian team also won the 1951 and 1962 Asian Games gold medals in football. In 1956 the team finished fourth at the Melbourne Olympics. Football is one of India's most popular sports, and is said to rank second only behind cricket in popularity, although some reporting considers football to be more popular. Football is a played in almost all urban schools in India. Football is also said to be the top sport in the state of Goa, Kerala and West Bengal, Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), in the state of West Bengal, is considered to be the home of Indian football. The city contains the two most famous Indian teams East Bengal Club and Mohan Bagan FC.

**All India Football Federation (AIFF)**

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) is the amateur organisation which manages the game of football in India. It administers the running of the national team and also controls the National Football League, India's premier domestic club competition, in addition to various other competitions. The AIFF was founded in 1937, and gained FIFA affiliation in the year 1948, after India's independence in 1947. India was one of the founder members of the Asian Football Confederation when it was set up in 1954. Indian Football Association (IFA), the association governing football in the state of West Bengal, was recognised as the sport's de-facto governing body. The IFA at this time was affiliated to The FA, the football association of England, and hence, all foreign tours were organised by the former Foundation. In 1935 the IFA organised a conference of the representatives of the football associations of Assam, Bihar, UP, Delhi, Mysore and Bombay at Darbhanga, with an aim to found a national body for the running of the sport. After forming in 1937 it was not till 1948 when the AIFF were FIFA affiliated. In 1996 the All India Football Federation founded the National Football League which was India's first ever national league ever. In 2007 the All India Football Federation decided to fold the National Football League and founded a new Professional league called the I-League.
State Associations- There are thirty three State Associations affiliated to the AIFF. Besides, the Services and Railways Sports Control Boards and the Women's Committee are affiliated units. Three provisionally affiliated State Associations are waiting for final recognition. The State Associations have their own constitution and structure. Sometimes, their regulations are not in conformity with the AIFF regulations. Depending on the size of the State, the State Associations have district associations affiliated to them. Clubs are affiliated to the district associations. In smaller States the Clubs are directly affiliated to the State Association.

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

There are various opinions about the evaluating, accessing and selecting talented football players.

Perceptual decisions of selection committee still in force are influenced by prejudiced opinion, personal interest, etc. as general criteria for final selection of football players. In fact this process is not accurate for selection of the team.

No specific performance factors i.e. psychology, fitness, skills are accessed to select football team.

However, in Shivaji University, there are no such criteria available by which one can get at least a guideline for selecting a talented player.

The present investigator, as a professional of physical education and an experienced player of football has got many opportunities to coach university team and worked as a member of selection committee for selecting football players on behalf of Shivaji University.

He has experienced, above stated points as true and challenging. He also faced questions, which many of this ex-students often asked him “How to select a talented player to form a football team? How to access as well as evaluate his performance?” No satisfactory answers to such questions are available till today.
The present investigator on the basis of his long standing professional experience, scientific discussion with many experienced sports personnel, experts, coaches, referees and players is of opinion that the problem stated above is really significant and challenging. Moreover, there is an eminent need of an accurate “selection criteria” to select talented players and to form a standard university football team. Therefore investigator wishes to undertake the research project entitled “DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION NORMS FOR SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL PLAYERS”.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study has large scope to develop Inter-versity norms for football players of different colleges and zones of Shivaji University. It has, therefore, been decided to delimit study as follows;

1. The study has been delimited to the development of football player’s fitness norms.
2. The study has been delimited to the development of football player’s skill norms.
3. The study has been restricted for the university male players, who are enrolled in their respective colleges.
4. The geographical area of the study has been confined to the Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra only.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study is totally innovative in the field of research in football. The investigator is aware of the following problems that might appear during data collection.

1. As the subjects participating in this study belong to various zones of Shivaji University. The factors such as the geographical conditions, diet, nutrition etc. could not be controlled.
2. Since, the fitness and skill tests are many, the investigator could not take all measurements by himself. He, therefore has taken help form some professional qualified assistant.
OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Keeping in view the need, background and purpose of the study, the investigator has chalked out the following major objectives.

1. To develop the appropriate norms for selection of the University football players.
2. To find out standard skills for selection of University football players.

HYPOTHESIS

On the basis of assumption made and literature reviewed, the present investigator has formulated the following hypothesis:

1. The norms for selection of Shivaji University Football players can be standardized.
2. Standard skills for selection of University football players can be formulated.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF THE TERMS USED

The following terms are used in the study, as scattered in this research has been defined herewith for the classification and for easy understanding

Norms

A norm is a skill that permits conversion of a raw score to a score capable of comparison. It is a standard to which an obtained score may be compared. Norms are assumed to be representatives of some large population. Norms help to compare the performance of football players and giving uniform meaning to the comparison. In addition, norms provide reliable and valid basis for interpretation and evaluation of performance scores of football players.

Football Players

A player who plays football is called as football player.
Football

As its name indicates, football is a game which is played by using the legs specially. It is a team game played on prescribed ground. It is a fast game with comparatively few restrictions and players are constantly running passing and kicking in purposeful aggressive manner. It is a simple game and the simplicity flows from start to end. Energetic running on, and off, the ball and spectacular kicking in goal brings out relax saves from goal keepers.

Skill

It is referred as techniques. (i.e. passing, kicking, dribbling, tackling etc.) in foot ball game to exhibit standard as well as qualitative performance.

Selection Norms

After taking various skill tests and fitness tests, the rating of a player for selection in the team will finalize with scores are selection norms.

UTILITY OF THE STUDY

This research work will prove to be useful for:

1. **Players:** Guidelines for preparation to be selected in the University Team.
2. **Selection Committee:** This research is the guideline for the Selection Committee to select their respective Team.
3. **Coaches:** Coaches also can use these guidelines to prepare their students to be promoted in the respective teams.
4. **Researchers:** this research will also guide the other researchers to undertake research for other games.