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Sports club memberships in Germany – Types, commitment and social correlates

Sport Development Report for Germany 2020-2022 - Part 3



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1 Introduction



Since the seventh wave of the Sport Development Report for Germany, systematic information on positions and roles and thus also on people in sports clubs in Germany has been available for the first time. Up to and including the sixth wave, the Sport Development Report was a purely organisational survey, but it now represents a combined organisational and individual survey. The organisational surveys showed that, in addition to problems of retaining and recruiting volunteers, the problem of retaining and recruiting members was regularly one of the biggest challenges for clubs on average. Since sports clubs are member organisations and their core task is to fulfil the members' interests, this group is of particular importance for the clubs, in addition to the volunteers, who also mostly come from the membership base.

This volume presents the results of the survey of club members as part of the eighth wave of the Sport Development Report. A total of 8,298 members from 1,329 sports clubs in all 16 federal states participated in the survey. Individual partial results have already been pub-

lished in the Federal Report (Part 1 of the Sport Development Report 2020-2022; cf. Breuer & Feiler, 2021). Also, due to the necessary methodical approach when contacting the club members (cf. Section 6.2), when interpreting the findings, it should be taken into account that methodological artefacts (e.g. a selection bias¹) cannot be completely ruled out. While systematic weighting reduced the likelihood of bias (see Section 6.5), more engaged and interested members may be stronger represented in the sample.

The report is structured as follows: First, orientation knowledge is given about the members of the sports club: their types, roles and sport behaviour are described (Chapter 2). Subsequently, practical knowledge is presented by describing member satisfaction, identification and loyalty (Chapter 3). Then references to social correlates of club membership are given, which are understood as argumentation knowledge regarding the importance of sports clubs (Chapter 4). A conclusion (Chapter 5) and the methods section (Chapter 6) conclude the report.

1 A selection bias is a statistical distortion in the context of empirical surveys. Sampling bias occurs, for example, through self-selection. A random sample cannot be drawn from the population or ensured, for example because there is no address material for the population or participation is voluntary. In this case, people who are more interested in the topic of the survey are likely to participate disproportionately and thus distort the results. In the present case, members could only take part in the survey if their club had also previously taken part in the club survey and agreed to participate in the member survey.

2 Roles, types and sport behaviour



2.1 Membership status

When asked about the membership status, i.e. the type of membership, it shows that 89 % of the members surveyed are active members in their club, while almost 9 % are passive members and 1 % are supporting members. Only a very small proportion (1.1 %) of the members had recently left the club and can therefore be described as former members of the respective club (see Tab. 1).

Tab. 1: Type of membership.

	Share of members (in %)
active member	89.0
passive member	8.9
supporting member	1.0
former member (recently resigned from the club)	1.1

The majority of the active, passive and supporting members surveyed are male, with the proportion of gender-diverse people among the passive members being comparatively the highest (0.5 %). On average, passive and supporting members are the oldest, while the average age of the members who have recently left the club is slightly lower at just under 33 years. In contrast to the other three membership types, it is also noticeable that former members were predominantly female, i.e. proportionately more women than men recently left their respective club (cf. Tab. 2).

Tab. 2: Type of membership, differentiated by gender and age.

	Gender			Age
	female	male	diverse	Mean
	Share (in %)			
active member	42.3	57.4	0.3	33.7
passive member	42.4	57.0	0.5	44.2
supporting member	39.4	60.6	0.0	45.3
former member	64.1	35.9	0.0	32.9

2.2 Membership term

On average, membership has lasted around 10.3 years, with male members having been members for an average of 11.3 years and gender-diverse people for an average of 19.3 years, while the participating female members have been members for an average of nine years. The differences between women and men, as well as women and gender-diverse people, are statistically significant (cf. Tab. 3).

Tab. 3: Duration of membership, differentiated by gender.

	Total	Gender			Significance
		female	male	diverse	
	Mean				
Years as a member of the club	10.3	9.0	11.3	19.3	0.000***

Unsurprisingly, the length of membership increases with the age of the person, so that the youngest members have been in the club for an average of 1.7 years and the oldest members for an average of 23 years (see Tab. 4). There is thus a positive and significant correlation between the age of the members and the duration of membership ($r=0.570^{***}$).

Suppose you look at the length of membership and differentiate it according to the membership type. In that case, it is noticeable that supporting members have been members of their club for the longest time, closely followed by passive members. On average, active members have been with the club for almost ten years, while former members had the shortest membership period at an average of just over six years (cf. Tab. 5). Former members differ significantly from supporting and passive members. The club's binding force does not seem to be as strong for shorter-term memberships. In addition, passive and supporting members have been members of the club for significantly longer than active ones.

Tab. 4: Duration of membership, differentiated by age groups.

	Age (in years)							Significance
	until 6	7-14	15-18	19-26	27-40	41-60	over 60	
	Mean							
Years as a member of the club	1.7	3.5	5.8	7.4	8.8	13.4	23.0	0.000***

Tab. 5: Duration of membership, differentiated by membership type.

	Type of Membership				Significance
	active	passive	supporting	former	
	Mean				
Years as a member of the club	9.8	16.2	16.3	6.2	0.000***

A look at the distribution of the length of club membership shows that around 54 % of the members have been a member of their club for less than five years, 17 % between six and ten years and 8 % between 11 and 15 years. Around 4 % of respondents have been members for more than 40 years, with proportionately more male members (6 %) than female members (2 %). However, around 11 % of gender-diverse people can already look back on more than 40 years of club membership (see Fig. 1).

2.3 Voluntary function in the club

In addition to being a member, members can volunteer in various positions in sports clubs. Among the members surveyed, 11.5 % stated that they held an honorary function (e.g. board member, coach, trainer, supervisor, referee) in their club. This applied proportionally to more men than women and gender-diverse people (cf. Tab. 6).

Suppose one also includes the age groups in consideration of voluntary commitment in a club. In that case, it becomes apparent that older people tend to hold a voluntary function in the club more often than younger people. Around one-fifth of the participating members over the age of 60 are active in a voluntary function. At the same time, the figure for the 15- to 18-year-

olds is a good 6 % (cf. Tab. 7). The differences between the youngest and each older age group are statistically significant.

Suppose one also differentiates according to the membership type when exercising a voluntary function. In that case, it is noticeable that a good quarter of the sponsoring members are active in their club voluntarily. Among the active members, the figure is almost 12 %, while a good 7 % of the passive members state that they work in an honorary capacity. The differences between passive and active and supporting members regarding the exercise of an honorary function are statistically significant. In addition, almost every tenth former member was active on a voluntary basis (cf. Tab. 8).

2.4 Member support for the club during the COVID-19 pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, sports clubs were confronted with various challenges, particularly restricted or discontinued sports operations and new challenges for club management, e.g. in the area of digitalisation. The clubs could partly fall back on their members' support. 11.7 % of the club members surveyed stated that they had donated to their club, and a good 6 % sup-

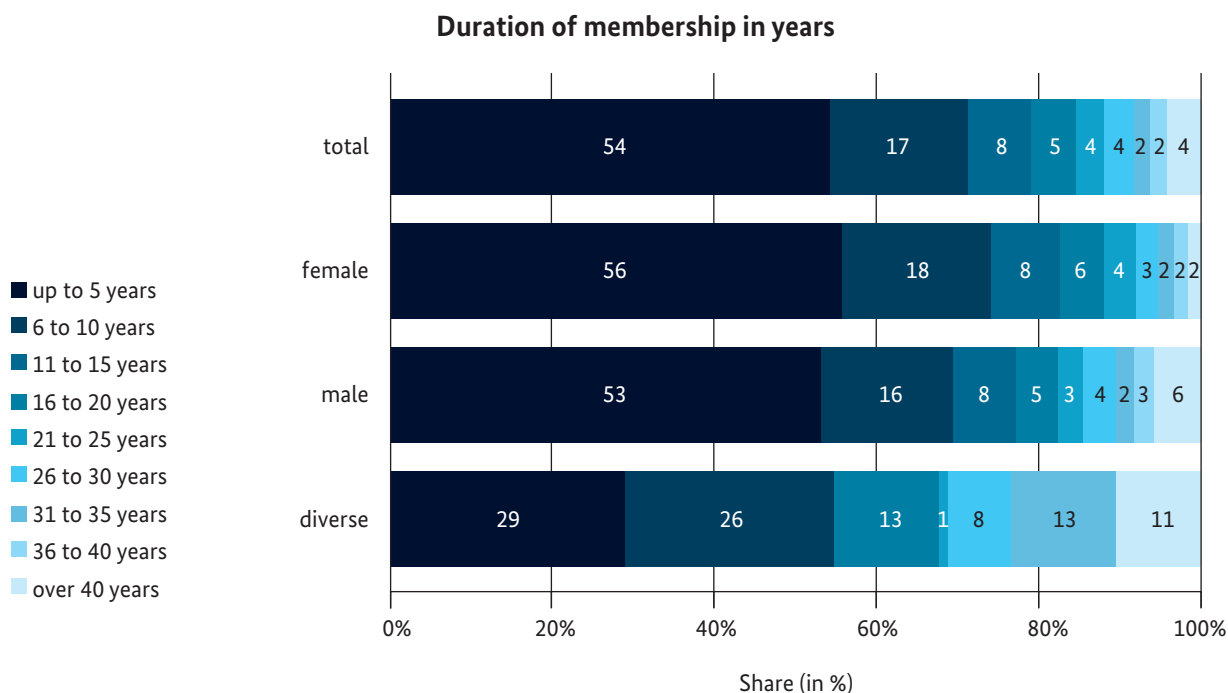


Fig. 1: Distribution of length of membership, differentiated by gender.

Tab. 6: Volunteer function in the club, differentiated by gender.

	Total	Gender			Significance m/f
		female	male	diverse	
Share (in %)					
Voluntary function in the club	11.5	8.3	13.9	11.1	0.000***

Tab. 7: Volunteer function in the club, differentiated by age groups.

	Age (in years)							Significance
	until 6	7-14	15-18	19-26	27-40	41-60	over 60	
Share (in %)								
Voluntary function in the club	0.0	0.4	6.2	15.1	14.6	17.7	20.1	0.000***

Tab. 8: Volunteer function in the club, differentiated by membership type.

	Type of Membership				Significance
	active	passive	supporting	former	
Share (in %)					
Voluntary function in the club	11.8	7.2	25.5	9.1	0.000***

ported their club by providing know-how, e.g. in the field of digitalisation or in legal issues. In addition, 13.8 % of members indicated that they had supported their club in some other way. Among other things, work assignments, support in the creation of hygiene concepts, voluntary work, the implementation of online training and not leaving the club and the continued payment of membership fees were mentioned. It is noticeable that men supported the club more often than women.

The marked differences between the two groups are statistically significant (cf. Tab. 9).

There are also differences between the age groups in terms of member support in the various areas. In addition to the group of youngest members, the group of over 60-year-olds provided the most frequent support for the club in the form of donations². On the other hand, the 15- to 18-year-olds gave most frequently no support (cf. Tab. 10).

Tab. 9: Type of support for the club during the COVID-19 pandemic, differentiated by gender (n.s.=not significant).

	Total	Gender			Significance m/f
		female	male	diverse	
Share (in %)					
Yes, I donated to my club	11.7	11.2	12.1	16.2	n.s.
Yes, I have made my know-how available to my club (e.g. in the field of IT/digitalisation; in legal issues, etc.)	6.1	2.8	8.5	1.5	0.000***
Yes, I supported my club in another way	13.8	14.0	13.8	7.6	n.s.
No	70.8	73.5	68.8	74.7	0.002**

Tab. 10: Type of support for the club during the COVID-19 pandemic, differentiated by age groups.

	Age (in years)							Significance
	until 6	7-14	15-18	19-26	27-40	41-60	over 60	
Share (in %)								
Yes, I donated to my club	17.2	12.0	9.9	5.7	8.8	12.0	14.5	0.000***
Yes, I made my know-how available to my club	0.0	0.9	2.8	6.3	8.3	9.2	9.3	0.000***
Yes, I supported my club in another way	23.8	11.3	5.4	7.9	12.2	16.1	17.1	0.000***
No	59.0	75.8	82.2	82.0	73.7	66.9	63.5	0.000***

Tab. 11: Type of support for the club during the COVID-19 pandemic, differentiated by membership type.

	Type of Membership				Significance
	active	passive	supporting	former	
Share (in %)					
Yes, I donated to my club	11.9	9.1	20.3	4.1	0.047*
Yes, I made my know-how available to my club	6.2	4.5	12.2	0.2	n.s.
Yes, I supported my club in another way	14.3	8.4	18.2	10.1	0.007**
No	70.0	79.9	54.1	85.6	0.000***

² In the case of the up to 6-year-olds, these are likely to be the parents of the children.

Suppose one also considers the support provided by the members for their club, differentiated according to the membership type. In that case, it becomes apparent that supporting members, in particular, have supported their club in different ways. This applies especially to financial support in the form of donations. Former members most frequently did not provide any support (cf. Tab. 11).

2.5 Sports activities in the club

2.5.1 Competitions

The practice of sport in the primary or main sport³ takes place not only in training activities but also partly in the form of competitions or league games. A total of 36.6 % of the members surveyed stated that they take part in compe-

titions or league games in their main sport. On the other hand, almost 15 % of the members surveyed were no longer active in competitions or leagues, although they used to be. Almost 36 % of the members have never participated in competitions or leagues. In addition, 12.8 % of the members stated that there is no competition in the sport they practice. It is striking that male members actively participate in competitions or leagues more frequently than female members (see Tab. 12).

If you include the age groups in the analysis, it becomes clear that active participation in competitions and leagues is particularly common in the younger age groups. More than 61 % of 15- to 18-year-olds and a good 55 % of 19- to 26-year-olds take part in competitions or league games, while this still applies to a good fifth of those over 60. Almost a quarter of this oldest age group was also previously active in competitions, and almost a fifth stated that there are no competitions in their sporting activity (cf. Tab. 13).

Tab. 12: Participation in competitions/league games in the main sport, differentiated by gender.

	Total	Gender			Significance m/f
		female	male	diverse	
Share (in %)					
Yes	36.6	30.8	40.7	45.2	0.000***
No, never	35.9	39.9	33.1	15.9	
No, but in the past	14.6	11.5	16.8	21.7	
No, because there are no competitions in my sports activity	12.8	17.8	9.3	17.3	

Tab. 13: Participation in competitions/league games in the main sport, differentiated by age groups.

	Age (in years)							Significance
	until 6	7-14	15-18	19-26	27-40	41-60	over 60	
Share (in %)								
Yes	13.1	49.1	61.5	55.2	38.9	29.7	21.6	0.000***
No, never	50.0	39.2	26.1	24.4	31.3	39.4	34.3	
No, but in the past	6.6	5.6	8.3	15.6	17.3	17.1	24.3	
No, because there are no competitions in my sports activity	30.3	6.1	4.1	4.8	12.5	13.9	19.8	

3 For details regarding the main sport, see section 6.6.2.

Tab. 14: Participation in competitions/league games in the main sport, differentiated by membership type.

	Type of Membership				Significance
	active	passive	supporting	former	
	Share (in %)				
Yes	39.0	10.6	28.3	29.7	0.000***
No, never	35.7	39.2	31.4	41.1	
No, but in the past	12.4	39.6	27.6	17.7	
No, because there are no competitions in my sports activity	13.0	10.6	12.7	11.6	

Active members are most often active in competitions or leagues, while earlier participation in competitions most often applies to today's passive members (see Tab. 14). This shows that members who used to be active in competitions often seem to remain loyal to their club and continue to contribute passively or even supportively. Active participation in competitions should therefore promote loyalty to the club.

2.5.2 Frequency of sport practice

If you look at the frequency of doing sports in the main sport (regardless of whether it is competitive or not), it shows that the members of the sports clubs (before the Corona pandemic) practised their sport very regularly. Overall, more than three-quarters of the members stated that they practised their sport at least once a week. Over 28 % practised the sport twice a week and 16.5 % were even physically active in their club at least three times a week. There are no significant differences between the sexes (cf. Tab. 15).

Suppose one also looks at the age groups for the frequency of practising the main sport. In that case, it becomes apparent that the 15- to 18-year-olds were proportionally most frequently active in sports at least three times a week. At the same time, this applies comparatively least often to the youngest and oldest age groups. These two age groups were most frequently physically active once a week (see Tab. 16).

