

JUDO AND SWIMMING TALENT DEVELOPMENT IN BRAZIL

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION

In many countries, national programs create their organizational structure focusing on the development and control of sports. In this regard, recent comparative studies were made seeking to understand sport programs in different countries, especially the policies related to elite sport (OAKLEY and GREEN, 2001; DIGEL, 2002; DE BOSSCHER et al., 2008). The organizational structure of sports at a national level allows the country to manage the athletes training process from the lowest to the highest competitive level, through a long-term training, where the identification and promotion of sport talents are considered crucial for the development of high level athletes for the nation (DIGEL, 2002; BÖHME 2007). Judo and swimming in Brazil have significant results in international competitions. Therefore, it is important to understand how sport talents are developed in these sport modalities.

AIMS: To describe the development of judo and swimming talent in Brazil.

METHODS

A total of 18 high-performance coaches (7 of judo and 11 of swimming) answered the following question: "Is there a system for the sports talent development in the country from the lowest until the highest sport performance level? How is it?" This paper is part of a complete research, which is being conducted in Brazil. Data was obtained through personal interviews. Results were analyzed through "Group Character Speech Method" (GCS), as proposed by LEFÉVRE and LEFEVRE (2003). Central Ideas (CI) were obtained from each answer, which at a later stage.

RESULTS

The categories of Central Ideas and their frequencies are presented in Table 1. According to 77.7% of the coaches, there is no national sports talent development system in place for both sports, which corresponds to 38.8% of the

total central ideas obtained. DISCUSSION: According to the coaches, there are other ways of developing sport talents in the Brazilian reality, namely, through clubs, through competitive results improvement, through individual projects (judo) and sporadically by the governing body of the sport (swimming). Strategies to promote talent vary between the following modalities: swimming uses more the clubs (33%), on the other hand judo develops more isolated projects (30%). De Bosscher et al. (2008) claim that the first step in the systematization of national sport talent development program is the existence of basic sport programs that allow the identification / detection of talents for the sport training process. In this way, many countries have national programs aiming at identifying and developing elite athletes, such as Australia and China (OAKLEY and GREEN, 2001; DIGEL, 2002). The lack of a national sports talent development system for high performance in the Brazilian context results in the adoption of other strategies, as demonstrated through the coaches' responses, such as "Competitive Results" and "Through the clubs." In Brazil, as in the North American system, competitive results are important in the process of identifying and selecting talent. The competitive system at different ages stimulates the young athletes to compete among themselves and those who win or are successful are promoted, while the losers are not promoted (DIGEL, 2002). After the conclusion of the whole research, it will be possible to better describe the organizational structure of sports in Brazil.

CONCLUSION

There is no national sport talents development system in Brazil. Alternative ways are used by each sport discipline to reach this aim. If Brazil had a national sport talent development system, it could improve the results of swimming, judo and other modalities and, additionally, make these results more consistent.

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