Abstract

Title: Boccia, its specifications and possible factors affecting the performance of a player.

Aim: The main aim of this thesis is to describe the game boccia as a top level sport. The thesis is also focused on topics connected with the issues of fair play and various factors which might complicate fair play maintaining in this sport.

Methodology: In the theoretical part of the thesis boccia is described as a unique sport offering active sport to people with severe physical disabilities – for example spastic quadriplegia. The knowledge of adaptive sport and boccia is briefly summarized. The thesis focuses not only on history, rules, classification, equipment but the interesting aspects such as feelings of players and doubts of spectators are described too. Boccia is defined as a game of many specifications which might be considered as interfering with fair play.

The empirical part presents a qualitative research. It’s based on processed semi-structured interviews with committed top level boccia players. The research included interviews with 10 players, 2 women and 8 men. Other used methods were: informal interviews, participating observation and study of literature and other available resources. The research was focused on two issues: Is boccia well organized as a sport? and Does the equipment have major influence on success of boccia players?. Subsequently, the results built on the mentioned methods are made.

Results: The research showed an opinion agreement about the importance of equipment. According to all respondents the equipment has an essential impact on the performance and success of players. The organisation of boccia was a topic which some respondents commented with justified complaints.

Key words: boccia, adapted physical activities, physical disability, sport classification