# Product packaging policies and their role in improving the promotional mix of commercial companies exhibiting in the sports market from The consumer's perspective

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#### **Introduction to the research:**

The internationalization and globalization of Commercial business forced many companies to reconsider what contributes to their competitive advantage, and the difference can occur through new policies, for example innovative packaging in terms of distinctive design in terms of cover, stamp, text and shape of the packaging for a pair of sports shoes provided by the company (ADIDAS), which has become the biggest brand in the sports products market, can change product perception and create a new market position. (Packforsk, 2001).

There is no doubt that the design of the upgraded packages affects the increase in sales. These impacts stem from changes in consumer values such as convenience and functionality, as well as environmental issues and safety and security factors, (Packaging Federation, 2004). For example, other influences come from the new requirements of print quality in packaging, so packaging has become an important promotional tool for many products in a competitive business and sports environment. (Banks, S. 1950), and this is consistent with the results of a study (Prendergast and Pitt, 1996), packaging packages should perform many functions and many research emphasize the promotional and marketing function and that the package provides convenience in handling and storing the product.

In order for the packaging to develop its functions appropriately, the design, graphics, and packaging size will be subject to market research conducted by the company and the company's position in the market (Ivañez Gimeno, 2000), and this is consistent with the results of the (Underwood, 2003) study, in that packaging policies are undoubtedly linked With strategic decisions for the promotional mix in commercial enterprises.

Packaging design has become an important factor in promoting different products in the commercial markets and in the sports field. As it can be considered an integral part of the product, since the packaging can contribute to delivering the benefits of the product to the consumer, in some cases it is necessary to use the product, and it may be the same product. (George, 2005)

From the consumer's perspective, packaging also plays a major role when purchasing products, since it is the first thing that the public sees before making the final purchase decision (Giovannetti, 1995). This importance has increased with the application of packaging-based self-service sales systems to attract attention and cause purchase (Fantoni, 2003), which is why packaging is called the 'silent seller', because it informs us of the qualities and benefits that we will obtain if we consume a specific product (Giovannetti, 1995) This is consistent with a study (McNeal et al, 2003), a study in which packaging provides producers with the last opportunity to convince potential buyers before choosing a brand, therefore, all elements of packaging, including texts, colors, structure, images and people / characters must be combined to provide the consumer By visual negotiation of sales when purchasing a product Use it

Numerous studies indicate various product packaging functions related to the promotion process (**Prendergast and Pitt, 1996**). Which shows the increasing importance of product packaging as a promotional tool, through the use of new media, public relations and personal selling houses, but also the importance of purchasing decisions. (**Underwood et al, 2001**)

## **Research problem:**

Packaging is an important trade in the industrial part of the world and becomes more important for promotional purposes in developing countries. The value of the global packaging market is estimated at 500 billion USD, equivalent to 1 to 2 percent of gross national product. (Packforsk, 2001)

Global packaging expenditures are estimated from 1998 to 2019, around 27 percent in Europe, 21 percent in North America and 16 percent in Japan. The rest of the world represents 36 percent.

Research recommendations related to packaging included a communicative and promotional role, such as (Underwood et al, 2001), (Bonn and Currie, 2000), (Lee et al, 2003), (Bo Rundh, 2005), (Garreston.et.al, 2005). (Ampuero, 2006), (Raghubir and Greenleaf, 2006), (Bo Rundh, 2009), where she recommended attention to the packaging component to achieve a competitive advantage for producing companies, attention to packaging to deliver the product to the consumer, packaging plays the role of the silent salesman in showing the benefits of the product To the consumer, the interest of commercial companies in all areas with the packaging component to increase sales, increase the market share in institutions in the commercial markets by paying attention to product packaging.

Through the above, the researcher is trying through this study to reach the main role that packaging plays in delivering the personality of the sporting product to the consumer, as the study aims to discover the role of product packaging policies in improving the promotional mix of commercial companies in the sports field.

