CULTIVATING A DEFINITIVE VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LARGE DISABILITY SPORT EVENTS

Avery O'Neil

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

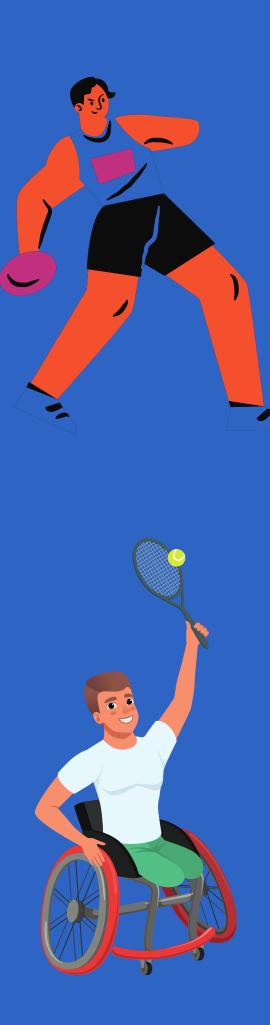


OBJECTIVES

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

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.



1) <u>Scoping Review</u>

Firstly, current disability sport training resources will be analyzed. This will include conducting a search for related peer-reviewed and grey literature resources. Targeted webbased 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.

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

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