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Round
table
Other
11:00 – 12:00
A/B

Room 519

Roundtable Session

Lifespan Development

7.1 Identifying Psychosocial Determinants of the Development of Passion among Elite Level Hockey Players

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Background: Although a rapidly accumulating body of research exists on the determinants and consequences of harmonious and obsessive passion (see Vallerand, 2015), few studies have yet explored the processes involved in the development of both types of passion. The purpose of the present study is to investigate the psychosocial determinants of the development of passion among elite level hockey players.

Methods: A mixed design (quantitative-qualitative) was used. Seventeen (17) players for the *Saguenéens de Chicoutimi* provincial-level hockey team completed the Passion Scale (Vallerand et al., 2003) as well as the Basic Needs Satisfaction in General Scale (Johnston & Finney, 2010). Semi-structured interviews were also conducted with a subset of the sample ($n = 9$) until empirical saturation was observed in the participants' answers.

Results: Concerning quantitative data, the players were on average very passionate for their sport ($M = 6.84$, $SD = 0.31$; passion criteria items measured on a 7-point scale). Players were, on average, only slightly more harmoniously passionate ($M = 5.87$, $SD = 0.75$) than obsessively so ($M = 5.42$, $SD = .94$), $t(16) = 2.64$, $p = .018$. Simple regression analyses revealed that psychological need satisfaction positively and statistically significantly predicted harmonious passion ($\beta = .76$, $p < .001$), and positively but only marginally predicted obsessive passion ($\beta = .48$, $p = .053$). Concerning qualitative data, a subsample of players reported becoming passionate at a very young age (4-5 years). They also described the positive influence of socializing agents' (father, mother, sibling, friends) unconditional support (presence at games and practices, encouragement) in allowing them to develop a passion for hockey.

Conclusions: Need supportive environments appear essential to the development of passion among hockey among elite level athletes.

Johnston, M. M., & Finney, S. J. (2010). Measuring basic needs satisfaction: Evaluating previous research and conducting new psychometric evaluations of the basic needs satisfaction in general scale. *Contemporary Educational Psychology*, 35(4), 280-296.

Vallerand, R.J. (2015). *The Psychology of Passion : A Dualistic Model*. New York, NY : Oxford University Press.