#### **Research Objective:**

The research aims to identify the role of product packaging policies in improving the promotional mix for commercial companies exhibiting in the sports market, through the following sub-goals:

- 1. Study the relationship between the product packaging policy axes and the promotional mix axes for sports commercial companies.
- 2. Clarify the relationship between the demographic variables of the sample and each of the product packaging policies and its axes, the promotional mix of sports commercial companies and its axes.
- 3. Disclosure of the nature of the specific differences Research in each of the product packaging policies and its axes, the promotional mix of sports commercial companies and its axes. By (age)
- 4. Knowing the differences between the sample searches in each of the product packaging policies and its axes, the promotional mix of sports commercial companies and its axes. According to (income level).

#### **Research hypotheses:**

- 1. There is a statistically significant correlation between the product packaging policies and its axes, the promotional mix of sports commercial companies and its axes.
- 2. There is a statistically significant correlation between the demographic variables of the sample and each of the product packaging policies and its axes, the promotional mix of sports commercial companies and its axes.
- 3. There are statistically significant differences between the averages of the research sample degrees in each of the product packaging policies and its axes, the promotional mix of sports commercial companies and its axes. By (age).
- 4. There is a statistically significant difference between the degrees of the research sample in all product packaging policies and its axes, the promotional mix of sports commercial companies and its axes. According to (income level).

# **Search procedures:**

#### The Method used:

The researcher used the descriptive method and the survey method to suit the research nature.

# research community:

Consumers of commercial companies products exhibiting in the sports field.

# The research sample:

The exploratory sample, numbered (50) individuals from the consumers of commercial companies' products exhibiting in the sports

field in the Egyptian Arabic Republic, was chosen randomly from outside the main research sample and representative of the research community, from (2/12/2019), to (25/12/2019).

The main sample of the research consisted of (409) consumers of commercial companies products exhibiting in the sports field from (3) commercial companies (Adidas-Nike-Buma) in (5) different governorates (Cairo - Minya - Dakahlia - Damietta - Alexandria), in the Egyptian Arabic Republic, ethical guidelines were adhered to while conducting the research and the field application of the research tools was finalized from (4/1/2020) to (28/1/2020), as shown in Table (1):

Table (1) A numerical and relative statement of the sample

N	Governorate	ADIDAS		NIKE		BUMA		Total	
11	N Governorate		%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	Cairo	21	15.3%	22	16.1%	20	14.7%	63	24.4%
2	Minya	17	12.4%	10	7.3%	15	11%	42	10.2%
3	Dakahlia	45	32.8%	51	37.5%	44	32.3%	140	34.2%
4	Damietta	33	24%	43	25%	34	25%	101	24.9%
5	Alexandria	24	17.1%	19	13.9%	20	15%	63	15.4%
	Total	140	34.2%	136	33.2%	133	32.5%	409	100%

#### **Data collection tools:**

"Basic Data" form for the research sample. Appendix (1)

- 1. "Product Packaging Policies Questionnaire" (prepared by the researcher), Appendix (2)
- 2. "Promotional Mix for Packaging Questionnaire", (prepared by the researcher), Appendix (3)
- Basic Data form for research sample: It included the following data: name, age, income level.
- The product packaging policy form, which includes three axes, namely the quality of the cover, the shape and design of the packaging, and the social and environmental considerations of the packaging in its final form.
- The promotional mix form for packaging, which includes four axes, namely advertising, sales promotion, public relations, and personal selling in its final form.
- In the light of research concepts and terms, and within the framework of the procedural concept and previous studies, their response is determined according to the five-year estimate (strongly agree agree sometimes disagree strongly disagree) on a continuous scale (1 2 3 4 5) for the phrases.

# Statistical coefficients for the questionnaire:

First: Calculating the honesty coefficient:

#### 1- The validity of the arbitrators:

The researcher relied on the honesty of the experts in order to determine the suitability of the phrases and axes of The product packaging policy questionnaire and The promotional mix form for packaging questionnaire, as some of the phrases were deleted, modified and added based on expert opinions.

