



Shorts and Skorts

**ENDEAVOURING TO ELIMINATE
DIFFERENCE ON THE KORFBALL PITCH**

KORFBALL

SPORT IN THE MIXED ZONE

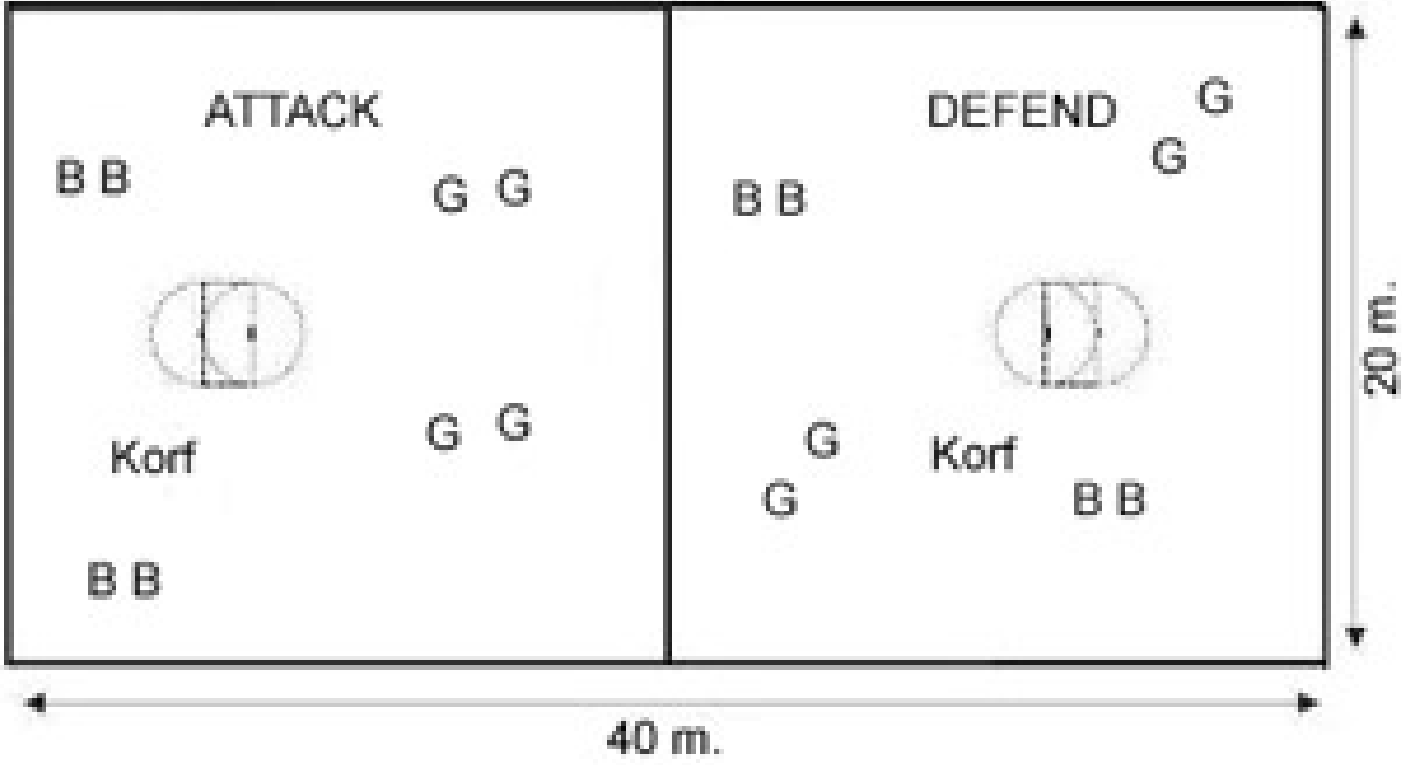
- ✗ “the world’s only mixed sport”
- ✗ “a passport to coeducation”
- ✗ “truly egalitarian sport”



WHAT IS KORFBALL?