Unsurprisingly, the active club members were most often active in their main sport three times a week or more, while a good 57 % of the passive members were active a maximum of three times a month. Supporting members are also less often active in their main sport than active members. Almost 90 % of the former members were physically active at least once a week (see Tab. 17).

2.5.3 Sports activities during the COVID-19 pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, sports clubs and their members were mainly hit by the suspension

Tab. 15: Frequency of practising the main sport (before the COVID-19 pandemic), differentiated by gender.

	Total	Gender			Significance
		female	male	diverse	
	Share (in %)				
Less than once a month	10.0	10.7	9.4	46.1	n.s.
1-3 times a month	11.5	9.1	13.2	7.3	
One time per week	33.6	35.0	32.6	0.0	
Two times a week	28.4	27.4	29.1	1.1	
Three times a week or more	16.5	17.7	15.6	45.5	

Tab. 16: Frequency of practising the main sport (before the COVID-19 pandemic), differentiated by age groups.

	Age (in years)							Significance
	until 6	7-14	15-18	19-26	27-40	41-60	over 60	
	Share (in %)							
Less than once a month	11.4	6.5	4.3	12.4	12.4	13.1	8.8	0.000***
1-3 times a month	21.0	6.2	8.0	6.1	14.2	15.2	11.3	
One time per week	47.8	37.9	23.3	17.6	26.7	32.5	40.6	
Two times a week	14.0	35.1	32.3	34.4	30.1	24.2	25.5	
Three times a week or more	5.7	14.2	32.1	29.5	16.5	15.0	13.8	

Tab. 17: Frequency of practising the main sport (before the COVID-19 pandemic), differentiated by membership type.

	Type of Membership				Significance
	active	passive	supporting	former	
	Share (in %)				
Less than once a month	8.1	33.2	25.2	9.4	0.000***
1-3 times a month	10.5	24.2	21.2	1.6	
One time per week	34.2	24.8	23.9	41.1	
Two times a week	29.8	11.0	19.7	39.2	
Three times a week or more	17.4	6.7	10.1	8.6	

of sports activities and the closure of sports facilities. In this context, the members stated that the sports activities offered by their respective clubs were interrupted for an average of around 29 weeks and that the members could, therefore, not take advantage of them during this time.

To continue to offer their members sports despite the closures, some of the clubs provided the members with digital replacement offers and/or alternative outdoor sports activities. 46.6 % of the members stated that their club had organised digital replacement offers, and a good third of the members were able to fall back on alternative outdoor sports activities in their club. It turns out that the members took advantage of both forms of alternative offers. In the case of the offer, just under two-thirds of members (roughly 23 % of members overall) reported having participated in alternative outdoor activities, while digital replacement offers - when offered - were used by around 61 % of members (28 % of members overall).

2.5.4 Sports activities outside the club

The club members were asked whether, in addition to their sporting activities in their sports club, they were also physically active outside of the club. This applies to 78.5 % of the members, with slightly more women (79.5 %) than men (77.9 %) and especially gender-diverse people (38.9 %) being active outside the club. Here, gender-diverse people differ significantly from male and female members.

Differences can also be seen in the differentiation according to age groups. Here it becomes clear that the age groups of 15- to 18-year-olds, 19- to 26-year-olds and 41- to 60-year-olds are most often also active in sports outside the club. This applies least often to children up to the age of 6 (cf. Tab. 18).

Unsurprisingly, former members are most often active in sports outside the club. But also almost eight out of ten active members do

Tab. 18: Active in sports outside the club, differentiated by age groups.

	Age (in years)							Significance
	until 6	7-14	15-18	19-26	27-40	41-60	over 60	
	Share (in %)							
Active in sports outside the club	62.9	77.5	83.5	85.7	79.1	82.3	76.0	0.001***

Tab. 19: Active in sports outside the club, differentiated by membership type.

	Type of Membership				Significance
	active	passive	supporting	former	
	Share (in %)				
Active in sports outside the club	78.8	75.9	71.1	84.0	n.s.

sports outside the club. This applies least often to supporting members (cf. Tab. 19).

Sporting activities outside the club mainly occur outside of an organised framework. For example, 62 % of all members state that they jog or cycle independently outside the club. Further-

more, more than a quarter is also active in another club, almost 10 % with a commercial provider and a good 6 % at work, e.g. in the context of company sports. Nearly 5 % of the members also take advantage of other organised offers, e.g. from adult education centres (cf. Tab. 20).

Tab. 20: Scope of sporting activity outside the club.

	Share of members (in %) if active outside the club	Share of all members (in %)
Outside of an organised framework (e.g. jogging or cycling)	79.2	62.0
In another club	34.3	26.9
With a commercial provider	12.5	9.7
At work (e.g. fitness room, active break, company sport, etc.)	7.8	6.1
In another organised framework (e.g. adult education centre)	6.1	4.8

3 Satisfaction, identification and loyalty



Knowledge of the degree of satisfaction of different stakeholder groups is of great importance for sports clubs and sports organisations in order to be able to react to possible areas of lower satisfaction or to continue things that work well. As in the seventh wave of the Sport Development Report, in which coaches and trainers (Breuer & Feiler, 2020a) and board members (Breuer & Feiler, 2020b) were asked in detail about their satisfaction, now in the present eighth wave referees and officials (cf. Breuer & Feiler, 2022) and also club members were asked about their satisfaction. Member satisfaction results are detailed below. In doing so, general aspects are considered and details of the sporting activities and the club itself⁴.

3.1 General satisfaction

All in all, the members of the sports clubs were quite satisfied at the time of the survey in the spring of 2021. On a scale from 0=“not at all satisfied” to 10=“extremely satisfied”, the average satisfaction of club members with their club was $M=7.97$ (cf. Tab. 21). Specifically, 25.9 % of members gave the highest possible value of 10, while only 0.4 % of members were not at all satisfied with their club. Overall, around 88 % were fairly or very satisfied with their club, while only

around 7 % were (rather) not satisfied with the club (see Fig. 2).

This was surpassed by the satisfaction of the members with the sports activities they mainly use ($M=8.38$). Around 92 % of the members stated that they were satisfied. It is also evident that the range of sports programmes largely fulfilled the expectations of the members ($M=8.32$ or 91 % agreement). This is matched by the high average probability that members would recommend their club to others ($M=8.36$) and that they had few thoughts about leaving the club, which around 76 % of club members have not yet (tended not to) consider (cf. Fig. 2 and Tab. 21).

Looking at the aspects of the general satisfaction of the members differentiated by gender, there are only a few significant differences. On average, female members are somewhat less satisfied with the club than men and have also thought about terminating their membership somewhat more often. In addition, male members would on average recommend their club more often than female members. On average, gender-diverse people are the least satisfied with all of the listed aspects (cf. Tab. 22).

If you also look at the age groups, it is noticeable that the youngest and oldest members are the happiest on average and, in comparison

Tab. 21: General satisfaction of the members.

Item	Scale	Mean
General satisfaction with the club	0=not at all satisfied 10=extremely satisfied	7.97
General satisfaction with the mainly used sports offer	0=not at all satisfied 10=extremely satisfied	8.38
Fulfilment of the expectations of the mainly used sports offer	0=not fulfilled at all 10=extremely fulfilled	8.32
Probability of recommending the club	0=unlikely 10=extremely likely	8.36
Consideration to end the membership in the club	0=never 10=very often	2.23

4 The first results on this were already published in the Federal Report of the 8th wave of the Sport Development Report (cf. Breuer & Feiler, 2021) and are presented in more detail here. The different weighting of the data must be taken into account here (cf. section 6.5).

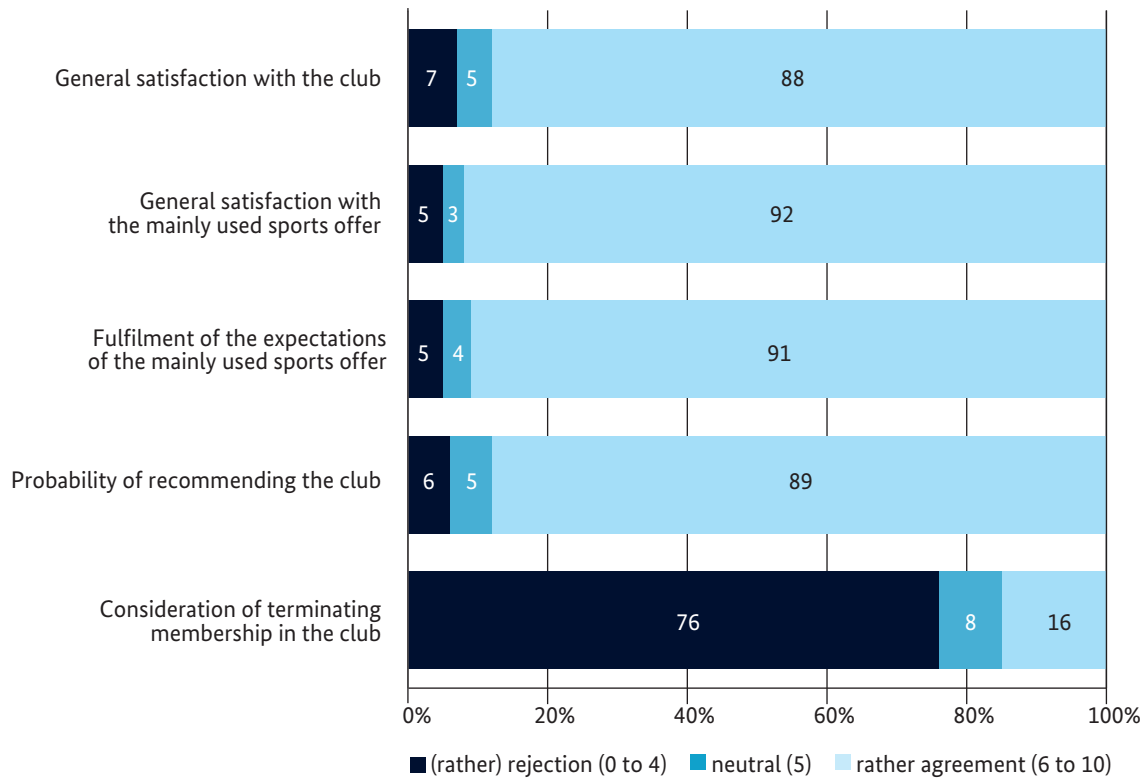


Fig. 2: Distribution of members' general satisfaction.

to all younger member groups, the oldest, in particular, have hardly ever considered leaving the club. The children and young people also show a comparatively high level of satisfaction. On the other hand, satisfaction in the 19 to 26 age group is, on average, the least pronounced, even if the values here are still very positive (cf. Tab. 23).

Differentiated according to the type of membership, it is striking that former members,

i.e. members who have recently left the club, are, on average, significantly less satisfied than all other member groups in all areas. The differences towards the active members are particularly large and consistently statistically significant (cf. Tab. 24). This result shows that less satisfied members obviously, and not surprisingly, more often decide to leave the club.

Tab. 22: General satisfaction of the members, differentiated by gender.

	Gender			significance m/f
	female	male	diverse	
	Mean			
General satisfaction with the club	7.81	8.10	6.24	0.000***
General satisfaction with the mainly used sports offer	8.33	8.43	7.33	n.s.
Fulfilment of the expectations of the mainly used sports offer	8.28	8.36	6.45	0.011*
Probability of recommending the club	8.23	8.48	7.58	0.002**
Consideration to end the membership in the club	2.37	2.13	2.95	n.s.

Tab. 23: General satisfaction of the members, differentiated by age groups.

	Age (in years)							Significance
	until 6	7-14	15-18	19-26	27-40	41-60	over 60	
	Mean							
General satisfaction with the club	8.25	7.91	7.94	7.52	7.84	7.96	8.29	0.000***
General satisfaction with the mainly used sports offer	8.66	8.33	8.44	8.16	8.29	8.31	8.62	0.000***
Fulfilment of the expectations of the mainly used sports offer	8.39	8.25	8.52	8.11	8.27	8.25	8.58	0.000***
Probability of recommending the club	9.01	8.14	8.08	8.01	8.31	8.43	8.62	0.000***
Consideration to end the membership in the club	2.28	2.53	2.74	2.84	2.53	2.18	1.35	0.000***

Tab. 24: General satisfaction of the members, differentiated by the membership type.

	Type of Membership				Significance
	active	passive	supporting	former	
	Mean				
General satisfaction with the club	8.01	7.69	8.19	5.95	0.000***
General satisfaction with the mainly used sports offer	8.43	7.83	8.31	7.19	0.000***
Fulfilment of the expectations of the mainly used sports offer	8.37	7.75	8.34	7.09	0.000***
Probability of recommending the club	8.42	7.83	8.54	6.48	0.000***
Consideration to end the membership in the club	2.18	2.98	1.35	-	0.000***

3.2 Satisfaction with individual aspects of the sports offer

If, in addition to the general satisfaction of the members, one considers the satisfaction with individual aspects of the mainly used sports offer, it can be seen that the members are almost always rather or very satisfied in all areas surveyed (cf. Fig. 3 and Fig. 4). On average, the satisfaction of the members with the competence and motivation of the coaches and trainers is most pronounced. On average, men and women are more satisfied with the motivation of the other participants in the sports groups than gender-diverse people. This also applies to satisfaction with the transport connections and parking space situation. On the other hand, the average level of satisfaction with the condition of the sanitary facilities is lower among female club members

than among male members, and women are also less satisfied with the condition of the changing rooms on average (see Fig. 3).

Overall, it is noticeable that the members are on average the least satisfied with the changing rooms and sanitary facilities. Here, around 19% and 17% of the members stated that they were (rather) not satisfied, while in all other areas, it were less than 10% of the members who were not satisfied. Conversely, this means that aspects of the sports offer, with the exception of the condition of the changing rooms and sanitary facilities, were rated positively by over 80% of the surveyed members. Aspects such as the motivation and competence of the coaches and trainers were rated positively by at least 90% of the members (see Fig. 4).

If one looks at the satisfaction of the members with individual aspects of the sports offer, differentiated according to age groups, then some statistically significant differences become apparent. Among other things, it is noticeable that the

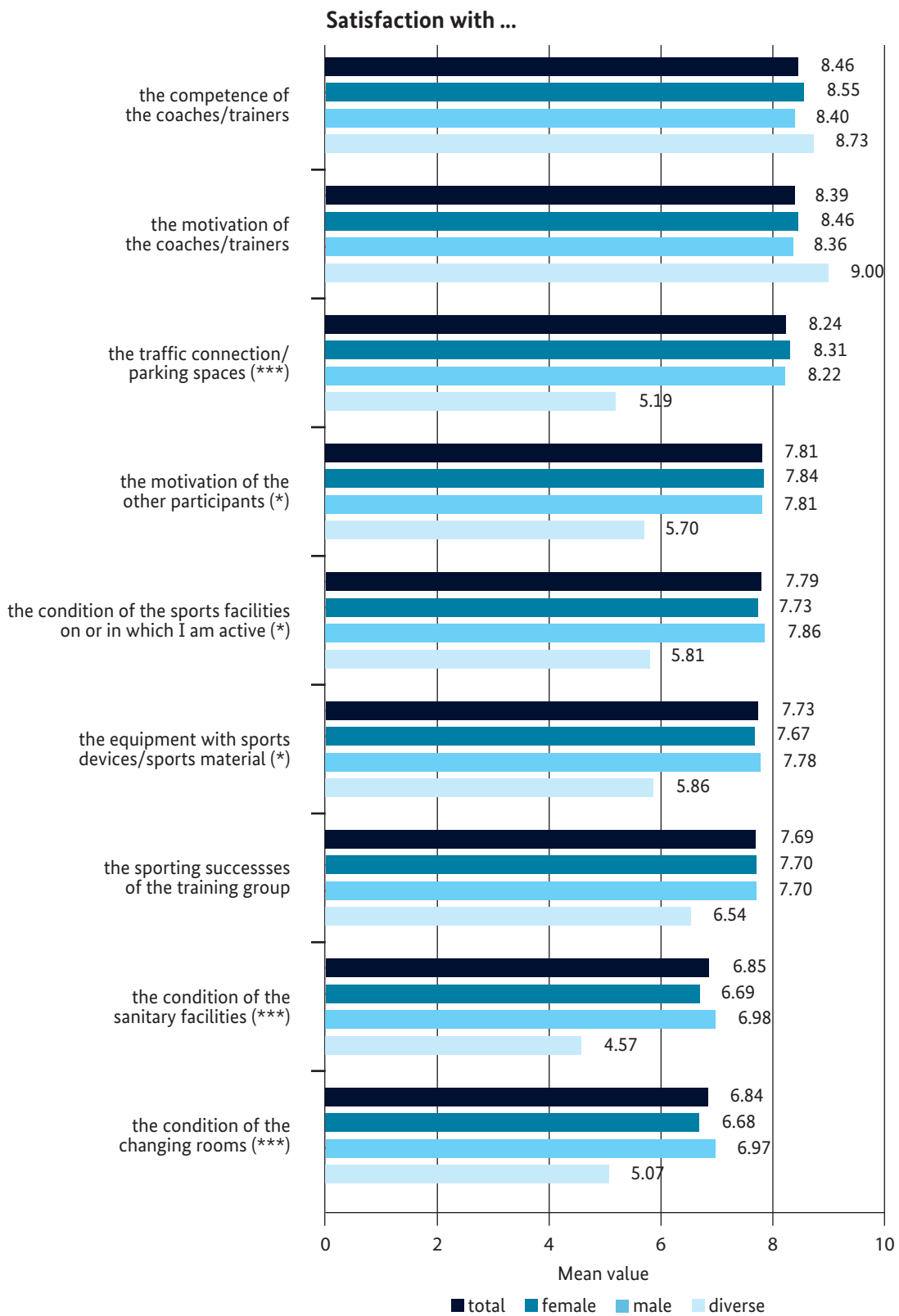


Fig. 3: Members' satisfaction with individual aspects of the sports offering, differentiated by gender (0="not at all satisfied" to 10="extremely satisfied").

