The importance of the knowledge about sport management and legislation for undergraduate senior students of physical education

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Introduction
Nowadays, the number of people involved with sport, fitness and leisure programs has been growing in Brazil significantly and such activities are included into the daily life of the inhabitants of small and large cities of the country. According to SOUCIE (1998), the greater number of Colleges of Physical Education, the importance of the well-being feelings, the quality of life based on aesthetics, the expansion of the sports media and the growth of the performance-enhancing sport equipments have actually established a change of behaviour in the citizen who has accessed to them. Considering these aspects, PUIG (1990) stated that the most relevant tendency of the sport network is its diversity which is interrelated with the economical, educational, political and media systems. When analyzing the present and the future tendencies of the sport, leisure and fitness, it seems that to qualify human resources to work on this business is necessary. PARHOUSE (1996) claimed that the career of a sport manager has been based on the knowledge taught at the undergraduate and graduate courses supported by two branches: the physical education and the administration, both aiming at the graduation of the sport manager.

Methods
The Catholic University of Parana (Brazil) has two campuses (Curitiba and São José dos Pinhais), both with colleges offering physical education courses. The basic curriculum includes classes about sport management for senior students. At this particular moment they probably have already some notion of the profession they have chosen as well as some experience in their future field of work. Thus, this study has as an objective to investigate the opinion of the senior students for the following question: What is the importance of acquiring specific knowledge about sport management and legislation during undergraduate classes in a physical education course? The sample was composed of 68 subjects, senior students, (46% male; 54% female), who agreed voluntarily to participate in this study. The age group of this sample ranged between 20 to 23 years old. The data were collected during the second semester of 2004. Among all, 40 students were from Curitiba campus (A) and 28 from São José dos Pinhais campus (B).

Results
Considering that just one question was asked, the entire sample answered it in an affirmative way. Since it was an open type of question, the subjects mentioned many variables they considered important and probably the reason for being included in the curriculum and explained the need for acquiring knowledge about sport management as shown in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Campus A</th>
<th>Campus B</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management for specific technical knowledge</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>42,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management for daily internal/external relation at sport organizations</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management for improving annual income</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>1,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management for avoiding to work empirically</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>28,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management for being recognized professionally as a manager</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>7,3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Variables listed by the subjects and considered important for the sport manager.

Discussion/Conclusion
Even not working as sport managers yet, the subjects at most, demonstrated that the knowledge about management is crucial considering that all the professional decisions are based on legal and administrative rules. As a matter of fact, ROCHE (2002) affirmed that the strategic planning and management provides a series of activities and actions that could help the culture of sport organizations. According to these results, the subjects revealed that it is very important to gain knowledge about the process which involves the management of sport, leisure and fitness business as an academic background while at college in order to be better prepared to work in this professional field in the near future.

References
Parkhouse B L (1996). The management of sport: its foundation and application
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