

ACHIEVEMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS MOTIVATION IN YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

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Introduction: Brazilian volleyball is the benchmark worldwide in the last two decades. However, the data considering young volleyball players is limited. In particular, attainment of excellence sport requires the accumulation of sport-specific deliberate practice. The will to be engaged in high-level performance development programs and search for excellence is related to players' achievement and competitiveness motivation. Often unidimensional approaches are adopted to interpret young athlete's characteristics. **Objective:** In this study we examined the variation in motivation for deliberate practice, achievement, competitiveness among young volleyball players, accounting for the influence of gender, chronological age, biological maturity status, training experience, and their attained competitive level. **Methods:** A joint sample of 112 adolescent female (n = 45) and male (n = 67) adolescent volleyball players aged 14.7 ± 1.8 years from a volleyball youth club was considered. Players were grouped by competitive age group (under 13, n=43; under 15, n=35; under 17, n=34), competitive level (players from the club competing at regional level competition, n=81; players selected for the state teams, n=31) and formal training experience in volleyball, 0-2 years (n=48), 2-4 years (n=36) and more than 4 (n=28). Players were grouped by maturity status, considering estimations of age peak height velocity (PHV) as pre-PHV (n=9), circa-PHV (n=45), post-PHV (n=17) and mature (n=9). The Work and Family Orientation Questionnaire (Helmreich, Beane, Lucker, & Spence, 1978) and the Deliberate Practice Motivation Questionnaire (de Bruin, et al., 2008) were considered. We used Bayesian multilevel regressions to examine variation on players' achievement and competitiveness motivation considering cross-classified memberships, i.e., gender, competitive level, age group, experience and maturity status. Post-stratification was performed to predict estimations by group of interest based on the partial pooling, allowing for better predictions and inferences than simple group means comparisons. **Results:** Conditional on the data, will to excel varied substantially between players by gender, training experience, and maturity status. As for will to compete, there was substantial variation when players were grouped by competitive age group. Work, mastery and competitiveness scores varied substantially between players by maturity status. The latter scores varied also between players by training experience. **Conclusion:** Overall, achievement and competitiveness motivation dimensions were influenced by players' characteristics (biological maturity status, accumulated training experience, gender) and training and competition context (competitive age group, competitive level). These observations highlight the need for coaches and researchers consider an holistic approach when interpreting and predicting players development.

Keywords: Volleyball, Youth Sports, Motivation