

Abstract

Title: Volunteering in para athletics.

Aims: The aim of this master thesis is research and insight into the problems within gaining volunteers in para-sport and further evaluate the volunteers motivation in attending the athletics contests.

Methods: The qualitative research used for the examination is based on descriptive analyses. Two surveys and one interview were used for the enquiry of this volunteer phenomenon. To bring up the full picture of the volunteering phenomenon were chosen respondents who are representing three participating groups.

First, individuals with volunteering experience, next students of Physical Education in practice and sport for people with specific needs, coordinators of athletes competitions and last para athletes.

The research enquiry was based on original self structured surveys and interviews. Surveys were distributed via the electronic program Survio. The interviews were sent by email as a word file enclosure.

Results: Results of this pilot research showed the meaning of volunteering in prarasport. The results of surveys for volunteers introduced some important points of motivation. The positive as well as the negative points leading volunteers to the volunteering work at the para athletic contests.

The most significant motivation, quoted by the volunteers, is to gain new experience and make new friendships. They are highlighting the atmosphere felt during the contests, as well as the environment. On the other hand, their demotivation is caused by the underestimated communication between the volunteers and the contest coordinator.

An interesting result shown is volunteers' interest in getting more accurate information about the actual contest program. The volunteers would also appreciate a briefing about the para athletic rules and further training in the assistance for disabled people.

Comparison happened between all the views of the three parties involved in the research. The volunteers, organizers, and the para athletes. Their knowledge helped to bring up the complex understanding of the matters.

Conclusion: The result of this master thesis is a creation of a comprehensive text, which is describing the matters of volunteering and its motivation in para sport.

The issue of para sport in the Czech Republic is still quite an untouched area. The investigation of the resources for the para athletes, the environment where they can practice training, possibilities which are opening for them have a great potential for the future.

Key words: sport, athletes, body disabilities, applied physical activity, volunteer, motivation, para sport.