

## FOREIGN FOOTBALL PLAYERS IN GREEK CHAMPIONSHIP – SUPER LEAGUE 2007-08\*

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### Abstract

Football is the most popular sport in the world and is played by men, women and children of all ages. The purpose of the present study was to record and investigate the participation of foreign footballers in the Greek Championship (Super League 2007-08 period). The following were examined; (a) number of foreign footballers that participated in each team of Super League in the running period, (b) percentage concerning the total number of professional footballers in the championship, (c) differentiation of their participation concerning the final classification of teams, (d) age-related characteristics, (e) playing position in which they were used, (f) country of origin, and (g) degree of utilization and their exploitation at the duration of the championship in question. Data collection and recording were based on the official records of the Hellenic Football Federation. Measures of central tendency and dispersion, student's t-test for independent samples, and the nonparametric Mann-Whitney test were used for statistical analysis and description. The statistical level of significance was set at  $p < .05$ . Statistical analyses indicated that half of the football players were foreign and the most of them were playing as midfielders. It became evident that the foreign footballers that were used in each game were always more than the half of their total. Finally, it became evident that there was an increased tendency of foreign footballers in the Super League championship 2007-08 as compared with previous championship periods, having as main source of origin less developed in the football European countries as well as the countries of Latin America.

**Key words:** soccer, foreign soccer players, Super League 2007-2008, soccer teams

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