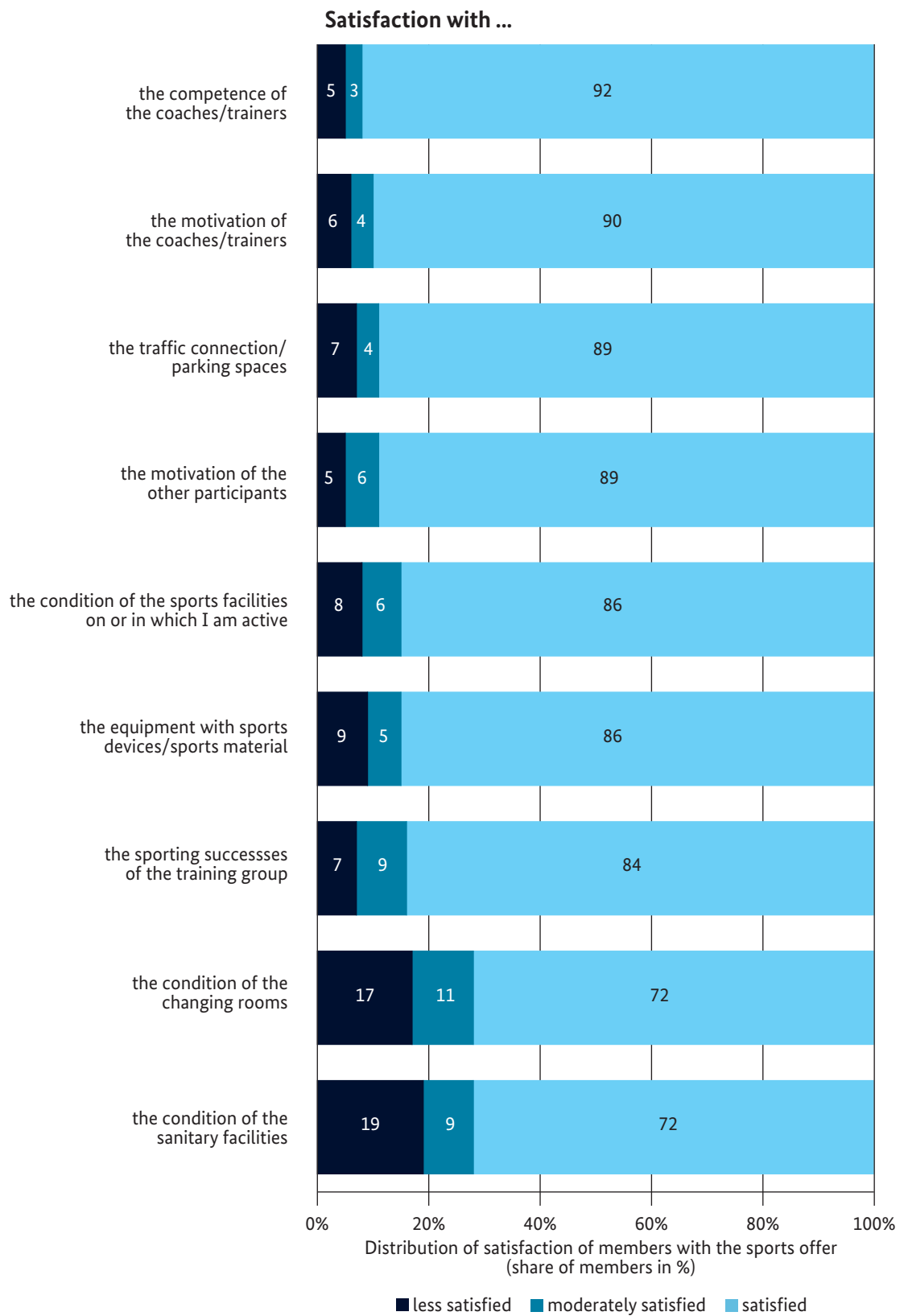


Fig. 4: Distribution of members' satisfaction with individual aspects of the sports offering (0 to 4="less satisfied"; 5="moderately satisfied", 6 to 10="satisfied").

youngest club members and the oldest members over 60 years of age are the most satisfied with aspects relating to the sports facilities, the sports equipment and sports material as well as the competence and motivation of the coaches and trainers, compared to the other age groups. On the other hand, the youngest members are less satisfied with the condition of the sanitary facilities and the changing rooms. In these areas, the age group of club members over 60 is the most satisfied on average. With the exception of the 15- to 18-year-olds and the 19- to 26-year-olds, all other age groups were significantly less satisfied with the condition of the sanitary facilities than the over 60-year-old club members. On average, the up to 6-year-olds and the 41- to 60-year-olds were the least satisfied with the condition of the changing rooms. Ultimately, the youngest members are significantly more satisfied with the motivation of the other participants than all older age groups (see Fig. 5).

Suppose a distinction is also made here according to the type of membership. In that case, it is noticeable that active and supporting members are most satisfied on average in almost all areas, with the exception of the condition of the changing rooms and the sports facilities. In contrast, former members, with a few exceptions (condition of changing rooms and sports facilities as well as the parking situation), show the lowest level of satisfaction on average (cf. Fig. 6).

3.3 Satisfaction with individual aspects of the club

A supplementary consideration of member satisfaction with various aspects relating to the club shows that the club members overall and across all genders are particularly satisfied with the price-performance ratio and the membership fees (see Fig. 7). Almost 90 % of the members stated that they were (very) satisfied in these areas (see Fig. 8). This underlines the importance of sports clubs as providers of sports, exercise and leisure activities at fair prices for the gen-

eral public, because the members also recognise these easily accessible offers at affordable fees by expressing a strong sense of satisfaction.

Also very high is the satisfaction with the competence and motivation of the board, the diversity of the sports offer, the children and youth work in the club, the organisation of the club operations, the clarity of the responsibilities in the club, the perception of the social responsibility of the club and the atmosphere in the club. There are some significant differences between gender-diverse people and the other two sexes, as well as between men and women. For example, female and gender-diverse members are less satisfied than male members with the motivation and competence of the board. The same applies to satisfaction with the clear responsibilities in the club (see Fig. 7).

In particular, the satisfaction of the members with the crisis management of the clubs in times of the pandemic was very pronounced. Around 80 % (rather) satisfied members in this area are opposed to around 14 % fewer or dissatisfied members (see Fig. 8).

On average, the club members were least satisfied with the handling of possible conflicts in the club, the social offerings and the willingness of the members to get involved. However, these areas are also rated positively by both female and male club members on average, while gender-diverse people were somewhat less satisfied on average (see Fig. 7).

Suppose you also look at the distribution of the satisfaction values. In that case, it is noticeable that in addition to the three aspects mentioned, with which the members are least satisfied on average, around 11 % of the members are (rather) not satisfied with the club's youth work while a good eight out of ten club members rate the work with children and young people (rather) positively (cf. Fig. 8).

If you look at the satisfaction of the club members with different aspects of the club, broken down by age groups (see Fig. 9 and Fig. 10), then some interesting results emerge. The younger and/or oldest club members are often

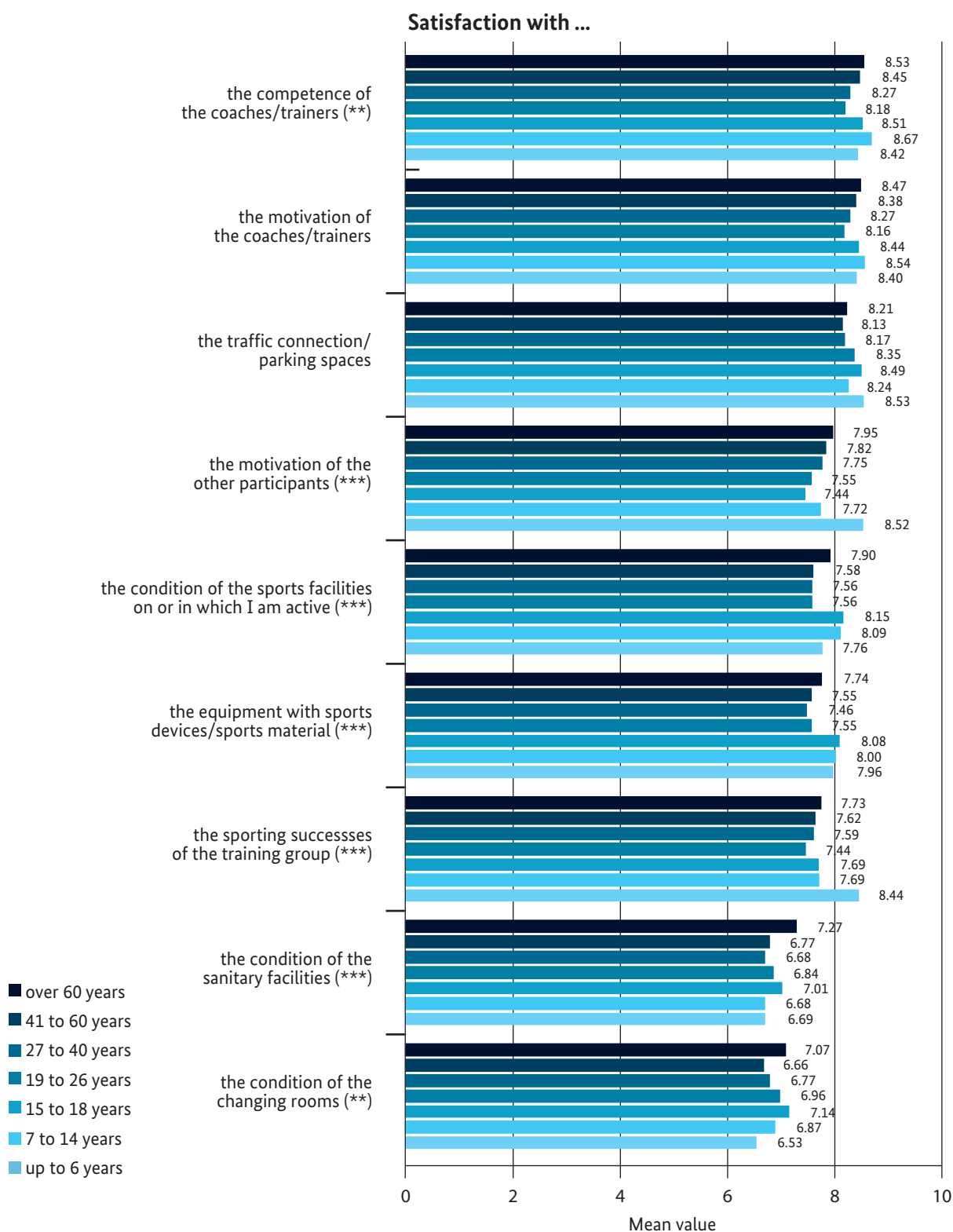


Fig. 5: Members' satisfaction with individual aspects of the sports offering, differentiated by age groups (0="not at all satisfied" to 10="extremely satisfied").

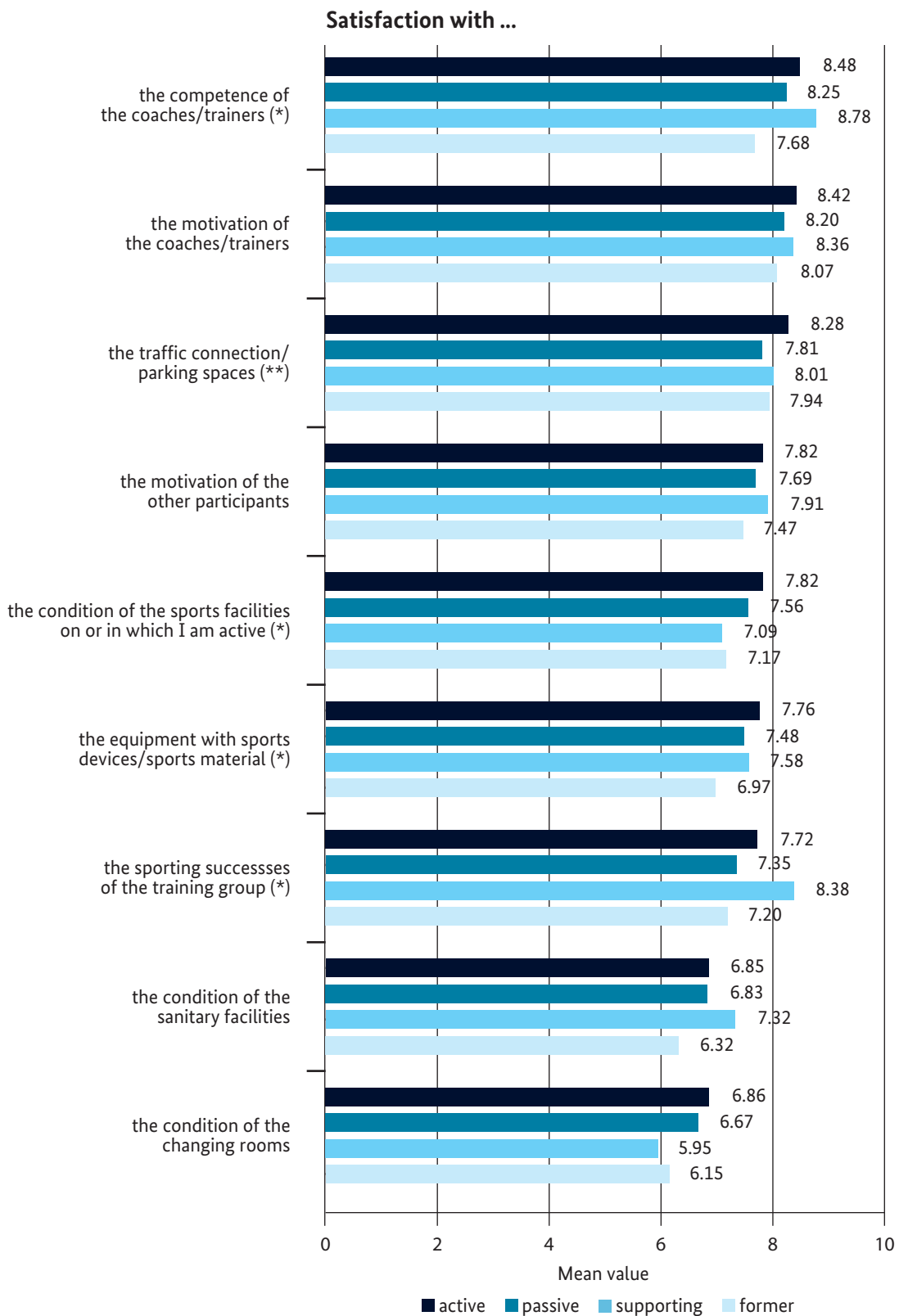


Fig. 6: Members' satisfaction with individual aspects of the sports offering, differentiated by the membership type (0="not at all satisfied" to 10="extremely satisfied").