#### 2- Truthfulness of internal consistency:

To verify the suitability of the questionnaire expressions, the researcher applied the questionnaire to a survey sample of (50) from the consumers of sports products for commercial companies in the sports market in the Egyptian Arabic Republic, appointed by the research. The researcher used the validity of the internal consistency to calculate the validity of the axes and phrases of the questionnaire by finding the correlation coefficient between the phrases and their axes.

It was found that there was a statistically significant relationship at the level of significance (0.01), (0.05) between the two product packaging policy questionnaires, and the promotional mix of packaging and their expressions, where the calculated value of (R) was greater than the tabular in all terms, and thus can be based on the sincerity of the internal consistency between The axes and phrases of both questionnaires and the degree of the axis to which it belongs.

#### **Second: Calculation of the Reliability factor:**

The researcher used the Alpha Cronbach coefficient and the indication of internal consistency, to calculate the coefficient of stability of the axes of the questionnaire, where the researcher applied the questionnaire to a survey sample consisting of (50) consumers of sports products for commercial companies in the sports market in the Egyptian Arabic Republic.

The stability coefficient was calculated for the axes of the two questionnaires, as the consistency coefficient of Alfa Kronbach (0.865) for the questionnaire of product packaging policies, and the stability of the Alfa Kronbach coefficient (0.906) for the questionnaire of the promotional mix of packaging, and the internal consistency coefficient for each axis D, indicating the high coefficient of stability of the axes of the two questionnaires.

# Discussion and interpretation of statistical significance: First: Descriptive results of the research sample:

The descriptive results showed that the calculated value of (Ca2) is greater than the tabular (9.49), for all terms of the product packaging policy

questionnaire, where the calculated value of (Ca2) ranged between (25.02: 270.81), which shows the presence of statistically significant differences in all terms.

Also, the phrases related to the promotional mix questionnaire for packaging, where the calculated value of (Ca2) ranged between (25.72: 191.45), which shows the presence of statistically significant differences in all terms.

# Second: The results of the basic research sample in light of the research hypotheses:

1. There is a statistically significant correlation between the product packaging policies and its axes, the promotional mix of sports commercial companies and its axes.

It is clear from Table (2), Appendix (4) that there is a positive correlation relationship statistically significant at the level (0,01) between the product packaging policies with their axes and the promotional mix of packaging, and the results of this study agreed with the study of both (Al-Amoush, 2010), (Ibn Mansour, 2017) In that good packaging plays an essential role in achieving competitive advantages for companies in the government and private sectors and one of the most important competitive advantages is the development of the use of the promotional mix for institutions and thus increasing sales and adjusting the intention of purchase and its behavior for the consumer of products in general, The researcher believes that the greater the interest of commercial institutions in the sports market in the quality of the cover and the continuous development of the cover design and taking into account environmental changes, customs and social traditions, a positive impact on advertising, public relations, personal selling and sales activation in sports institutions and thus achieve the first assumption entirely.

2. There are statistically significant differences between the averages of the research sample degrees in each of the product packaging policies and its axes, the promotional mix of sports commercial companies and its axes. By (age).

It is clear from Table (3), Appendix (5) there is a negative correlation relationship statistically significant at the level of significance (0.05) between the axis of the shape and design of the cover and the age, the axis of sales activation and the income level of the research sample, and these results are consistent with the results of a study (KJO, 2005) in that considerations Packaging works to build a mental image faster with older consumers, that recreational practices among members of society are greatly influenced by various factors of cultural change. This can be explained by the large difference in consumer interests in the shape and design of the packaging according to the difference in ages, due to the interest of the younger consumers in the shape of the cover more than

others, and there is a difference in stimulating sales according to the level of income, because consumers with greater income are more buying than less income. Thus, the second assumption was partially achieved.

3. There are statistically significant differences between the averages of the research sample degrees in each of the product packaging policies and its axes, the promotional mix of sports commercial companies and its axes. By (age).

It is clear from Table (4), Appendix (6) that there are statistically significant differences at the level of significance (0.05), between the mean scores of the research sample in the axis of advertising in favor of the age group (from 20-30 years), and the results of this study agree with a study (Samahy, 2016) with the effect of The visual and informational factors of packaging on the consumer's purchasing decision, due to the effect of the age factor in favor of the younger age group in sports commercials, given that they are more interested in and searching for ads, whether traditional or electronic, and more affected by them. Thus, the third hypothesis was partially achieved.