- ✘ Goals
- ✘ 4 girls and 4 boys
- ✘ Non-contact
- ✘ No solo play
- ✘ Defended shots
- ✘ Players either attack or defend then swap





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OVERVIEW OF MY PROJECT

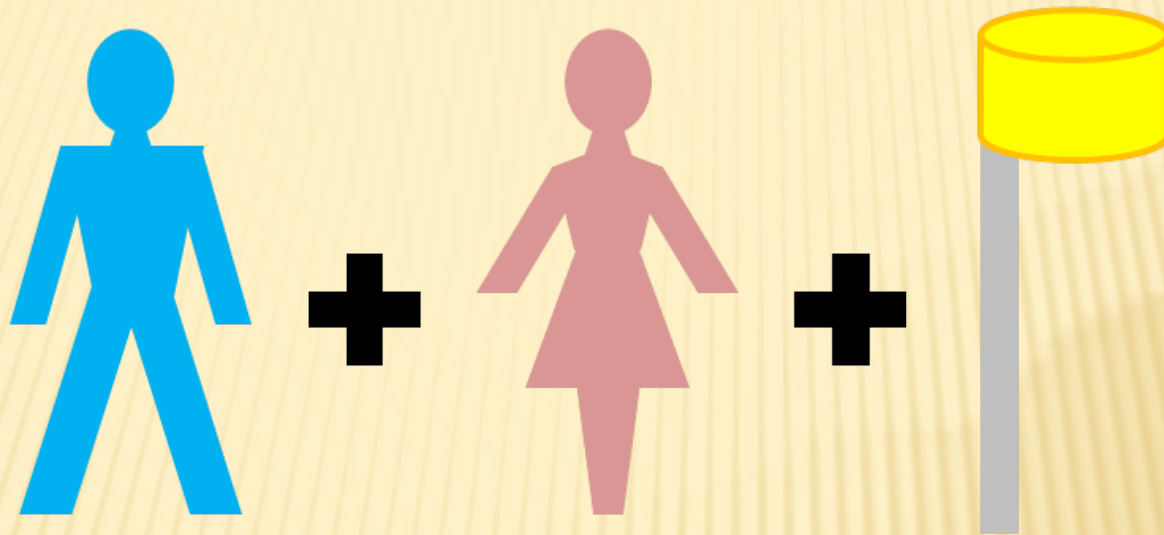


- ✘ The gendered attitudes and experiences of children that play korfbal
- ✘ Whether a non-mainstream sport, that was created to promote gender egalitarianism between children, is impacting on children's developing gender identities.
- ✘ Ethnographic visits
- ✘ Foucauldian analysis

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

- ✘ Crum (1988) – The Netherlands
- ✘ Summerfield and White (1989) – UK
- ✘ Thompson and Finnigan (1990) – New Zealand





INITIAL FINDINGS

MATCH SPACE (MAINLY FROM OBSERVATION)



- ✘ Varying networks of power relations (Foucault, 1975)
 - + Subjects and objects of observation (Foucault, 1994)
 - + Gendered?
- ✘ Normalising judgement (Foucault, 1975)
 - + Minor humiliation and correction
- ✘ Equality and Docile bodies (Foucault, 1975)
 - + Objects and instruments of exercise (Foucault, 1975)
- ✘ Use all players as useful instruments of exercise in a multi-segmentary machine
 - + Bodies used as object to manipulate and train
 - + confinement is needed because visibility = power

INTERESTING POINTS (INTERVIEW)

- ✘ Vocal – Teamwork
 - + “when we get the ball I make sure every single time I shout, I’ll literally scream ‘party!’” (Megan)
- ✘ Emotion – pain and female/male difference
 - + “don’t cry – man up”
 - + Chloe cries when frustrated at training, Jess cries when told off, Chloe and Grace cry when hurt
- ✘ Competitive – some boys and some girls more competitive
 - + “she’s very very very very very very very very competitive” (Jessie)
- ✘ Aesthetics – Skorts and short
 - + “basically it makes it easier, I’ve got an answer to that one. It makes it easier for you to like understand like when you look at that and when they turn around and you can see the thing swirling round so you know that’s the girl so you can know that you’re that’s the one you’re marking” (Abby)
- ✘ Separation of sexes
 - + “it just sort of goes better, it would be easy, sort of thing, if you could just switch on anybody” (Billy)
 - + Difference, not inequality