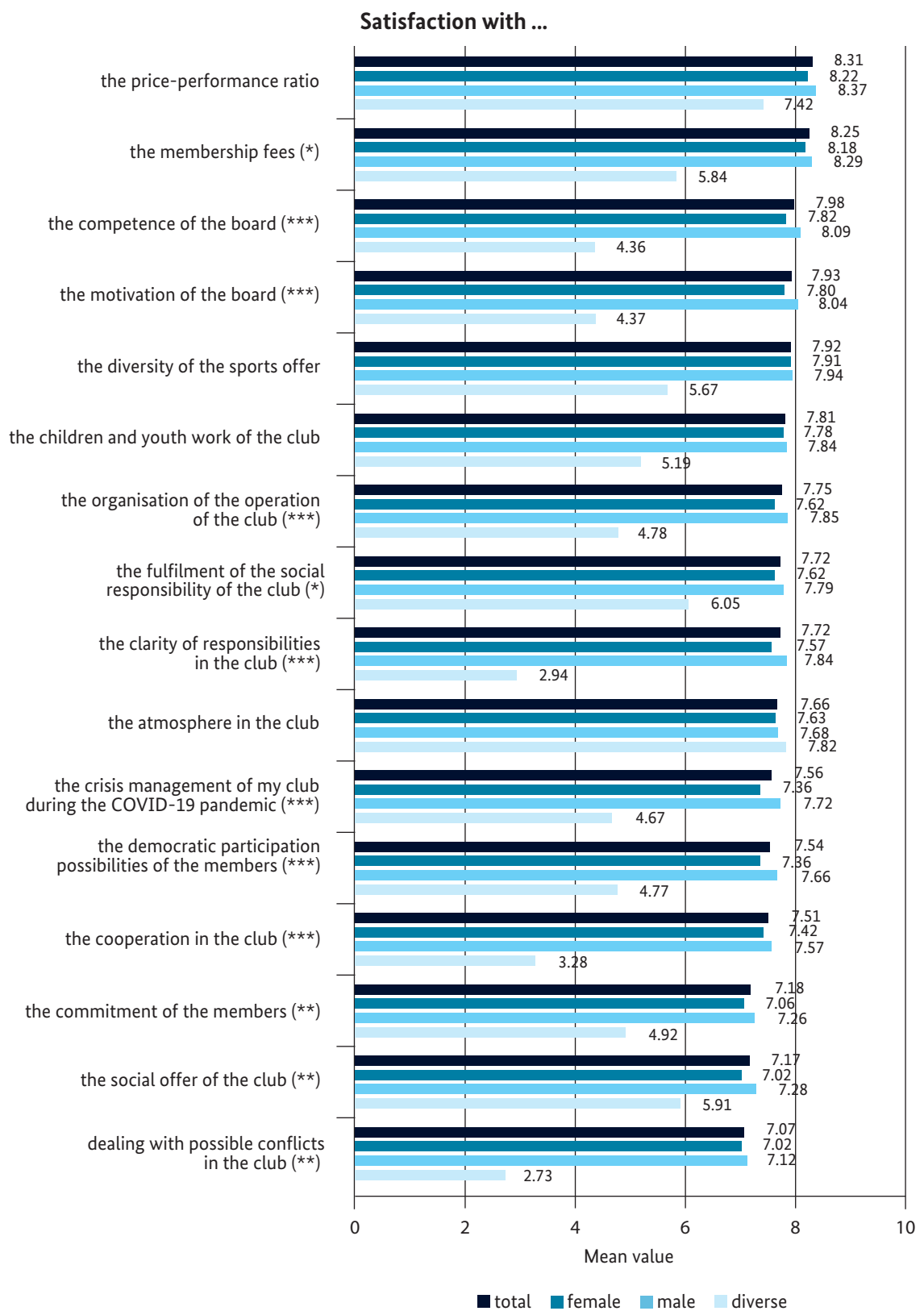


Fig. 7: Members' satisfaction with individual aspects of the club, differentiated by gender (0="not at all satisfied" to 10="extremely satisfied").

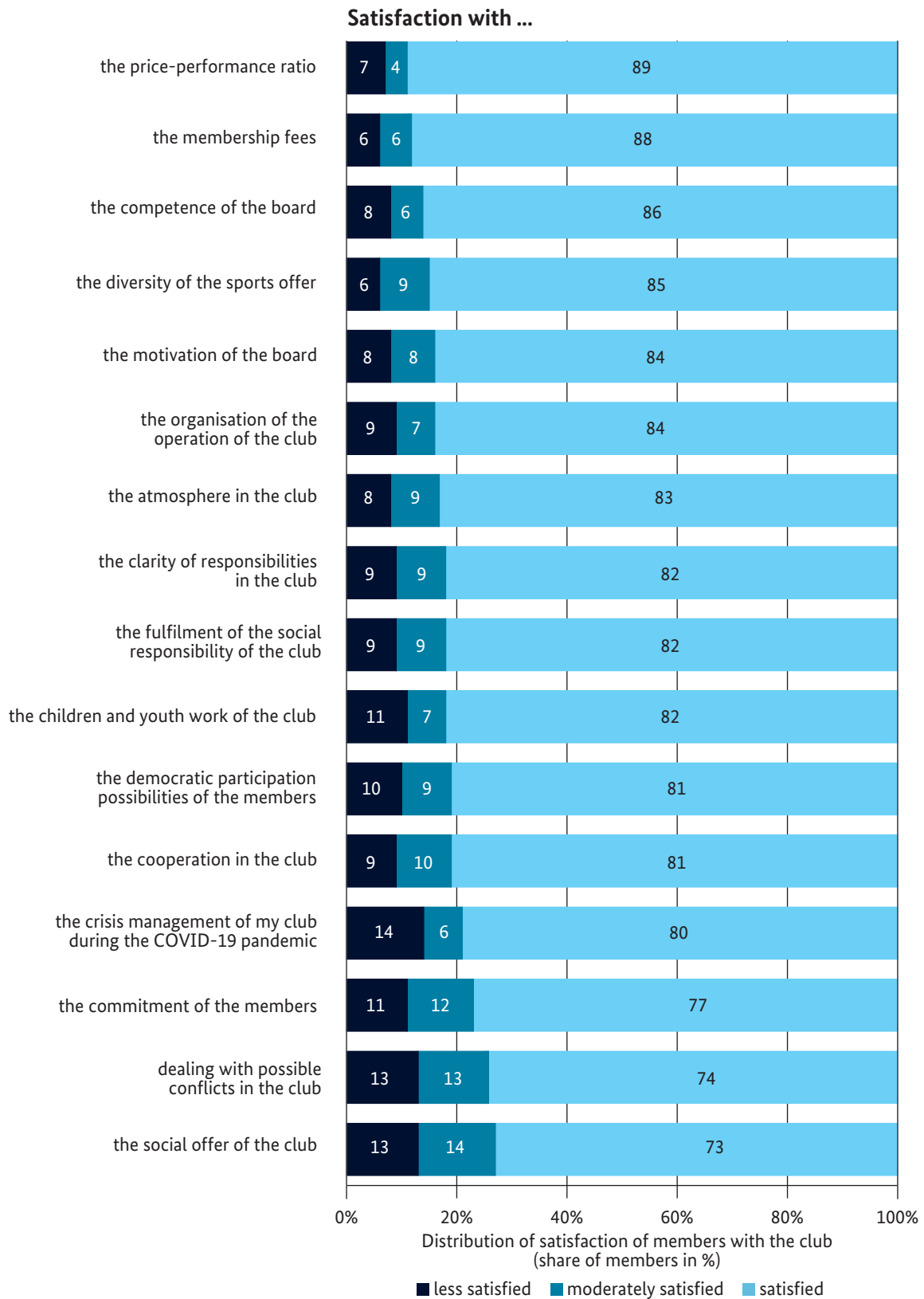


Fig. 8: Distribution of member satisfaction with individual aspects of the club (0 to 4=“less satisfied”; 5=“moderately satisfied”, 6 to 10=“satisfied”).

the happiest compared to the other age groups. For example, members over 60 and up to 6 years old are the most satisfied with the variety of sports. There are significant differences between the youngest members and all older age groups in terms of satisfaction with this aspect of club work. The oldest members are the most satisfied with the competence and motivation of the board, followed by the 15- to 18-year-olds. It is also noticeable that the oldest members are significantly more satisfied with the crisis management of the clubs during the corona pandemic compared to all younger age groups except for the up to 6-year-olds (see Fig. 9).

On the other hand, the three youngest age groups of club members are, on average, the most satisfied with the club's work with children and young people. The differences in satisfaction between children up to 14 years and the older groups of club members are statistically significant. The group primarily concerned with the work with children and young people is apparently very satisfied with the implementation of youth work, i.e. the offers seem to be perceived as fitting, at least for the children and young people themselves. A similar picture emerges when it comes to satisfaction with the willingness of members to get involved, which is also rated most positively by the youngest and tends to decrease with increasing age. Here, too, the differences in average satisfaction between the youngest members and age groups aged 19 and over are statistically significant (see Fig. 10).

Further interesting results are revealed by the differentiated consideration of member satisfaction with the club based on membership type (see Fig. 11 and Fig. 12). From a general point of view, it is striking that active and/or supporting members show the highest average satisfaction in almost all areas, while former members were

the least satisfied in all areas. On average, passive members tend to be slightly less satisfied than active and supporting members, although the differences are mostly small. However, there are significant differences when it comes to satisfaction with the atmosphere and cooperation in the club as well as the price-performance ratio: Here, passive members are less satisfied than active ones.

There are particularly large and significant differences in satisfaction between former members and all three other types of membership. This result primarily affects the following aspects of the club: crisis management during the COVID-19 pandemic, the price-performance ratio, the membership fees, the competence and motivation of the board, the perception of the social responsibility of the club, child and youth work, the democratic opportunities for participation, dealing with conflicts, the clear responsibilities in the club, the organisation of club operations and the diversity of the sports on offer. The aspects mentioned may therefore have played a not insignificant role in the decision to leave the club⁵.

3.4 Identification with the club

In addition to their main task and core function, doing sports together, sports clubs also offer places for community and social gatherings. The exchange that takes place in this context can promote and strengthen a feeling of connection between the members and their club and ultimately lead to identification with the club or loyalty to the club. In order to find out to what extent the members feel connected to and identify with their respective clubs, the members were asked about six different aspects. The scale ranges from 1="do not agree at all" to 5="completely agree"⁶.

5 Other aspects that are not examined here and therefore not observed can also be relevant for the termination of membership (e.g. personal reasons, relocation).

6 The scale was adapted from Mael & Ashforth (1992), who studied college graduates' identification with their alma mater, and adapted to the sport club context. Just like in the original source, the six individual items form a meaningful overall construct for organisational identification (Cronbach's alpha here 0.87; Mael & Ashforth (1992): 0.87).

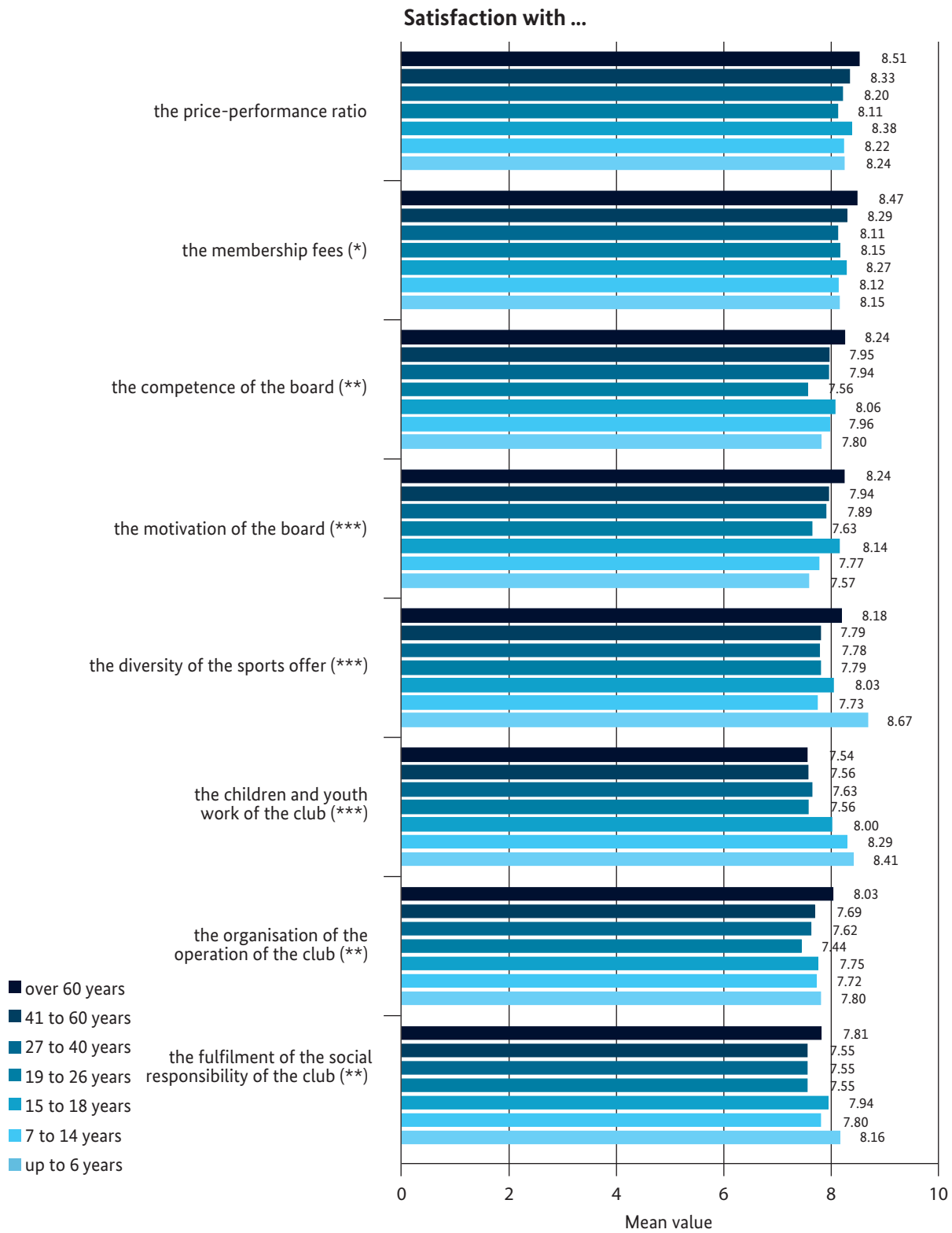


Fig. 9: Members' satisfaction with individual aspects of the club, differentiated by age groups (0= "not at all satisfied" to 10= "extremely satisfied"; part 1).