4. There is a statistically significant difference between the degrees of the research sample in all product packaging policies and its axes, the promotional mix of sports commercial companies and its axes. According to (income level).

It is clear from Table (5), Appendix (7) that there is no discrepancy between the degrees of the research sample in the questionnaire of product packaging policies, and the questionnaire of the promotional mix of packaging, according to the level of income, due to the interest of all members of the sample in the quality and shape of the packaging and its design and influencing advertising of all kinds, and thus the fourth hypothesis did not achieve entirely.

#### Research results and recommendations:

# First: Descriptive research results:

The descriptive results showed that the calculated value of (Ca2) is greater than the tabular (9.49), for all phrases of the two questionnaires, where the calculated value of (Ca2) ranged between (25.02: 270.81), which shows the presence of statistically significant differences in all phrases.

# **Second: Results in light of research hypotheses:**

- There is a negative correlation between the product packaging policies and the improvement of the promotional mix in the commercial enterprises exhibiting in the sports field.
- The mean of the responses of the research sample in the advertisement on the cover of sports products for the age group (20-30 years) varies.

- Similarity of the responses of the research sample according to the age factor in the interest in the quality of the cover.
- The convergence of levels of the high-income research sample and others in personal selling.
- Convergence of the research sample in product packaging policies, and the promotional mix of packaging, depending on the level of income.

#### Third: Research Recommendations:

Based on the findings of the research results, and in light of the research hypotheses, the researcher provides these recommendations to the commercial companies exhibiting in the sports market in the Arab Republic of Egypt As follows:

- Developing the shape and design of sports product packaging, by:
  - Attention to choose attractive attractive colors.
  - Put pictures of famous athletes on the back of the cover.
  - The necessity of creating a packaging form for sports products.
  - Pay attention to designs with simple engineering dimensions.
- Paying attention to social and environmental considerations when designing, through:
  - Packaging products using environmentally friendly materials.
  - Convenience of the cover for health and preventive conditions.
  - To be acceptable to society and to take into account living habits.
  - The need to use the image and logos that suit the social environment.
- Product packaging works in an attractive and elegant manner in the success of corporate advertising campaigns.
- The packaging should contain the components that make up the product, weight, date of production, company name and country of origin.
- Paying attention to the way the product is displayed, especially how similar products are displayed in the adjacent shelves.
- Work to ensure that good packaging paints a positive image for the producing company.

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# Appendix (1)

## Basic data form for the research sample

1- <b>Name</b> (optional ):	
<b>2- Age:</b> ( ) From 20: 30 year	
<b>3- Income level:</b> ( ) High	() Medium () Low.

Appendix (2)
Sports product packaging policies
(Independent variable)

N	Phrase	Strong Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strong Disagree		
	Frist Axis:							

		Q.		<u> </u>		G.
N	Phrase	Strong Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strong Disagree
						Disagree
	Good poolenging raduage	Cover	<u>[uanty</u>	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
1	Good packaging reduces damage and damage to					
•	sports products.					
	The quality and consistency					
	of the packing material in					
2	terms of shape and color					
	give a positive impression					
	of the commodity.  The company uses modern					
_	techniques in designing the					
3	cover to face external					
	factors.					
	Good packaging beers,					
4	product features and					
	specifications.					
5	The size of the wrapper reflects the amount inside.					
	A good coating helps					
6	protect the properties of the					
	product.					
7	Maintains product					
	consistency and quality.					
8	I prefer good packaging with a similar good with					
o	poor packaging.					
		The Secon	nd Axis:			
	Cov	er shape	and desi	ign		
	Appropriate selection of					
9	materials included in the					
	product packaging attracts					
	consumers.  My interest is sparkled with					
10	eye catching color goods					
	Good cover design builds a					
11	positive mindset about the					
	sporting product.					
	The best pictures of famous					
12	athletes are put on the back					
	of the cover.					
13	The shape of the wrapping increases my reach of the					
13	sporting product.					
	The best transparent					
14	packaging because it					
14	enables you to see the					
	product.					

