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Canadian Softball Coaches' Views on NCCP Training

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Overview of Project

- CAC grant
- Partnered with Softball Canada
- Recent changes to the NCCP for Softball
- How do Softball coaches view the NCCP and how can we increase attendance for NCCP clinics?



Participants

- In-Training Coaches
 - Recently completed a Community Sport-Initiation Clinic
 - Spring/Summer of 2006 and 2007
 - Contact information obtained from Softball Canada
 - 243 sent out
 - 14 returned



Participants

- Non-Trained Coaches
 - Provincial/Territorial Organizations
 - Minor Sport Organizations
 - Web searches
 - Softball Canada and Softball British Columbia newsletters
 - Unknown how many reached non-trained coaches
 - 31 returned



Methodology

- Questionnaires with a large proportion of open-ended questions
- Different questionnaire sent to In-Training and Non-Trained coaches
- Sent and returned via email
- Descriptive analysis of closed-ended questions
- Content analysis of open-ended questions



Results

- In-Training, Trained or Certified Coaches
 - 100 % of the respondents are employed full-time
 - Mean of 5.7 years of coaching experience (range of 1 to 30 years)
 - 21.4 % of the respondents are In-Training in the Community Sport-Initiation context
 - 28.6 % of the respondents are Trained in the Community Sport-Initiation context
 - 42.9 % of the respondents are certified at Level 1
 - 7.1 % of the respondents are certified at Level 3



Results

- In-Training, Trained or Certified Coaches
 - 64.3 % of the coaches are former players
 - The former players have an average of 19.8 years of playing experience (range is 3 to 35 years)
 - Mean satisfaction with NCCP clinic ranking of 4 out of a possible 5
 - 42.9 % of the respondents have mentored with another Softball coach



Results

- In-Training, Trained or Certified Coaches
 - 28.6 % of the respondents have coached or currently coach a sport other than Softball
 - All have taken NCCP training in other sports



Results

- In-Training, Trained or Certified Coaches
 - Why the Coaches Have Undertaken NCCP Training
 - *NCCP training was accessible to the coach*
 - *To learn more about Softball and/or Coaching*
 - *To gain certification*
 - *Obligation to athletes*
 - *Need for more qualified coaches*



Results

- In-Training, Trained or Certified Coaches
 - Do These Coaches Plan on Undertaking More NCCP Training?
 - 64.3% of respondents indicated that they are planning on attending another NCCP clinic in the future
 - 28.6% respondents indicated that they would not attend another NCCP clinic
 - 7.1% of respondents indicated they were undecided and did not comment on the reason



Results

- In-Training, Trained or Certified Coaches
 - Why coaches will take more training
 - want to increase skill level as a coach
 - want to coach at a higher level
 - Why coaches won't undertake more training
 - lack of time
 - lack of availability of clinics
 - cost of the clinics
 - not interested in coaching at a higher level
 - displeasure with NCCP training (former system)



Results

- In-Training, Trained or Certified Coaches
 - Role of NCCP
 - One coach indicated that NCCP training played a more important role when he/she started coaching
 - One coach indicated that NCCP has not yet played an important role as he/she has experience with the sport as a player and experience coaching another sport
 - Tool that can help improve skills as a coach
 - Both players and non-players expressed this



Results

- Non-Trained Coaches
 - 89.7 % of the respondents are employed full-time
 - Mean number of years of coaching experience is 4.6 years (range of 0 to 25 years)
 - 65.5 % of the coaches are former players



Results

- Non-Trained Coaches
 - 13.8 % of the respondents have mentored with another Softball coach
 - 55.2 % of the respondents have coached or currently coach a sport other than Softball
 - 50 % of the coaches whom have coached or currently coach another sport have taken NCCP training for another sport



Results

- Non-Trained Coaches
 - Why the Non-Trained Coaches Have Not Undertaken NCCP Training
 - *Lack of time*
 - *No information on the NCCP/ have never heard of the program*
 - *Not offered in the coach's community*
 - *Not interested in continuing to coach*
 - *Perception that the program is not valuable*
 - *Coach did not know he/she would be coaching until the season started*
 - *Coach plans on pursuing NCCP training in the near future*
 - *Coach has taken other training workshops for Softball*



Results

- Non-Trained Coaches
 - Will the Non-Trained Coaches Undertake NCCP Training in the Future?
 - 41.4% of respondents indicated that they would take NCCP training in the future
 - 37.9% responded that they would not take NCCP training in the future
 - 13.8% of the respondents indicated they may take NCCP training in the future



Results

- Non-Trained Coaches
 - What is necessary for these coaches to undertake NCCP training?
 - “if it was mandatory”
 - “I would need time.....I do not have much free time to spend a weekend in a classroom”
 - “workshop would have to be offered by the league”
 - “my kids to seriously commit to competitive Softball”
 - “free courses, close to home and flexible hours”



Results

- Non-Trained Coaches
 - Why coaches will undertake NCCP training
 - so they can continue coaching or coach at a higher level
 - to improve coaching ability
 - training is beneficial
 - program is going to be offered in the community



Results

- Both Groups
 - Goals
 - Predominantly Player-Centred
 - Personal Development
 - Reasons for starting to coach
 - *The Coaches' Child(ren) Play Softball*
 - *Love of the Game*
 - *Need*
 - *Enjoyment*



Results

- Factors that contribute to successful coaching
- Lowest average rank for NCCCP training in In-Training, Trained and Certified group
 - Lowest average rank for several years of experience as a Softball player in Non-Trained group
 - Coaching experience second lowest average rank for both groups



Conclusions

- More accessible training- online or home study
 - Advertise
- Market the aspects of the program that the coaches value the most

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Thank You!

Questions?