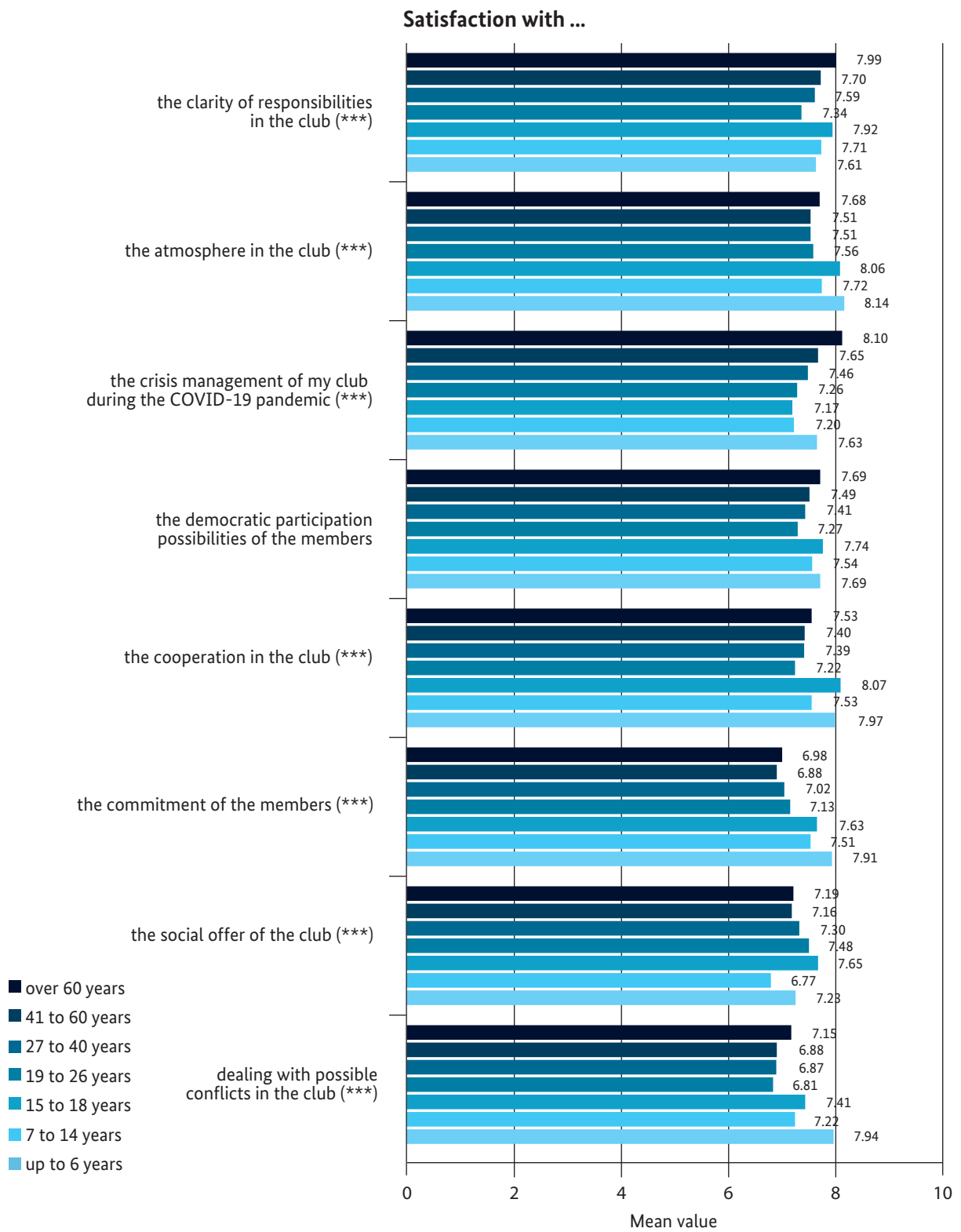


Fig. 10: Members' satisfaction with individual aspects of the club, differentiated by age groups (0= "not at all satisfied" to 10= "extremely satisfied"; part 2).

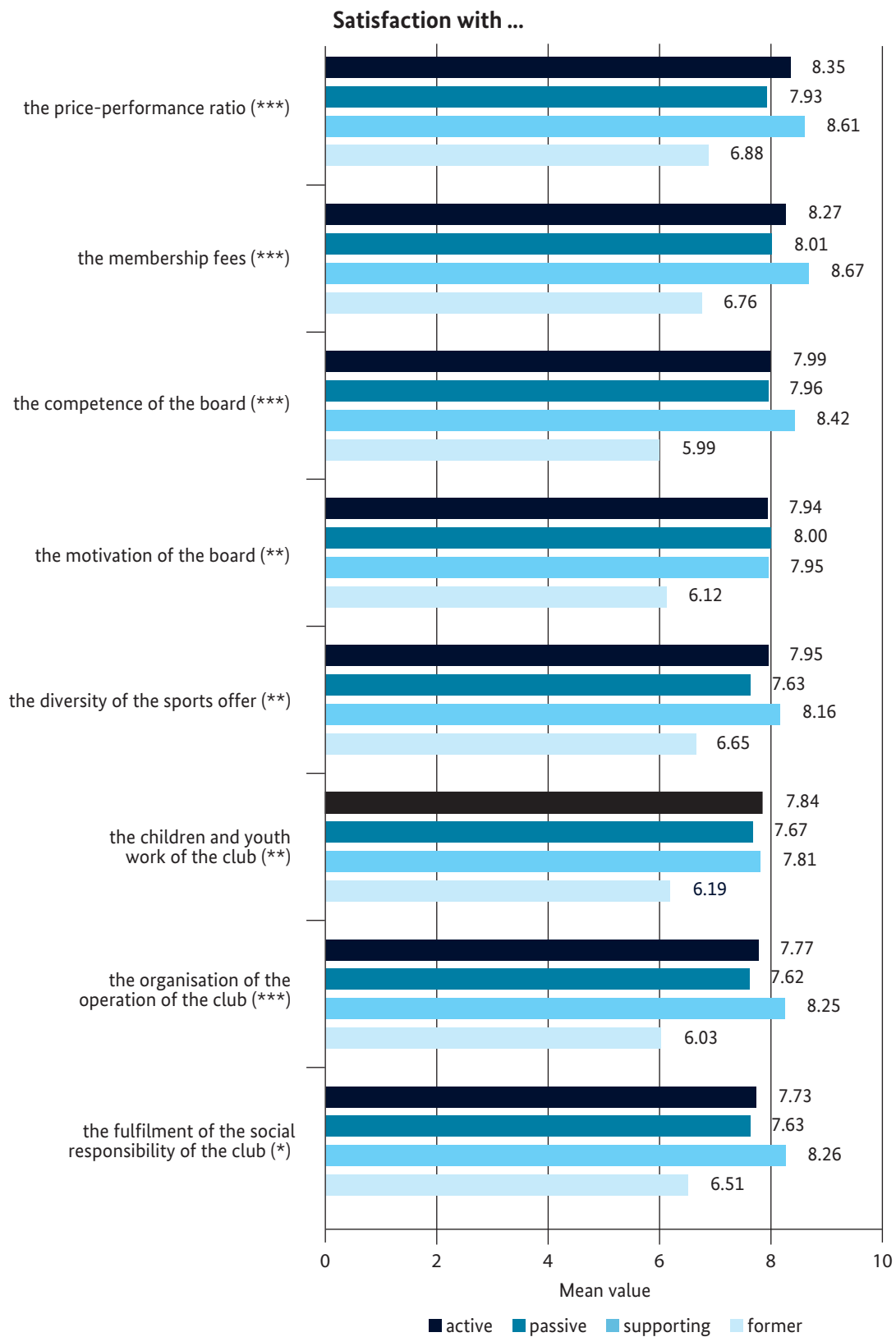


Fig. 11: Members' satisfaction with individual aspects of the club, differentiated by the membership type (0= "not at all satisfied" to 10= "extremely satisfied"; part 1).

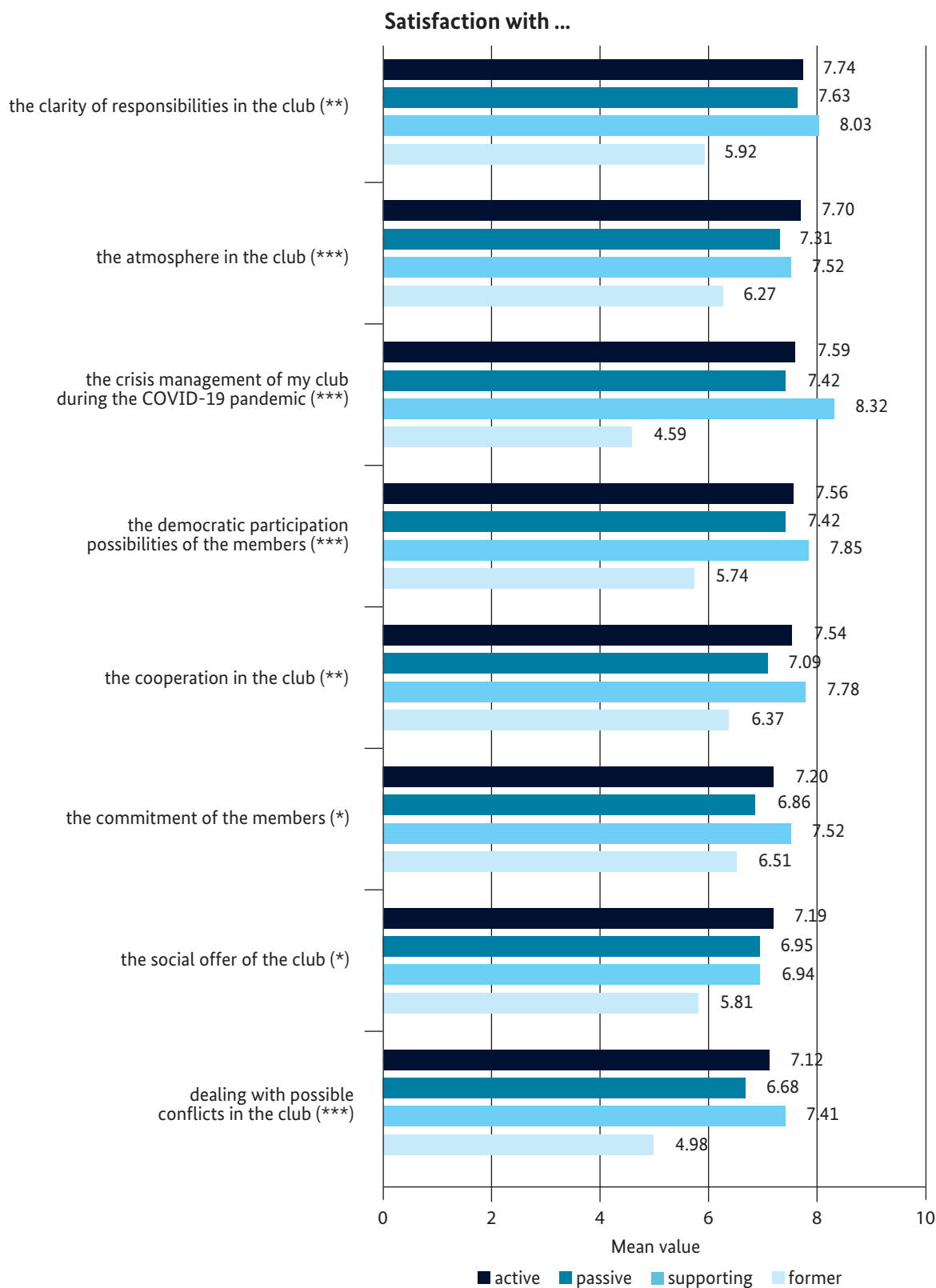


Fig. 12: Members' satisfaction with individual aspects of the club, differentiated by the membership type (0= "not at all satisfied" to 10= "extremely satisfied"; part 2).

If an index for the strength of identification with the club is formed on the basis of the six items queried, the mean is $M=3.17$, i.e. the members identify themselves moderately to strongly with their club overall, with significant differences between female and male club members. This applies to the index formed and the six individual items examined. Men agree more strongly than women with all the aspects studied (see Fig. 13).

Overall, the members' strongest average agreement with the aspects of identification surveyed can be seen in the way in which the members talk about their club, namely predominantly in the "we form" ($M=3.75$). Here, male members agree significantly more than gender-diverse people and female members (see Fig. 13). Overall, around two-thirds of the club members fully or somewhat agreed with this statement. In addition, more than 40 % of members tend to perceive praise for the club as a personal compliment (see Fig. 14), and male members, in particular, are very interested in what others think of the club and perceive club successes as their own successes (see Fig. 13). On the other hand, around 40 % of members state that criticism of the club (rather) does not feel like a personal insult and about 36 % do not (rather) feel criticism in the media for the club as embarrassing (see Fig. 14).

The strength of the identification of the members with their club differs significantly between the different age groups. The strongest average agreement in (almost) all areas is found among the oldest club members over 60, the youngest up to 6 years and the 15- to 18-year-olds, while the groups of 7- to 14-year-olds and the 27- to 40-year-olds identify the least strongly with the club on average. Overall, it can be seen that identification with the club is initially very strong at a young age, then decreases slightly and tends to increase again with increasing age (cf. Fig. 15).

Suppose one also looks at the membership type with regard to identification with the club (see Fig. 16). In that case, it becomes clear that, on average, supporting members identify them-

selves most strongly with the club, followed by active members. Accordingly, a connection to the club seems to be an important aspect of providing the club with support or funding. Unsurprisingly, the identification of former, i.e. recently resigned, members is the least pronounced and differs in particular from active and supporting members. Significant differences can be seen in the way people talk about the club, in the feeling of embarrassment when someone insults the club, and in the perception of club successes as personal successes also between active and passive members (see Fig. 16).

3.5 Future plans / loyalty

Like the coaches and trainers, board members and referees, the club members were asked about their future plans concerning their club. The scale used ranges from 1="do not agree at all" to 5="agree completely".

The results show that at the time of the survey, i.e. in the spring of 2021, the majority of club members were planning to continue their membership both in the current year ($M=4.66$) and in the following year ($M=4.55$). Even in the medium term, i.e. within the next three years, the members still planned to remain loyal to their club to an above-average extent ($M=4.26$; see Fig. 17). Almost six out of ten members fully agreed to this medium-term plan. This is consistent with the fact that very few members plan to leave the club within the next year (around 3 %; see Fig. 18). Overall, it is noticeable that male club members are somewhat more loyal to the club than female members if you only look at the planned length of membership. Gender-diverse people were also the least likely to agree to remain in the club (see Fig. 17).

On average, the willingness to volunteer for the club ($M=3.54$) or to donate money ($M=2.98$) is somewhat less pronounced than planning to remain a member of the club. In both areas, the willingness among male members is significantly higher on average than among female members (see Fig. 17). Around 55 % of members

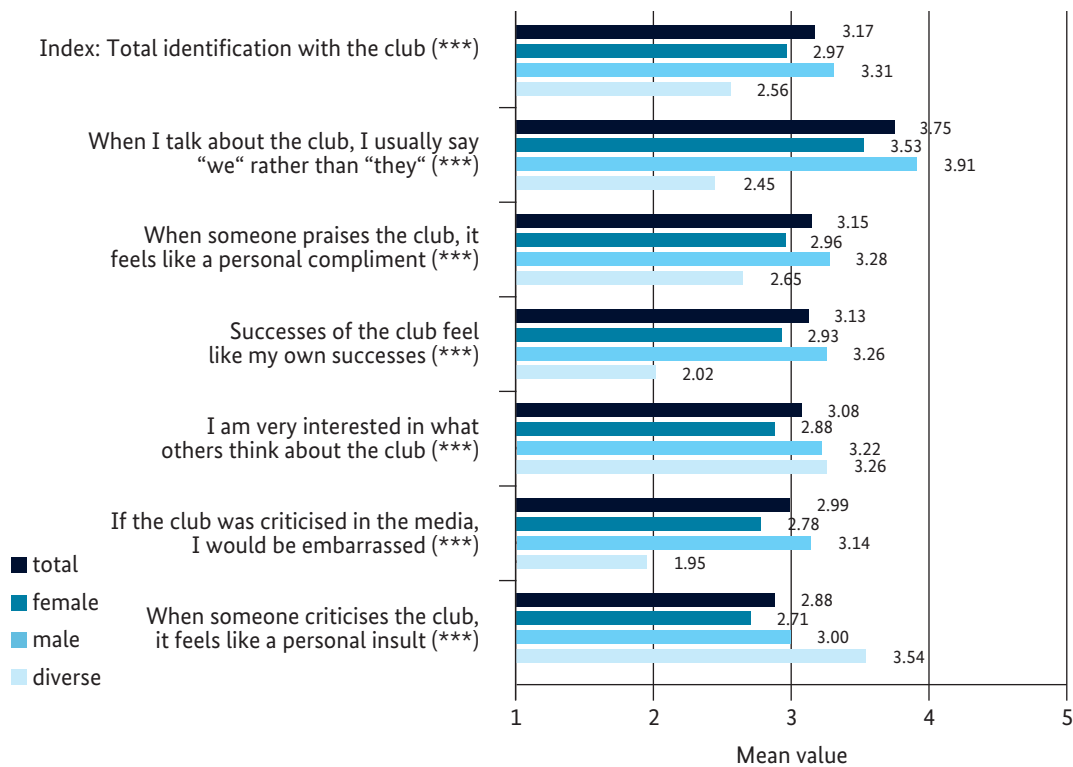


Fig. 13: Identification of the members with the club, differentiated by gender (1="do not agree at all" to 5="agree completely").