N	Phrase	Strong Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strong Disagree
15	I love sports products with innovative packaging					
16	Smooth and attractive packaging helps to attract consumers of the competing brand.					
17	The best shapes with simple geometric dimensions.					
		The Thir				
	Social and e	nvironm	ental cor	<u>isideratio</u>	ns	
18	Product packaging includes materials that are not harmful to the environment.					
19	Convenience of the cover for sanitary and protective conditions.					
20	The product packaging can be used for other purposes after its completion.					
21	To be accepted by society and taking into account living habits.					
22	The image and logos used in the packaging of products to suit the social environment					
23	I am interested in purchasing environmentally friendly packaging.					

# Appendix (3)

# The promotional mix for commercial companies (Dependent variable)

N	Phrase	Strong	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strong
		Agree			8	Disagree
		Frist A				
24	I affected by the advertising message on the cover.					
25	I trust the information on the cover.					
26	The product ad is mainly cover dependent.					
27	Attractively and elegantly wrapped the product in its advertising campaigns.					
28	Sufficient information is available on the cover that interests the consumer and arouses his desire to purchase.					
29	The packaging contains the components that make up the product, weight, date of production, company name and country of origin					
30	Bar codes help me quickly to identify the country of origin of the product					
	7	The Secon				
31	The package size affects the purchase intent of the sporting product.					
32	The country of manufacture of the mark affects the purchasing decision.					
33	Good packaging helps me easily identify the product among alternative products.					
34	The cover takes into account the purchasing habits of luxury, comfort and ease of use.					
35	The product brand affects his buying intent.					
36	Pay attention to how the product is displayed,					

N	Phrase	Strong Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strong Disagree
	especially how similar products are displayed in adjacent shelves.					
		The Thir Public ro				
37	Good packaging paints a positive picture for the producing company.					
38	The packaging contains information regarding the negative effects caused by misuse of the product.					
39	Packaging reflects a clear picture of consumer attitudes towards it.					
40	The cover contains numbers on consumer protection.					
41	The cover contains information to protect me from fraud and commercial fraud.					
42	The packaging contains safety and security related information when in use.					
	]	The Four Personal				
43	A good packaging helps the salesman persuade the consumer of the product.		J			
44	Good packaging contains the benefits the product has to offer.					
45	Packaging helps the salesman attract new consumers					
46	Get answers to all questions using the information in the cover.					
47	The packaging helps the personal salesman show off the advantages of sporting products.					
48	There is a constant development in the information on the cover of sports products.					

# Appendix (4)

Table (2) Correlation coefficients between product packaging policies with its axes and the promotional mix of packaging with its axes (n = 409)

		Promotional mix for packaging							
Variables		Advertising	Stimulate sales	Public relations	Personal selling	Total Degree			
Pr	Cover quality	0.450**	0.413**	0.382**	0.486**	0.511**			
Product packaging	Cover shape and design	0.511**	0.581**	0.474**	0.623**	0.650**			
	Social and environmental considerations	0.473**	0.507**	0.470**	0.498**	0.576**			
ing	Total Degree	0.558**	0.585**	0.511**	0.632**	0.677**			

# Appendix (5)

Table (3) Correlation coefficients between product packaging policies with its axis and the promotional mix of packaging with its axis and some variables of the demographic study (n = 409)

	Variables	Age	Income level	
-	Cover quality	-0.013	0.021	
Pr ac po	Cover shape and design	-0.121*	-0.029	
Product packaging policies	Cover shape and design Social and environmenta considerations	0.017	-0.006	
079	Total Degree	-0.027	-0.007	
P <sub>1</sub>	Advertising	0.001	-0.005	
romotiona mix for packaging	Stimulate sales	-0.068	-0.109*	
not ix f kaş	Public relations	-0.057	-0.068	
otion for agin	Personal selling	-0.096	-0.025	
<u> </u>	Total Degree	-0.67	-0.037	

