

How should Youth Sports be put into practice (II) — Interviews with mothers of junior baseball team members —

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Abstract

This study reports the process(2) of field research for boy's baseball team during the past 6 years to examine how child's growth and development should be facilitated with consideration of the role of junior sports. Furthermore, while many of the earlier studies up to the present have been reflecting researches mainly for coaches and surrounding adults (including parents), we examined it through establishing a research question as "How should Youth Sports be put into practice?" and this study was interviews with mothers of junior baseball team members.

As the result, mothers expect that their children will grow up and develop through sports. Sports include not only the results of games, improvement techniques and physical abilities, but also mental aspects such as cooperativeness, patience, concentration, and sustained stamina, among others. Mothers expect well-balanced sports activities, and therefore, they consider that evaluations should not be done on the basis of individual results, but on the basis of comprehensive assessment taking techniques, relationship/sportsmanship, future/educational, instruction, autonomy, accountability, and demand/expectation, among others.

Key Words : junior baseball team, fieldwork, mother, text mining, mixed methods research

Introduction

Problems in junior sports coaching methods in Japan are presented. (principle that mental effort overcomes everything, principle that victory is everything, lack of educational coaching, decline in the quality of coaches, among others) .Depending on the quality of the coach, the contents of activities, policies, and children management tend to differ considerably.

It is necessary to reexamine the state of junior sports, in order to promote the development of children. In Japan, parents, especially mothers, tend to be actively involved in junior sports.

Therefore, as the first stage of the study, the state of junior sports was examined by focusing on mothers. In this study, the future state of junior sports was investigated based on results of interviews conducted with mothers.