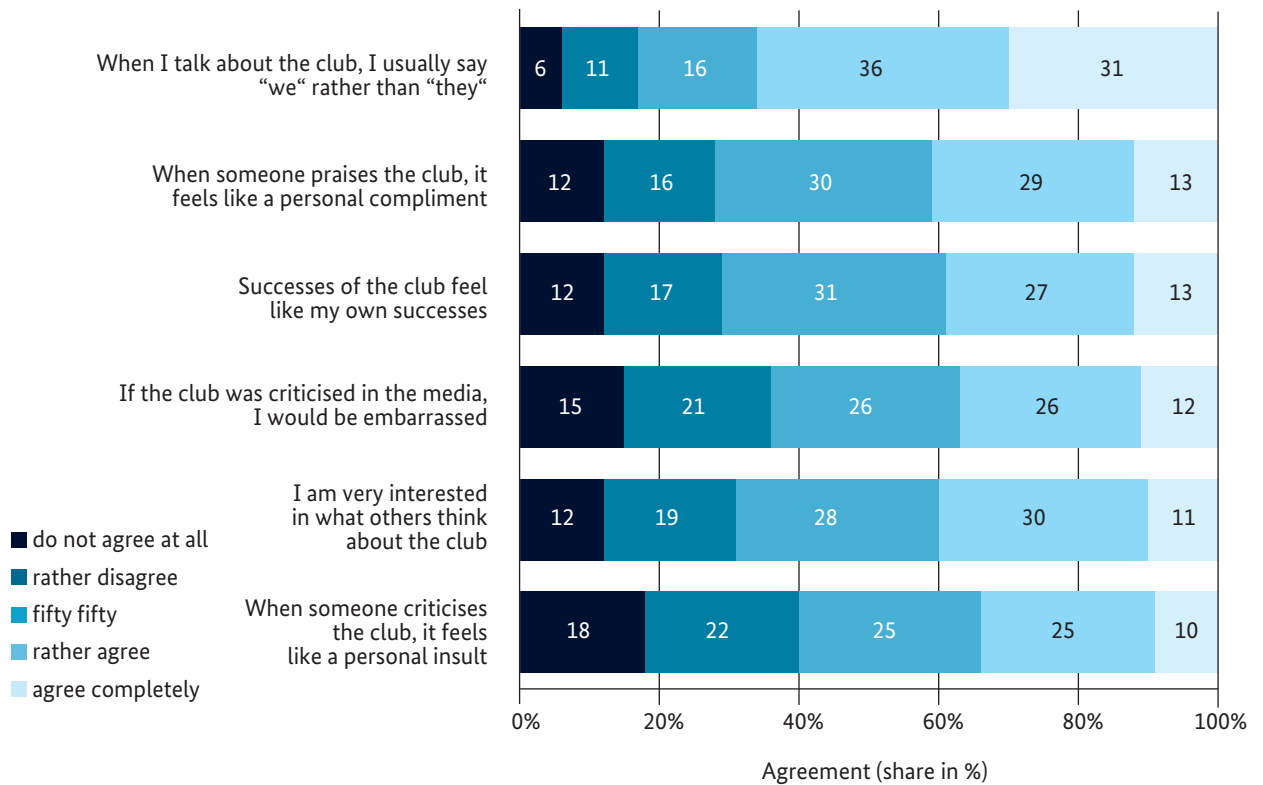


Fig. 14: Distribution of members' approval regarding identification with the club.

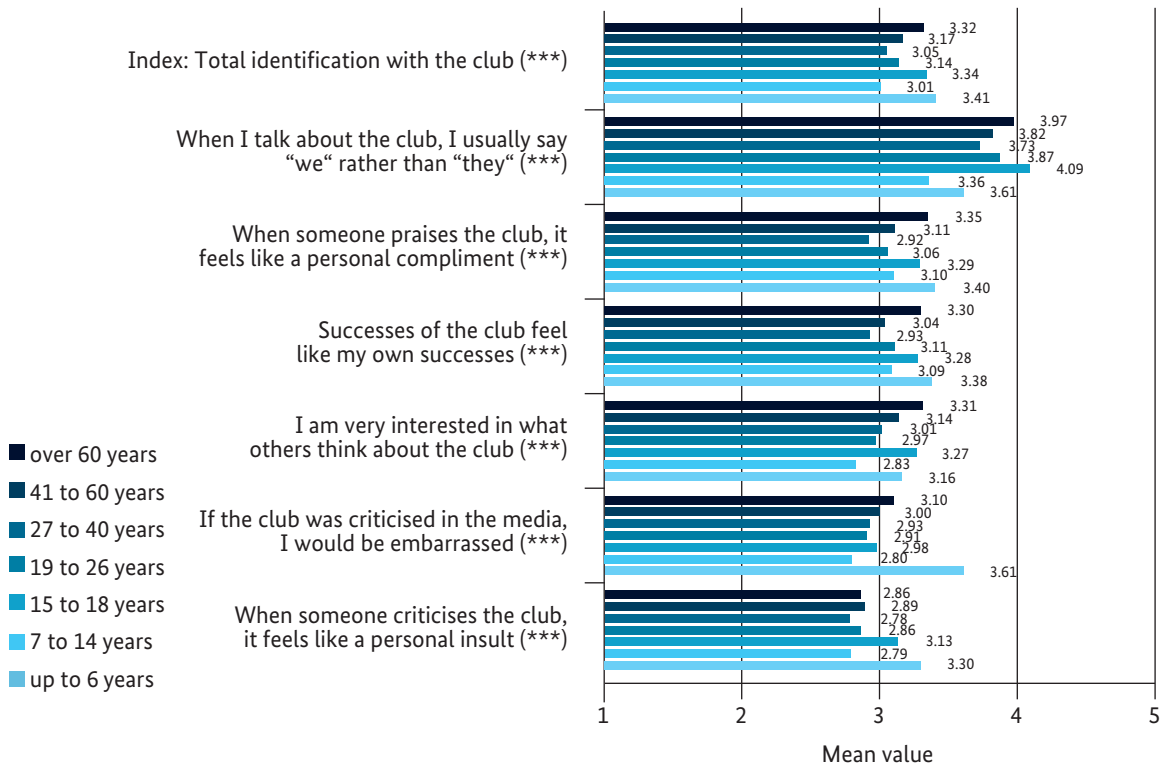


Fig. 15: Identification of the members with the club, differentiated according to age groups (1="do not agree at all" to 5="agree completely").

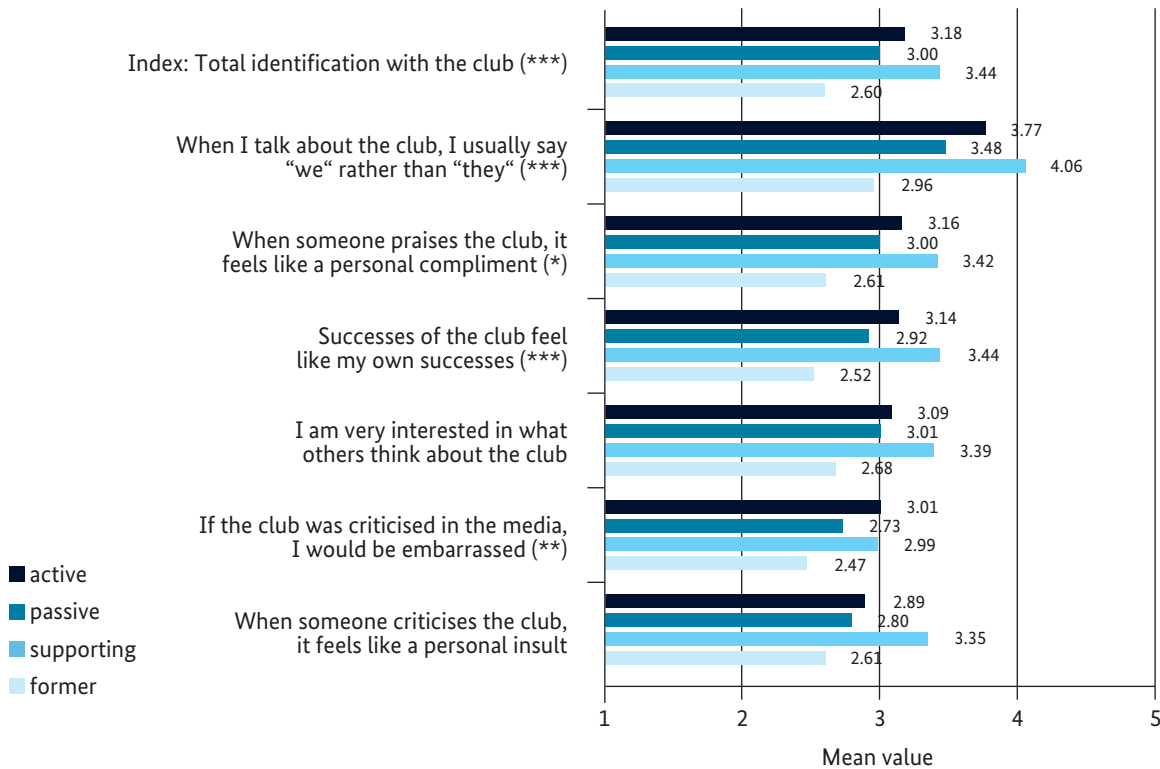


Fig. 16: Identification of the members with the club, differentiated by the membership type (1="do not agree at all" to 5="agree completely").

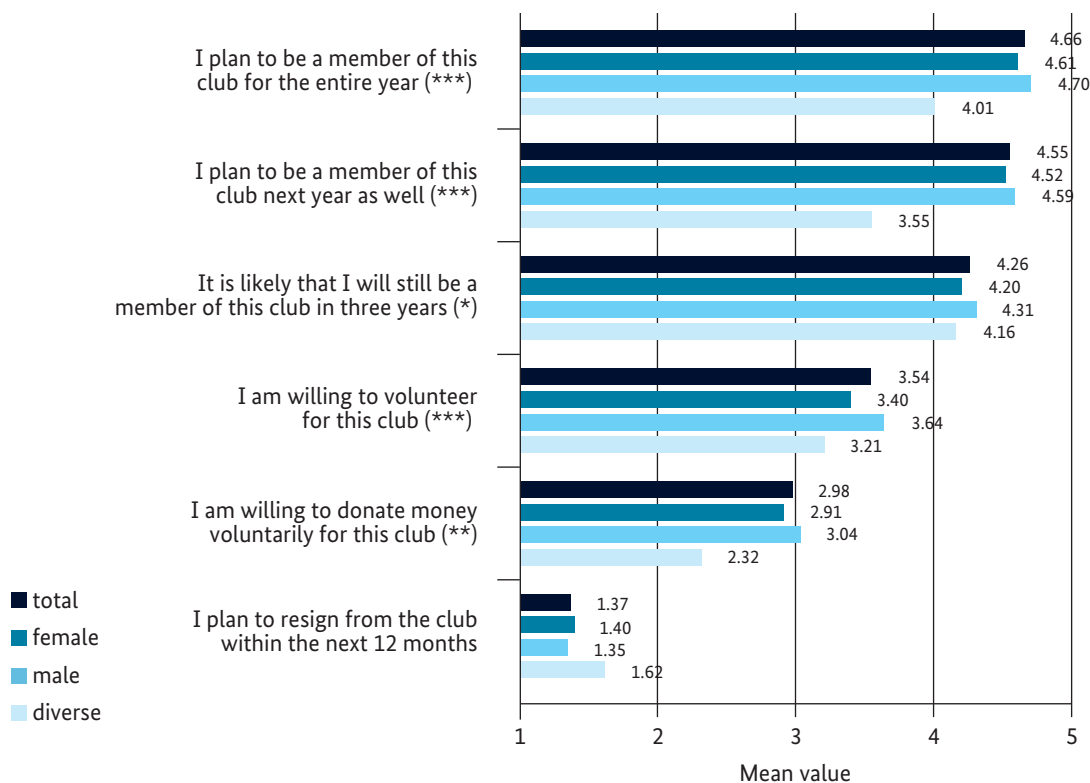


Fig. 17: Future plans of the club members, differentiated by gender (1="do not agree at all" to 5="agree completely").

tend to be willing to volunteer, while 34 % say they are willing to donate. However, a third of the members (rather) refuses to donate money to the club, while just under every fifth member is (not at all) willing to volunteer for the club (see Fig. 18).

Plans to remain loyal to the club both in the short and medium term tend to increase with age, with the exception of members up to 6 years. Significant differences between the oldest and younger age groups (with the exception of the up to 6-year-olds) are particularly evident. The willingness to volunteer is lowest in the age group of children from 7 to 14 years, while the 15- to 18-year-olds would get involved here. Willingness to donate is lowest in the 19 to 26

age group and strongest among the youngest and oldest.⁷ This is where the over-40s differ from the younger age groups (see Fig. 19).

It is also interesting to look at the future plans of the members, considering the different types of membership⁸. As far as the plans for the continuation of membership are concerned, there are hardly any differences between active and supporting members. On the other hand, passive members are consistently less likely to remain loyal to the club in the short and medium term than active members. The differences between these two groups are statistically significant. This also applies to the willingness to volunteer for the club. Interestingly, the supporting members are, on average, the most willing to

⁷ The parents of the young children are likely to be primarily responsible for this.

⁸ However, former members cannot be considered here, as the questions about future plans were not asked to former members for logical reasons.

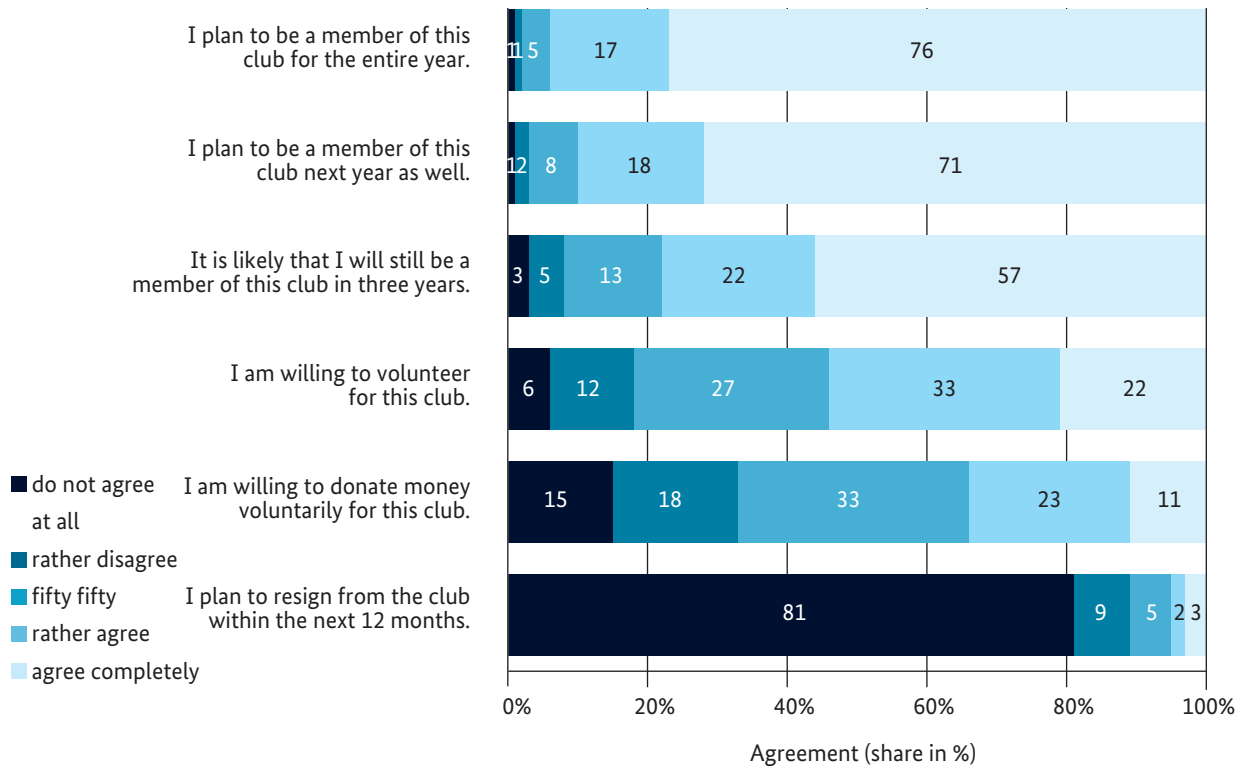


Fig. 18: Distribution of the agreement of members regarding their future plans as a member of the club.

