

CULTIVATING A DEFINITIVE VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LARGE DISABILITY SPORT EVENTS

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BACKGROUND

- Large scale disabled sport events often suffer from a lack of funding and recognition
- An educated volunteer force is necessary to the success and legacy of an event
- Organizations do not refer to a single training protocol for these events and this breeds miscommunication and a lack of education regarding disability sport
- A cohesive volunteer training protocol would improve the experiences of countless athletes with disabilities at sport events and aid event organizers in educating volunteers



OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study is to discern what volunteer training protocols are currently in place for large-scale disability events. Once these programs are identified, researchers will translate this knowledge into evidence-based volunteer training resources for event administrators. This study will include a multi-phase process involving qualitative data collection from event organizers, athletes and previous disability sport volunteers. The aim of this research is to provide a definitive volunteer training program for large scale disability sport events.

METHODOLOGY

1) Scoping Review

Firstly, current disability sport training resources will be analyzed. This will include conducting a search for related peer-reviewed and grey literature resources. Targeted web-based searches and follow-up emails to relevant authors will also be completed.

2) Data Collection

One-hour interviews will be scheduled to take place with a student-researcher via email, telephone, or video conference.

Athletes and stakeholders will be asked to participate in a single interview session and volunteers will participate in two sessions. With permission, all interviews will be transcribed for later analysis.

3) Data Analysis

Data analysis will consist of the calculation of descriptive statistics and analyses of variance using SPSS. Qualitative information will be analyzed for themes using NVivo.



CURRENT PROGRESS

- The research is still in the preliminary information gathering phase
- Event organizers of large scale disability sport events have a vested interest in proper volunteer training
- There is a small amount of related literature exploring key practices for volunteer training
- Targeted emails to sport organizations in AUS, CAN, UK and NZ should yield applicable resources that are not publicly available



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Principal Investigators: Dr. Amy Latimer-Cheung of the School of Kinesiology and Health Sciences at Queens University and Dr. Laura Misener of the School of Kinesiology at Western University. Funding was provided by MITACS and the Canadian Paralympic Committee. Research opportunity provided by the USRI program at Western University.



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