

Exploring The Organizational Factors That Influence The International Sporting Success In High-Performance Judo

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Aim of the research/project

After their identification, the objective of this research was to explore the interrelationships among the factors that exist at an organizational level and influencing the international success in high-performance judo.

Theoretical background or literature review

Several studies have been published with the aim to analyse the existing elite sport policies in different countries (De Bosscher, Shibli, Westerbeek, & Van Bottenburg, 2015). Despite the methodological differences, most of these studies have analysed sport „systems“, which by definition are defined as comprising interrelated elements (influenced by the environment) that are integrated to reach common goals (Chelladurai, 2009). Thus, each country has a high-performance sport system where policies are implemented and the goals are usually related with the performance in the international sporting events. Some studies deepened the knowledge in elite sport policies, including on key success factors, focusing their research on specific sports (Brouwers, Sotiriadou, & De Bosscher, 2015). These studies illustrated the value of sport-specific research through the identification of specific factors that influence the development of one sport. However, each sport is different by nature (Breuer, Hallmann, & Wicker, 2011), therefore, there is room for research that focuses on other specific high-performance sport systems and on their key success factors. The focus of this abstract is on judo. Judo is one of the most popular sport combat in the world and in this sport; it is the fourth sport that offers more medals; and many nations consider judo one of the major investment target for their high-performance sport policies, which makes this research relevant.

Methodology, research design, and data analysis

The objective of this abstract was part of a larger project involving a Sequential Exploratory research design (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2011), that involving three phases. The first qualitative phase involved the identification of the organizational factors influencing the international sporting success in high-performance judo, through Content Analysis in 33 semi-structured interviews with athletes, coaches, national performance directors and experts from 11 countries, who had the best results during the Olympic Games between 1992 and 2012. The organizational factors were 44, clustered in 11 categories (1 Sport system, organization and structure; 2 Sport participation at all levels; 3 Athletic career and post career support; 4 Financial resources; 5 Quality of Teachers and Coaches; 6 Tradition, history and cultural aspects; 7 Competitions; 8 Training facilities; 9 Governments (interest), sponsors and media; 10 Talent identification and development; 11 Scientific support). The second (intermediate) phase, a questionnaire was developed and the results from the first phase were validated by six experts. The third quantitative phase performed one more step in the validation process through the generalization of the judo organizational factors into a larger sample of 406 Brazilian judo athletes, coaches, performance directors and experts. An Exploratory Factor Analysis was conducted and the Cronbach's alpha index was used for the reliability. In addition to the validation of the factors, the third phase seeks to explore in a statistical way the interrelation between the identified factors. In this abstract will presented the results of the third phase.

Results, discussion, and implications/conclusions

The Exploratory Factor Analysis showed 10 Factors, which had 63.49% of the total variance explained. However, the first six Factors (50.97% of the total variance explained) provided an interesting analysis of the interrelationships among the organizational factors. The percentage of the total variance explained and their Cronbach's Alpha were: 1 "High-Performance Sport Climate" (12.63%, 0.93); 2 "Sport systems, organization and structure" (11.16%, 0.90); 3 "Tradition, History and Cultural aspects" (7.58%, 0.81); 4 "Resources for International Success" (6.79%, 0.79); 5 "Sports Talent Development System" (6.50%, 0.82); 6 "International Sporting Success in High-Performance Judo" (6.32%, 0.83). This exploration suggested that some factors are consistent with other studies and they can be developed regardless of where they will be executed. However, the interrelationship of the organizational factors probably are different in each country. This is because the context, tradition, history of one sport and the policies and media priorities are different in each country. Specifically for judo, the identified results may provide knowledge for management of its high-performance policies. As to its theoretical contribution, with the understanding

of sport policies and high-performance sport systems considering a sport specific level. The use of mixed methods research also provide an interesting contribution to the sport policies area. At the 25th EASM conference further research details will be presented. Future research could conducting this same research project in other countries, or identify the “power” of each organizational factor (confirmatory analysis).

References

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