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An Australian sport policy analysis framework: applying the model for interpretive sport policy analysis in the Australian context

P. Sotiriadou¹, J. Brouwers¹

¹*Bond University, Health Sciences and Medicine, Gold Coast, Australia*

jbrouwer@bond.edu.au

This paper introduces Chalip's (1995) conceptual framework for the analysis of sport policy, the *analytic framework for interpretive sport policy analysis* and the ways its five elements have been utilised in a sport development policy analysis in Australia. The results of this analysis are represented in the *Australian Sport Policy Analysis Framework* and reflect the political ideologies, events of national significance and their origin; sport development related dilemmas and the information required to redress sport development policy in Australia. The benefits of using Chalip's (1995) model to this study are twofold. First, by "identifying and subsequently critiquing policy legitimations, problem definitions, problem attribution, and consequent frames, sport managers will be able to intervene proactively in policy processes. In doing so, threats to sport will be minimized, and opportunities will be optimised" (Chalip, 1995, p. 11). Second "it is useful to go beyond the mere description of sport policies and beyond merely narrative historical accounts of how those policies emerged. Application of methods from interpretive and critical policy analysis to the historical development of sports policies highlights interactions among dominant ideologies, legitimations, focusing events, problem definitions, and frames of reference. These, in turn, provide useful categories for cross-national comparisons of sport policies" (Chalip, 1991, p. 249). In conclusion, the *Australian Sport Policy Analysis Framework* provides direction and stresses the need for empirical research in sport development (Sotiriadou, Shilbury & Quick, 2008).

Chalip, L. (1991). Sport and the state: The case of the United States of America. In F. Landry, Landry, M., & Yerles, M., (Ed.), *Sport: The Third Millennium* (pp. 243-250). Quebec, Canada: Les Presses De l'Universite Laval.

Chalip, L. (1995). Policy analysis in sport management. *Journal of Sport Management*, 9, 1-13.

Sotiriadou, P., Shilbury, D. & Quick, S. (2008). The Attraction, Retention/Transition and Nurturing Processes of Sport Development: Some Australian Evidence. *Journal of Sport Management*, 22, 247-272.