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Le mardi 26 janvier 2021 | de 12 h à 13 h

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Par téléphone: 438-809-7799 | ID de réunion: 879 0427 0571

Gordon Bloom: Coaching and Learning in Paraspport

There are currently many global opportunities designed to improve the quality and quantity of services available to paraspport athletes. The acquisition of skills from these opportunities are further enhanced by the presence of trained and skilled coaches. Unfortunately, paraspport coaches are often left with minimal resources or educational opportunities to develop their practices compared to coaches of athletes without a disability. As such, the purpose of the current presentation is to review paraspport coaching literature to identify effective ways for coach learning and development in this domain, including but not limited to workshops, mentors, and personal reflection. Further, the importance of being creative, using trial and error, as well as fostering autonomy and independence for their athletes will be presented.

Danielle Alexander: An Examination of the dominant Discourses Surrounding Paraspport Coaches in Newspaper Media over a 20-year time Span

Media representation of paraspport has the power to support or marginalize this community depending on the way it is portrayed. Our study examined how newspaper media portrayed dominant discourses surrounding paraspport coaches over a 20-year time span. Data were collected using the LexisNexis Academic database to search for full-text newspaper articles from January 1, 1999 to January 1, 2019. 83 articles were included for review from 66 newspaper sources around the world. A critical discourse analysis was chosen to examine the social, political, and cultural discourses surrounding paraspport coaches in the media. Following our analysis, we identified two overarching discourses labelled: "No different than their able-bodied counterparts" and "There are unique differences to consider". This set of discourses offered contrasting views of what it meant to be an effective coach for athletes with disabilities, including the societal ramifications of representing the dichotomy of able versus disabled in the media.

Lara Pomerleau-Fontaine: Exploring the Coach-Athlete Relationship of Wheelchair Basketball Athletes who have an Acquired disability

The current study explored the coach-athlete relationship of wheelchair basketball athletes who all had an acquired disability. Six participants were interviewed, and the data were analyzed using a thematic analysis. Athletes described how their coaches played an important role in their transition into paraspport, which included the creation of a safe and supportive sporting environment by establishing close personal ties with their athletes. While the majority of coaching behaviours led to positive relationships, yelling, lack of knowledge, and poor communication were associated with negative coach-athlete relationships. Results provide strategies and behaviours that not only facilitate athletes' experiences, but also their transition and adaptation to paraspport.

Jordan Lefebvre: Examining the Impact of Personal Relationships on the Athletic development of Paraspport Athletes

The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of personal relationships on the athletic development of paraspport athletes using the developmental network perspective. Using a mixed methods case study design, seven wheelchair rugby athletes (five male; two female) and seven non-athletes connected to the wheelchair rugby environment (four male; three female) participated in this study. Data were acquired using participant observations, questionnaire/social network data, and qualitative interviews. The quantitative data were analyzed using social network measures and the qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings indicate that wheelchair rugby athletes had small social networks that were characterized by strong relationships. Furthermore, their networks included a diversified set of people, such as peers, coaches, family, and rehabilitation specialists, who provided unique developmental contributions. Specifically, athletes' developmental networks contributed to their integration into the rugby community, continued participation in sport, and athletic development.



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