Directory of Sport Science, 5th Edition

A Journey Through Time – The Changing Face of ICSSPE

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1. General Information

The study of sport governance has emerged through hybridization of several disciplines, each of which boasts its own community of discourse. These include sport law, sport policy, sport sociology, sport economics, and comparative studies of sport. Although each discipline contributes its particular insights, the growth of sport governance knowledge has been hampered by the challenges of obtaining appropriate information, often from governments and organisations that dislike scrutiny, and by the difficulties that arise when scholars from disparate fields endeavour to communicate across their respective paradigms.

1.1. Historical Development

Formal systems of sport governance can be traced to the earliest eras of recorded history, and seem to have emerged first as religious functions. The ancient Olympic Games, which were organised to honour the gods, are the best known and the most studied. Archaeological evidence suggests that formal sport competitions were also organised as religious functions by some pre-Columbian civilizations in the Americas. As the Olympic Games declined during the Roman era, other competitions, including chariot racing and gladiatorial combat emerged as popular but secular entertainments governed by systems of commerce, rather than the clergy. Sport remained secular during the middle ages, but governments became increasingly involved as sport was expected to serve as preparation for combat, rather than mere diversion. Royal families consequently saw sport as their jurisdiction and some monarchs went so far as to outlaw non-combat games. Secularization was fortified during the Protestant Reformation, as some Protestant sects discouraged sport participation. Nevertheless, competitions between clubs and villages required agreement on rules. Groups of aficionados came together to agree upon rules and ultimately to record and govern them. European games, rules and their systems for sport governance were spread to other countries by colonial administrations. As sport was also encouraged in some school systems, particularly in Britain and her colonies, systems for governing sport in schools became increasingly formal during the 19th century. By the late 19th century, a small group of European aristocrats formed what became the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to administer a quadrennial international sport festival. Since national competitions required national
Berlin, 8. September 2008

Dear Dr. Kaburakis,

On behalf of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education it is our pleasure to let you know that the Special Edition of the Directory of Sport Science, including a CD-Rom in English and Chinese, has now been published. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your contribution which made this very special publication possible! In appreciation of your efforts, ICSSPE is pleased to present you with a copy of the Directory for your personal library.

Part 1 “A Journey Through Time - The Changing Face of ICSSPE”, written by Jan Borms, features a historical chapter that continues the story of the development of ICSSPE from 1996 until the present day, picking up where Steve Bailey left off when he finished the complete history of the first forty years of ICSSPE/ICSSPE (1958-1996) in “Science in the Service of Physical Education and Sport” in 1996.

Part 2, the most comprehensive part in this book, contains the Directory of Sport Science, edition No 5, which includes the chapter to which you contributed. The first edition of the Directory of Sport Science released in 1998, then named “Vade Mecum”, included eleven scientific disciplines. The current edition covers sixteen scientific disciplines ranging from Adapted Physical Activity to Sport Pedagogy and also introduces nine thematic areas of sport science, and these developments make us very proud.

The objective was to disseminate up-to-date, structured, and easy-to-use information including links to relevant networks and websites in each sport science discipline and thematic area. Only with your valuable contribution and support has this been possible.
We firmly believe in the importance of this publication, and having now seen this latest edition, are even more convinced that it will serve its purpose well and reach a wider audience. We hope that you will share this conviction too.

With our best regards and many thanks,

Prof. Dr. Gudrun Doll-Tepper
ICSSPE President

Katrin Koenen
Publications Manager