

The Pace Of Change: How Professionalisation Has Shaped The Work Of Sport Organisations

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The professionalisation of sport organisations has been an ongoing and evolving trend for more than 30 years in most countries. The pace of change in moving from kitchen table volunteer driven sport organisations to more bureaucratically oriented commercially focused national governing bodies has varied from country to country and sport to sport. The one constant is that there has been change. This presentation will provide an overview of the key research streams that have evolved in the professionalisation of sport organisations since the original work of Slack in 1985 in which he examined the bureaucratisation of a voluntary sport organisation. The impact and implications of professionalisation will be examined with a specific focus on the range of research themes that have emerged to support and understand the process of professionalisation. Two specific foci areas within sport management will be used to assess progress and to compare and contrast how professionalisation has shaped our work both in theory and practice.