**Introduction**

The Personal Assets Framework for Sport (Côté, Tumminidi, & Vierimaa, in press) describes the dynamic elements that help to explain changes in personal assets which ultimately influence the long-term outcomes of performance, participation, and personal development.

1. **Qualitative observation**
2. **Organized games in recreational sport settings are a unique situation**
3. **Qualitative observation**
4. **Organized games in recreational sport leagues provide a less...**
5. **Permeates the entire organization as the vehicle through which the...**
6. **Since there is no championship to strive for, players are competing...**
7. **Players often return to volunteer when they are too old to play...**
8. **All teams play one weekly game, but long...**

**Purpose**

- Organized games in recreational sport settings are a unique situation as there is a lessened focus on winning and performance (exemplifying true competition), which may therefore help to facilitate creativity, skill, and personal development.
- The purpose of this study is to describe an exemplary recreational youth sport program which employs this uncommon combination of the dynamic elements.
- The factors which appear to make the league successful will be discussed and described in relation to the Personal Assets Framework for Sport.

**Data Collection**

Data related to the structure and nature of the league were collected through a variety of means over the course of a season:
- **Websites**
- **Archival data**
- **Qualitative observation**
- **Interviews with coaches**

**Results: Description of the League**

- **Over 60 years old, in this time has grown from 40 to over 500 players**
- **Considerable local popularity – some parents and children line up overnight to register and secure one of the coveted spots**
- **Open to both boys and girls aged 8-15**
- **Costs only $10/year**
- **Provides opportunities to learn fundamental skills, sportsmanship, and above all else, fun playing basketball**
- **Slogan: “Just for the fun of it!”**
- **All teams play one weekly game, but long-term standings are not kept and there are no playoffs at the end of the season**
- **Skill testing is conducted at the beginning of the season to balance the teams; otherwise, there are no practice sessions throughout the season**
- **Games are competitive, but the emphasis is on equal playing time and fun and enjoyment**
- **Entire box scores are regularly posted online and in the local newspaper**
- **Sizeable support from local school boards and businesses**
- **Players often return to volunteer when they are too old to play**
- **Many coaches were past players, and often have children or grandchildren currently enrolled in the league**

**Discussion**

**Quality social relationships**

- **Youth’s exposure to diverse peer groups helps to cultivate new friendships and social skills**
- **Wide range of abilities and experience compels coaches to diversify their skills to help each athlete to glean unique benefits from their sport participation**

**Personal engagement in activities**

- **It is important to recognize the role of specific sport programs within athletic’s broader development**
- **The present program occupies a specific niche in its focus on social relationships, fun, and basketball fundamentals**
- **Low cost and inclusive environment helps to attract underserved youth**

**Culture of contribution**

- **Permeates the entire organization as the vehicle through which the league has consistently grown over more than six decades**
- **So I think, it is good to be able to go and try and teach people the stuff that you have learned so that, basically take all the skills that you have ever been taught and try and give that to other people. I think that is a really important part of it, to give back to them as they gave to you. Like this league gave me a lot as a young player. I think it is important that I give back to these players because they gave me so much.**
- **Strong family connection and prevalence of volunteering may help to instill these values in youth and facilitate long-term sport participation and civic engagement**
- **Adolescents are encouraged to return as coaches and volunteers providing early exposure and experience coaching, helping to ensure the league’s survival in the future**

**A NATURALISTIC DEPICTION OF TRUE COMPETITION IN A RECREATIONAL YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM**

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