Diversity and Inclusion in Youth Sport: A Scoping Review

Jennifer Gellock, University of North Alabama
Leigh Stanfield, University of North Alabama
William Holt, University of North Alabama

Abstract 2021-129
Mode: Synchronous
Friday June 4, 2021, 2:05 PM - 3:05 PM

Sport is a powerful vehicle to provide youth diverse and inclusive spaces to learn and grow. While there has been a significant increase in scholarship on sport-based youth development research (i.e., Whitley, Massey, Camire, Boutet, & Borbee, 2019) there are limited studies that synthesize the literature on specific domains. For these reasons, the purpose of this study is to complete a comprehensive scoping review on literature in the field of sport management focused on diversity and inclusion in sport with specific attention paid to youth populations. This scoping review will summarize the findings on research done on these specific topics (i.e., diversity, inclusion, sport, youth) in order to make recommendations for future research along with practical guidance in the area of sport for development and sport-based youth programming (Dowling, Leopkey, Inoue, Berg, & Smith, 2020).

Arskey and O’Malley’s (2005) five key-step process will be utilized to conduct the scoping review: (a) identify the research question, (b) sourcing relevant studies, (c) study selection, (d) charting the data, (e) collating, summarizing and reporting the results. In October of 2020, a systematic search of the following six electronic databases to identify articles focused on inclusion criteria of diversity, inclusion, youth, and sport: SportsDiscus, Academic Search Complete, APA PsychInfo, Business Source Complete, SocInDex, and ProQuestCentral. The database searches were systematically completed by a trained librarian who is also a co-author on this study to yield the most accurate results. After the initial search the research team will continue to maintain a database to track articles of the defined inclusion criteria and track relevant study characteristics (i.e., year of publication, authors, geographic location/setting the research took place, participant ages, theoretical frameworks, methodology, results, etc.). This data collection process will take place in Spring of 2021 and should take approximately three to six months to complete (Dowling, Leopkey, Inoue, Berg, and Smith, 2020). Results from this study will be meaningful to help guide future research in the area of youth sport development in the area of diversity and inclusion. It is also our hope that results could be used as a tool for practical application for influencing sport policy in the area of diversity and inclusion among today’s youth. Finally, this review will highlight any gaps and help practitioners understand how and why sport is one crucial tool that can be used to foster diversity and inclusion for intentionally educating and empowering young people to be the change agents of the future.