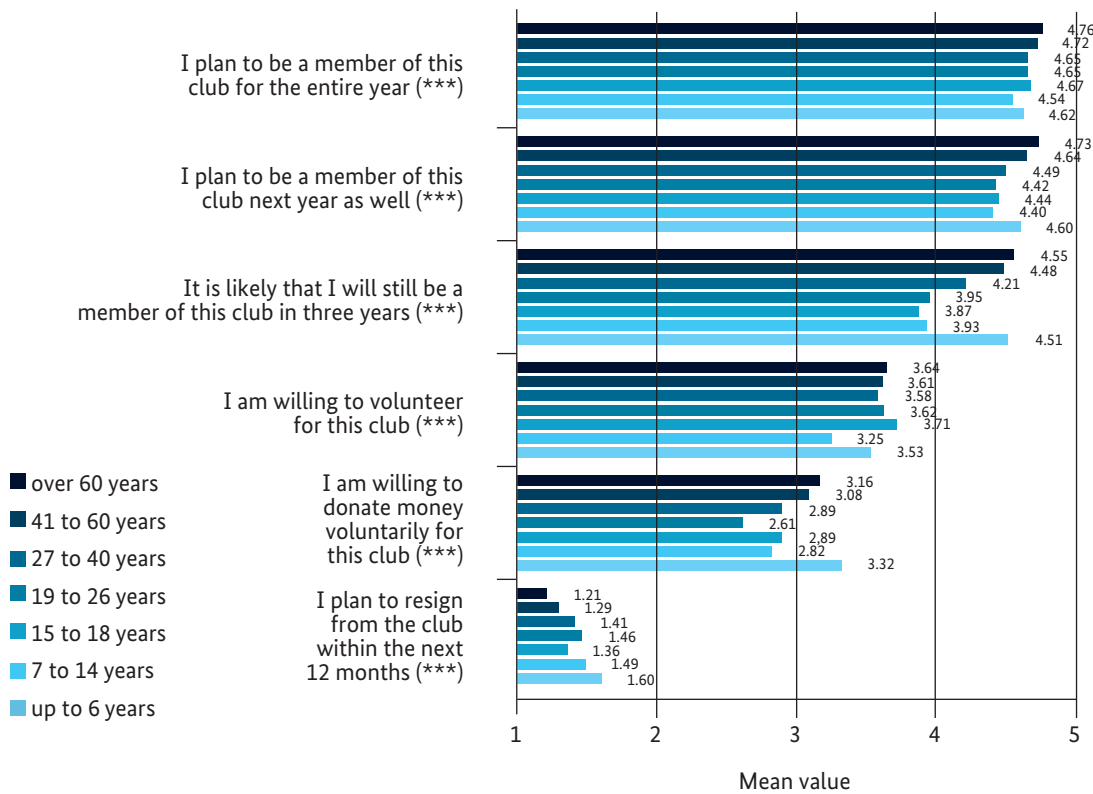


Fig. 19: Future plans of club members, differentiated by age groups (1="do not agree at all" to 5="agree completely").

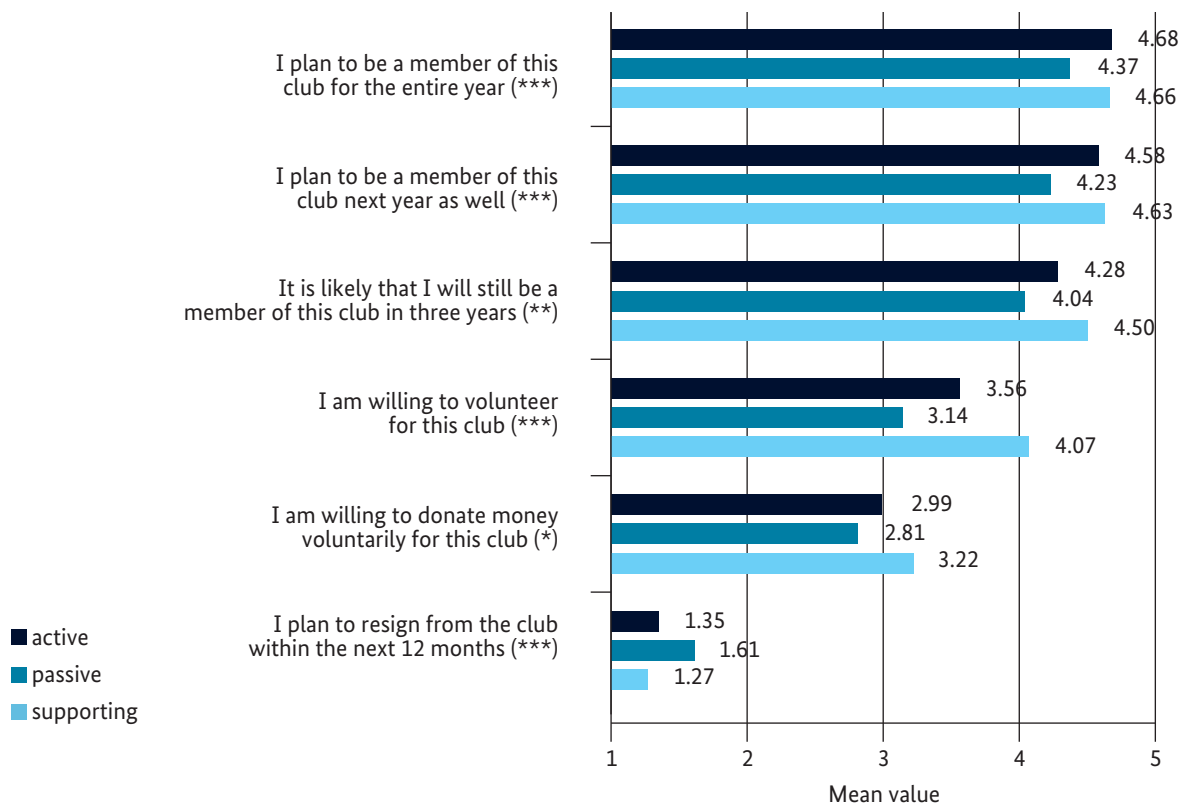


Fig. 20: Future plans of club members, differentiated by the membership type (1="do not agree at all" to 5="agree completely").

get involved voluntarily and donate money to the club (see Fig. 20). Apparently, the supporting members comply with their membership status

as intended. When it comes to volunteering, the differences to the other two groups are statistically significant.

4 Social correlates of club membership



There are frequent statements that sport, and in particular sport in the club as an institution, has special effects. Therefore, the club members were asked about their current life situation, as was the case with the coaches and trainers, board members and referees. A comparison with the German population as a whole (reference data from the Socio-Economic Panel - SOEP) reveals the characteristics of sports club members.

4.1 Number of close friends

With regard to social relationships, it is evident that the members have strong social networks. They state that they have an average of around six close friends. This is above the German average, which according to SOEP evaluations for the year 2020, is a good four close friendships.

4.2 Trust

Furthermore, club members' strong networking is reflected in a relatively high trust in other

people. Around 85 % of members say they have a general trust in people. In comparison, according to the SOEP 2018⁹, this figure is only 69 % for the general population. In addition, around 80 % reject the statement that you can no longer rely on anyone these days. In the overall population, the rejection of this statement is around 62 %. When it comes to dealing with strangers, the picture is mixed: a good two-thirds of the members are of the opinion that caution should first be exercised when dealing with strangers (cf. Fig. 21). On average in Germany, just under 88 % of the population are of this opinion.

4.3 Life satisfaction

In addition to social contacts, the club members were asked about their general life satisfaction. On a scale from 0="not at all satisfied" to 10="extremely satisfied", the club members' average satisfaction with life is $M=7.90$. Compared with the national German average based on the SOEP 2020, the members are somewhat happier with their lives than the general population (SOEP: $M=7.59$).

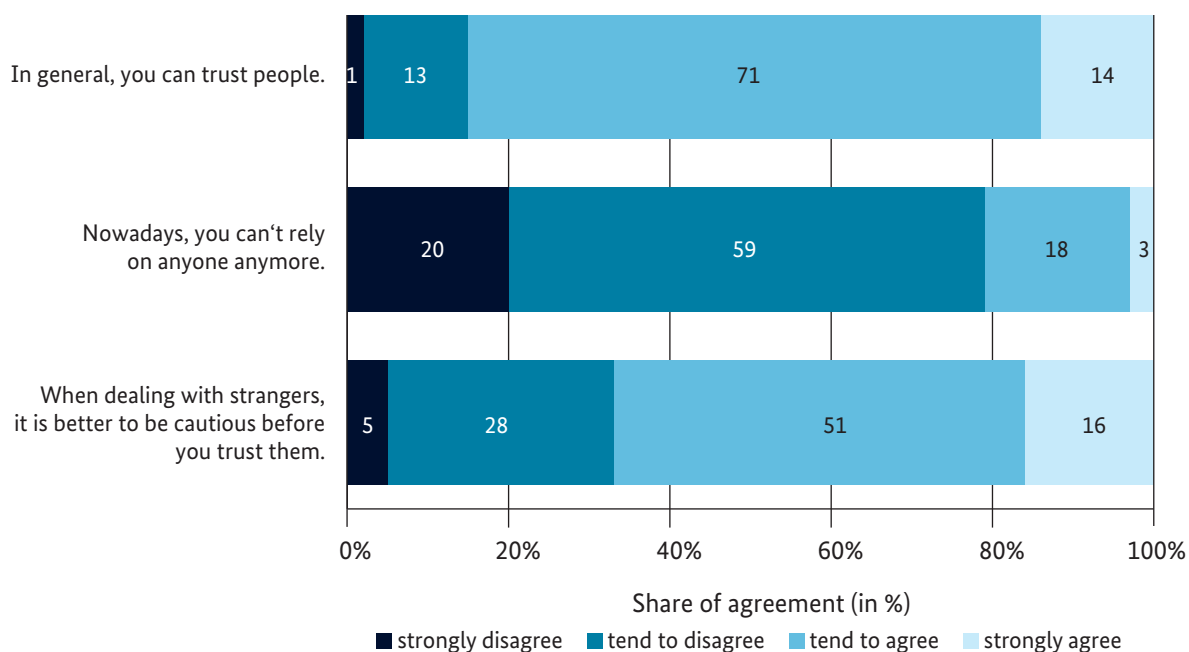


Fig. 21: Members' agreement to trust in other people (1="strongly disagree" to 4="strongly agree").

9 More recent SOEP values are not available here.

5 Conclusion



Sports clubs are membership organisations. Thus, the perspective of the members is of central importance to the clubs. The study shows that people are recruited for voluntary functions in the club from among the members and that members also support the club with other services.

Competitive sport is still very important for many sports club members and obviously also for the loyalty of the members to the club.

It is obvious that members are fairly or very satisfied with their club. Sports clubs are voluntary organisations; dissatisfied members can easily use the “exit option” and leave the club. Nonetheless, the data shows a very high level of partial satisfaction with the clubs and, as a result, a very high degree of loyalty to the club. This indicates that sports clubs are still highly attractive to many people, not only as sports providers but also as places for community gatherings.

However, significant differences between membership groups in terms of individual partial satisfaction give cause for reflection. Among other things, it is noticeable that female members are significantly less satisfied with the condition of the sanitary and changing rooms in sports facilities. The sometimes very different opinions of gender-diverse members give a reason for clarification, which should be investigated in further studies.

It is socially significant that sports club members have more social trust than the general population. This is consistent with the fact that they have a higher number of close friends and report higher life satisfaction than the general population. We are talking here about social correlates and not about the effects of membership since it is unclear to what extent there are selection or socialisation effects or a combination of both. In any case, there are people in sports clubs in Germany who are characterised by above-average social trust and above-average life satisfaction.

6 Method



6.1 Background

The Sport Development Reports – “Analyses of the Situation of Sports Clubs in Germany” represent a further development of the Financial and Structural Analyses of German Sport (FISAS) with the aim of providing decision-makers in organised sport as well as in public sports policy and administration with timely information relevant to policy fields and management (argumentation and know-how). This support is intended to strengthen the competitiveness of organised sport in times of dynamic social change. The project is financed by the 16 federal state sports confederations, the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) and the Federal Institute for Sports Science (BISp)¹⁰.

In mid-2017, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Christoph Breuer from the Institute of Sport Economics and Sport Management at the German Sport University Cologne was commissioned to carry out the seventh to ninth wave of the Sport Development Report (“SDR 3.0”). The methodical core concept of the Sport Development Report is still the development of a panel design. Therefore, starting with the seventh wave, the same sports clubs will be surveyed online about their situation every three years. Furthermore, new elements of the “SDR 3.0” are the so-called stakeholder surveys, i.e. surveys of different groups of people. In this context, the seventh wave of the survey also surveys coaches and trainers as well as board members in addition to the clubs. In the following eighth wave, another two groups of people will be surveyed, namely members and referees or officials. The individual stakeholder surveys will be carried out in waves seven to nine after the respective surveys of the clubs.

6.2 Procedure for the member survey

In the seventh wave of the Sport Development Report, not only the sports clubs themselves, i.e. the meso level, but also coaches and trainers as well as board members were surveyed for the first time, i.e. the micro level was integrated. In the present eighth wave, club members as well as referees were also surveyed. This extension has made it possible to develop the previous pure organisational surveys into an extended system analysis.

To contact the club members, the clubs were asked at the end of the club survey whether they would be willing to take part in the survey of their members. In the event of approval, the clubs were asked to provide an email address at which the clubs could be contacted as part of the member survey. The clubs were then asked to invite their members to participate in the survey (cf. section 6.4).

6.3 Measurement

The analysis of the groups of people, which are to be understood here as internal stakeholder groups of the clubs, is about the production of actionable knowledge. In the Sport Development Reports, for example, there is a problem of gaining and retaining members that has risen above the waves. As part of the internal stakeholder surveys, the question of the conditions and determinants of attracting and retaining this group arises. In particular, constructs of satisfaction, identification and future plans of the members (loyalty of the members) are used for this purpose. To operationalise these constructs, tested scales such as “Organizational Identification” (Mael & Ashforth, 1992), scales for measuring “Intention to continue”, i.e. the intention to continue the activity or, in the case of the mem-

¹⁰ Reference number ZMVI4-081802/17-26.

bers, to remain a member of the club (Clary et al., 1998; Hoye et al., 2008) and satisfaction (Leipnitz, 2014; McDonald & Shaw, 2005) are applied.

In addition, there is also the question of the social significance and the contribution to the common good of the actions of the internal stakeholder groups, which is of central importance for the perspective of argumentation knowledge. This perspective is operationalised on the basis of various questions about club membership and socio-demographic information.

6.4 Representation: sampling and response

Of the 20,179 clubs that took part in the eighth wave club survey, 4,349 clubs agreed to participate in the member survey. On June 21st, 2021, these clubs received the individual club link for forwarding and inviting their members to the survey. A reminder was sent during the field time, provided the clubs had not actively cancelled their participation (reminder sent on July 27th, 2021). The reminder led to an increased

response. The survey of the members was completed on August 26th, 2021. A total of 8,298 members from 1,329 clubs took part in the survey. Table 25 provides an overview differentiated by federal state.

6.5 Weighting

6.5.1 Calculation of the weighting factor

In this report, various evaluations are carried out, differentiated by age and gender. Since the distribution of age and gender in the present sample deviated from the population of sports club members in Germany (cf. Section 6.5.2), a weighting based on these factors was carried out for the present report.

For this purpose, in the data from the club survey of the eighth wave, the average proportion of members who hold an honorary position was set in relation to the proportion of members who indicated in the member survey that they held an honorary function. This approach was

Tab. 25: Participation by federal state.