<sup>(\*\*)</sup> significant at the level (0.01)

<sup>(\*)</sup> significant at the level (0.05)

# Appendix (6)

Table (4) Differences between the averages of the sample degrees of research in the policies of product packaging with its axis and the promotional mix of packaging with its axis according to age (n = 409)

	Axes	Age	Mean	Std. deviation	Mean Differences	(t)	Sig
	Cover quality	20: 30 (N= 213)	21.08	6.31	0.1657	0.27	No.
	cover quanty	30: 40 (N= 196)	20.29	5.98	0.1037	0.27	Sig
Produ	Cover shape	20: 30 (N= 213)	25.43	6.98	0.7737	1.12	No.
Product packaging policies	and design	30: 40 (N= 196)	24.65	6.94	0.1731	1.12	Sig
aging p	Social and environmental considerations	20: 30 (N= 213)	15.93	4.28	-0.1422	-0.34	No.
olicies		30: 40 (N= 196)	16.07	4.10	VILTER	-0.54	Sig
	Total Degree	20: 30 (N= 213)	62.45	15.09	0.7972	0.054	No.
		30: 40 (N= 196)	61.65	14.70	VII.372	0.00	Sig
	Advertising	20: 30 (N= 213)	17.11	4.22	0.0089	0.02	Sig at (0,05)
		30: 40 (N= 196)	17.10	4.79	0.000		30: 40
Prom	Stimulate	20: 30 (N= 213)	17.00	5.74	0.7598	1.37	No.
Promotional mix for packaging	sales	30: 40 (N= 196)	16.24	5.44		100	Sig
mix fo	Public	20: 30 (N= 213)	14.25	4.41	0.4929	1.14	No.
r pack:	relations	30: 40 (N= 196)	13.76	4.26	0.1929	1.1.4	Sig
aging	Personal	20: 30 (N= 213)	16.02	5.08	0.9414	1.94	No.
	selling	30: 40 (N= 196)	15.08	4.65	V.2717	1.77	Sig
	Total Degree	20: 30 (N= 213)	64.39	16.92	2.1851	1.34	No. Sig

Axes	Age	Mean	Std. deviation	Mean Differences	(t)	Sig
	30: 40 (N= 196)	62.20	15.82			

# Appendix (7)

Table (5) Differences between the study sample in each of the product packaging policies in its hubs and the promotional mix of packaging in its hubs according to the income level (n = 409)

	ti.	ie medine iev	CI (II – 407)				
Questionnaire	Variables	Contrast Source	Sum Of Square	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig
	Cover quality	Between Groups Within Groups Total	19.42 15422.53 15441.96	2 406 408	9.71 37.98	0.25	No. Sig
Product pa	Cover shape and design	Between Groups Within Groups Total	21.60 19707.86 19729.47	2 406 408	10.80 48.54	0.22	No. Sig
Product packaging policies	Social and environmental considerations	Between Groups Within Groups Total	1.41 7173.58 7174.99	2 406 408	0.70 17.66	0.40	No. Sig
	Total Degree	Between Groups Within Groups Total	4.12 90489.67 90493.80	2 406 408	2.06 222.88	0.009	No. Sig
Promotional mix for packaging	Advertising	Between Groups Within Groups Total	1.68 8355.57 8357.26	2 406 408	0.84 20.58	0.04	No. Sig
l mix for ging	Stimulate sales	Between Groups Within Groups	11.08 12819.08	2 406	5.54 31.57	0.17	No. Sig

Questionnaire	Variables	Contrast Source	Sum Of Square	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig
		Total	12830.16	408			
	Public relations	Between Groups Within	36.21 7666.58	2 406	18.10 18.88	0.95	No. Sig
		Groups Total	7702.80	408			
	Personal selling	Between Groups Within	7.16 9782.65	2 406	3.58 24.09	0.14	No. Sig
		Groups Total	9789.82	408			
	Total Degree	Between Groups	148.79	2	74.39 270.65	0.27	No. Sig
		Within Groups Total	109883.90 110032.69	406 408			