The Changing Face of Leadership within Sport: What does the future hold?

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Management - Leadership (Other) 60-minute symposium, roundtable, or workshop Saturday, June 1, 2019 11:00 AM
Abstract 2019-376 Room: Napoleon D1

Leadership has remained a prominent topic in sport management, encompassing off-field leadership through top-management teams (TMTs), women in sport leadership positions, and leader behaviors, among others (see Burton, 2015; Chelladurai, 1990; Ferkins, Skinner, & Swanson, 2018; Weese, 1996; Wells & Welty Peachey, 2016; Welty Peachey, Damon, Zhou, & Burton, 2015). The emphasis on sport management leadership research culminated in a recent special issue on the topic in the Journal of Sport Management (Ferkins et al., 2018). Despite scholars having given significant attention to sport management leadership, important questions and areas of inquiry remain (Welty Peachey et al., 2015). For example, Billsberry et al. (2018) and Kihl, Leberman, and Schull (2010) noted how the sport context is a potential fit to study collective leadership approaches. One such collective approach worthy of further discussion is that of leadership-as-practice (Burton & Leberman, 2015; Raelin, 2011). Ferkins, Skinner, and Swanson (2018) further specified questions pertaining to the collective leadership approach such as “how this is happening; why it might be a valuable approach” (p. 81). Additionally, Burton (2015) illustrated a myriad of issues faced by women in sport who wish to obtain a leadership position, while two more areas necessitating discussion include intersectionality in leadership and indigenous leadership. This symposium is designed to continue the dialogue in regard to sport management leadership, identify the key questions that will shape future research and practice, and engage the audience in discussion in order to facilitate more collaborations among scholars interested in sport management leadership.

Purpose

The purpose of this symposium is to engage with the audience in new approaches to studying sport management leadership and address future trends in research and practice. First, the symposium will be made up of prominent sport management leadership scholars. The symposium members are: Laura Burton, Lesley Ferkins, Sarah Leberman, Jim Weese, Janelle Wells, and Jon Welty Peachey. Second, a moderator will provide a question to elicit each member’s view on future trends in sport management leadership. Third, the moderator will facilitate an audience breakout session with small groups to discuss questions posed by symposium members. Finally, symposium members will each share their highlights from the previous discussion, offer their perspective on where sport management leadership research and practice are headed in the coming years, and on how scholars who focus on leadership can collaborate with those who investigate other prominent sport management topics. Sample discussion questions include:
• How might the future of sport management leadership be conceptualized and implemented?
• How are we teaching leadership in sport?
• What is success in sport and what are sustainable outcomes? How do these influence leadership?

Conclusion

This symposium continues the focus on sport management leadership in a time of significant societal change (Ferkins et al., 2018; Welty Peachey et al., 2015) by providing a forum to discuss future opportunities for research and practice.