Federal State	Club sample	Club participation	Members
		Number	
Bavaria	566	155	1,004
Hamburg	52	20	234
Berlin	101	32	193
Brandenburg	107	33	128
Bremen	21	6	56
Hesse	444	164	947
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	100	34	264
Lower Saxony	504	136	545
North Rhine-Westphalia	752	226	1,265
Rhineland-Palatinate	340	101	1,220
Saxony	230	77	362
Saxony-Anhalt	130	32	61
Thuringia	163	39	105
Baden-Wuerttemberg	577	177	1,394
Saarland	111	41	145
Schleswig Holstein	151	56	375
In total	4,349	1,329	8,298

chosen because it was suspected that members in voluntary positions would tend to participate more often in the member survey. This assumption was confirmed, as according to the club survey, the number of voluntary positions as a proportion of the total number of members was, on average, 14.4 %, while in the member survey, 43.5 % of the participating members stated that they held a voluntary position. For each individual case, i.e. each member, in the member survey, a weighting factor was calculated on the basis of these values.

In addition, weighting was also carried out according to the age and gender of the participants. For this purpose, the proportions of the genders and age groups in the sample were set in relation to the proportions based on the DOSB annual survey. A weighting factor was calculated for each gender and age group for each case in the sample.

The three calculated weighting factors (proportion of voluntary work, gender, age group) were then multiplied together to determine the final weighting factor with which the member sample was weighted for the final evaluation.

6.5.2 Gender and age of the sample with and without weighting

Before weighting, it was shown that more than half of the members surveyed were male (55.3 %), while 44.5 % were female, and gender-diverse members hardly played a role. At the time of the survey (2021), the participating members were, on average, 48 years old (average year of birth: 1973), with female members and gender-diverse people being slightly younger on average than male members (cf. Tab. 26).

Tab. 26: Gender and age of the surveyed members before weighting.

	Share of members (in %)	Year of birth Mean	Age
female	44.5	1976	45.0
male	55.3	1970	50.4
diverse	0.3	1978	42.5

After the weighting, a different picture emerges, which is relevant for the evaluations in this report. The proportion of female members is 42.8 %, male members 56.9 % and gender-diverse people 0.3% (cf. Tab. 27)¹¹. The average year of birth was 1986, i.e. the members were, on average, 34.7 years old at the time of the survey.

Tab. 27: Gender and age of the surveyed members according to the weighting.

	Sample	Total population according to the annual survey of the DOSB	Year of birth	Age
	Share of members (in %)		Mean	
female	42.8	39.5	1987	33.9
male	56.9	60.5	1986	35.4
diverse	0.3	n.a.	1992	29.4

There was an even clearer distortion in the age groups when comparing the members involved in the survey and the total population according to the DOSB annual survey. For example, children and adolescents were in some cases heavily underrepresented in the sample, while the age groups of 41- to 60-year-olds and those over 60 were overrepresented (cf. Tab. 28).

¹¹ Gender-diverse people were not included in the weighting because they have only been surveyed since 2022 in the DOSB annual survey and it was assumed that the survey was not yet carried out systematically everywhere. In addition, the present report refers to the year 2021 and accordingly the annual survey of 2021 is relevant (DOSB, 2021), in which gender-diverse members are not yet shown.

Tab. 28: Age groups of the surveyed members before weighting.

Age groups	Sample	Total population according to the annual survey of the DOSB
		Share (in %)
up to 6 years	0.3	4.9
7 to 14 years	4.1	16.9
15 to 18 years	4.0	7.2
19 to 26 years	7.3	10.1
27 to 40 years	17.6	15.3
41 to 60 years	38.5	25.7
over 60 years	28.2	20.0

If you look at the distribution of the age groups of the participating members according to the weighting, it shows that almost 7 % were children up to 6 years old, and a good 22 % were children between 7 and 14 years old. Nearly 8 % were between 15 and 18 years old. The largest share falls within the age group of 41- to 60-year-old members (cf. Tab. 29).

Tab. 29: Age groups of the surveyed members according to the weighting.

Age groups	Sample weighted (share in %)
up to 6 years	6.8
7 to 14 years	22.3
15 to 18 years	7.8
19 to 26 years	8.8
27 to 40 years	13.9
41 to 60 years	22.5
over 60 years	17.9

If a comparison is made with the total population in Germany, it becomes clear that men are slightly overrepresented in the present data set of members compared to the general population. In the year of the 2021 survey, 49.3 %

of the population living in Germany was male (Statistisches Bundesamt, 2021). The average age was 44.7 years (Statistisches Bundesamt, 2022a). However, if one considers the annual membership statistics of the DOSB, then comparatively, slightly more women took part in the survey than they are represented in total in the sports clubs. The proportion of female sports club memberships in 2021 was 39.5 %¹² (DOSB, 2021). However, the imbalance in the data set was adjusted by the weighting.

6.6 Other characteristics of the weighted sample

In the following sections, the weighted sample of club members in this report is described based on socio-demographic characteristics as well as some other relevant characteristics for the sports club context. This should also help to better classify the results in chapters 2, 3 and 4.

6.6.1 Socio-demographic background

6.6.1.1 Migration background

Around 10 % of the participating members said they had a migration background¹³. There were no significant differences between the sexes. 11.1 % of the female and 9.8 % of the male members stated that they had a migration background, while 34.4 % of the gender-diverse people did.

Compared to the population, people with a migration background are underrepresented in the present data set of club members. It turns out that more than a quarter of the population living in Germany (27.2 %) had a migration background in 2021 (Statistisches Bundesamt, 2022b).

¹² The figures from the state sports confederations for the year 2021 from the DOSB annual survey (DOSB, 2021) serve as the basis for calculation.

¹³ Based on the definition of the Federal Statistical Office (Statistisches Bundesamt, 2022b), there is a migration background if the person or at least one parent was not born with German citizenship.

6.6.1.2 Education and training

A total of 32.5 % of the club members stated that they were still in training, although there were no significant differences between the sexes. Among male members, the percentage of people in training is 31.4 %, among females 34.2 %, and among gender-diverse people 0 %.

As far as the educational qualifications of the members are concerned, the overall level of education is quite high. Around 33 % of the members have a university or technical college degree. Another 11 % have a general higher education entrance qualification, i.e. they have A-Levels, and around 8 % have an advanced technical college entrance qualification. Around 16 % stated that they had completed intermediate school with a leaving certificate as their highest level of education, and 5 % had completed secondary school. Almost one-fifth of the members who took part in the survey have not

(yet) completed their education (cf. Fig. 22), although this is probably primarily due to the proportion of children and adolescents.

6.6.1.3 Working time

When asked about their weekly working hours, the club members gave an average working time of 31.9 hours, with male members working an average of 33.4 hours, female members an average of 29.9 hours and gender-diverse people 44 hours. Overall, half of the members indicated a maximum weekly working time of up to 39 hours, which corresponds to (almost) a full-time job. Furthermore, 1.7 % of the members stated that they were on short-time work (at the time of the survey). There were no gender differences here.

6.6.1.4 Disabilities

In addition, the club members were asked whether they had a disability. Here 4.1 % of the

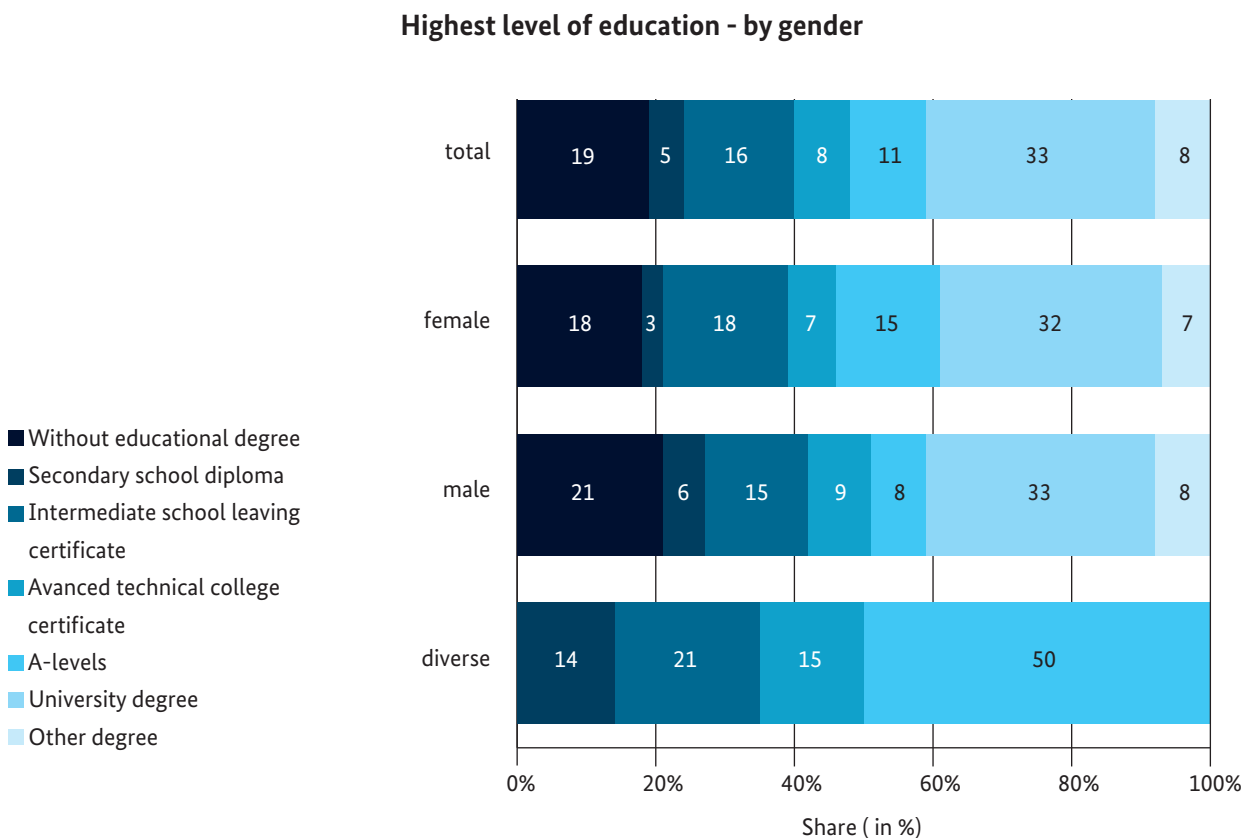


Fig. 22: Highest level of education of the members, by gender (share in %).

members stated that they had a disability with a degree of less than 50 per cent, and 4.2 % stated that they had a disability with a degree of 50 per cent or more (severe disability). As a result, almost 92 % of the club members involved do not have a disability. Compared to the entire German population, the proportion of severely disabled people among the members taking part in the survey is below the national average, which was 9.4 % or a total of around 7.8 million people in 2021 (Statistisches Bundesamt, 2022c).

6.6.1.5 Income

In addition, the members were asked about their personal monthly net income. 36.5 % did not want to provide any information on income, with this being the case most frequently for female members. If you look at those members who provided information about their income, you can see that the club members surveyed come from all income brackets. Almost 32 % of the members stated that they had an average income of € 1,500 to € 3,500. A good 7 % of the members earn a monthly net income of more than € 4,500, whereby this proportionately applies most frequently to men (cf. Tab. 30).

Tab. 30: Monthly net income of the members.

Euro	Share (in %)			
	Total	female	male	diverse
up to 500	6.3	6.3	6.4	7.3
501 - 1,500	10.2	15.8	6.3	0.0
1,501 - 2,500	16.8	19.2	15.2	81.1
2,501 - 3,500	15.0	11.2	17.6	0.0
3,501 - 4,500	8.0	5.3	9.9	6.0
over 4,500	7.2	4.0	9.5	0.0
no information	36.5	38.3	35.2	5.6

6.6.2 Main sport

The members surveyed stated that they were mainly active in various sports in their club. Dance sports, tennis, apparatus gymnastics, swimming, soccer, gymnastics, fitness/aerobics,

athletics, volleyball and shooting sports were mentioned most frequently. Table 31 provides an overview of further participation in the main sports most frequently practised. The questions on sporting behaviour and the use of sporting activities in the club each relate to the main sport.

Tab. 31: Main sport practised in the club (proportion of members in %).

Main Sport	Share (in %)
Dance sport	7.0
Tennis	6.1
Apparatus gymnastics (incl. children's gymnastics)	5.8
Swimming (including open water swimming)	5.7
Soccer (Football)	5.5
Gymnastics (all types, including rhythmic gymnastics)	5.1
Fitness / Aerobics	5.0
Athletics (Track and Field)	4.8
Volleyball (indoor / beach / snow)	4.0
Shooting (including archery)	3.6
Handball (indoor and beach)	2.7
Rowing	2.5
Table tennis	2.4
Health sports	2.0
Sailing	1.9
Karate	1.6
Equestrian	1.6
Cycling	1.6
Basketball / Street Ball	1.5
Canoeing (including canoe polo, kayaking, rafting)	1.4
Chess	1.4
Skiing	1.4
Baseball/Softball	1.3
Badminton	1.2
Figure skating	1.1

6.7 Structural characteristics of the participating members' clubs

As described in the previous section, the surveyed members come from sports clubs in all 16 federal states. Here, 83.8 % of the clubs are in the old and 16.2 % in the new federal states of Germany.

A look at the size of the clubs to which the members surveyed belong shows that a good 61 % of the clubs are small clubs with up to 300 members, while a good quarter of the clubs are medium-sized. A good one in ten clubs has between 1,000 and 2,500 members, and around 2 % of the clubs are large clubs with more than 2,500 members (cf. Tab. 32).

Tab. 32 : Size of the sports clubs of the participating members in comparison to the total population (distribution in %).

Club size (in members)	Sample	Population of clubs 2020 Share (in %)
until 100	30.7	46.2
101-300	30.7	29.3
301-1,000	25.9	20.1
1,001-2,500	10.5	3.7
over 2,500	2.1	0.7

Around 55 % of the clubs are single sport clubs, and about 45 % are multisports clubs, with an average founding year of 1951. However, the distribution shows that both very old and very young clubs are represented in the sample of the member survey (cf. Tab. 33).

Tab. 33: Founding years of the sports clubs of the participating members (distribution in %).

Founding years	Share (in %)
before 1900	13.0
1900 to 1915	10.0
1916 to 1930	10.5

Founding years	Share (in %)
1931 to 1945	2.2
1946 to 1960	14.7
1961 to 1975	14.7
1976 to 1990	14.2
1991 to 2005	11.7
since 2006	9.0

The sports clubs of the participating members are located in communities of various sizes. A good 44 % of the clubs are located in small communities with up to 20,000 inhabitants, while a good one in ten clubs is based in a large community or city with more than 500,000 inhabitants (cf. Tab. 34).

Tab. 34: Community size of the sports clubs of the participating members in inhabitants.

Municipality size (in inhabitants)	Share (in %)
up to 20,000	44.1
20,001 to 100,000	30.9
100,001 to 500,000	14.7
over 500,000	10.3

6.8 Data evaluation

6.8.1 Tests for differences

In order to check whether there are statistically significant differences between different groups (e.g. between the sexes or age groups), t-tests and univariate analyses of variance (ANOVA) were used in the present report. In the figures and tables of this report, statistically significant differences are given the usual labelling (see Section 6.8.3).

If several groups are compared with each other (e.g. the age groups), the figures or tables indicate whether there are generally statistically significant differences between the groups. Exactly which groups differ from each other (e.g. the younger ones from the older ones) is explained at selected points in the text.

6.8.2 Analysis of relationships: correlation analysis

A correlation analysis is used to examine whether there is a connection between different variables, e.g. between the age of the respondents and the length of membership. The correlation coefficient r can be used to determine whether there is a positive or negative relationship between two variables. Here, r can assume values between -1 and $+1$, with an amount close to 1 representing a strong correlation and an amount close to 0 a weak correlation.

6.8.3 Error probabilities

A significance level of $\alpha=0.05$ is set for all statistical tests in this report. The level of the error probability, which is decisive for determining the significance, is illustrated with the usual labelling (cf. Tab. 35). If the probability of error in the calculation is at most 5% , the result is, therefore, a significant one.

Tab. 35: Overview of error probabilities in statistical calculations and their identification.

symbol	meaning
*	significant, i.e. error probability of the calculation is equal to/less than 5%
**	very significant, i.e. probability of error in the calculation is equal to/less than 1%
***	highly significant, i.e. probability of error in the calculation is equal to/less than 0.1%

6.9 Limitations

The procedure described above concerning contacting and questioning the members had to be chosen because another type of contacting was not possible due to data protection restrictions and a lack of a database. In addition, with regard to the planned multi-level analyses, it had to be ensured that the members could be assigned to their respective clubs. However, this procedure means that club members could only take part in the survey if their associated club had previously also participated in the club survey.

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