

The Impact of **No Pass/No Play Sanctions** on High School Athletes: Implications for Youth and Policy

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Background

In the original "No Pass/No Play" legislation students had to pass all classes with at least a 70% average to participate in sports or extracurricular activities (Shannon, D. J., 1987).

Since then, no pass/no play regulations have been enacted across the nation with little evidence regarding their effectiveness.

In spite of this nearly universal implementation:

- There are mixed views in literature about sports participation as a protective factor in youth
- Eligibility and punishment for breaking the rules vary widely
- No studies show the impact on youth development, high school athletes and No Pass/No Play



Study Design & Methods

Design

Qualitative, interview-based, grounded theory methodology from 15 cases, 7 females and 8 males, aged 14-18 at the time of sanction

Goal

Examine *how imposed no pass/no play sanctions affect the youth development of high school athletes*

Working Definition

While the term no pass/no play originally applied only to grades, non-academic behavior infractions such as underage alcohol consumption and tobacco use have since been linked to no pass/no play (Texas Homeland Security, 2010).

Data sources:

College attending students, 18-22 at age of interview, recruited through college bulletin boards within two major universities in Minnesota.

Outcome

A combined total of 387 useable comments, 157 describing the outcomes of the sanctions that facilitated youth development and 230 the impeded youth development.

Nine Tenets of Youth Development

1. *Participate as citizens, as members of household, as workers, and as responsible members of society.*
2. *Gain experience in decision-making.*
3. *Interact with peers and acquire a sense of belonging.*
4. *Reflect on self in relation to others, and discover self by looking outward as well as inward.*
5. *Discuss conflicting values and formulate one's own value system.*
6. *Experiment with one's own identity, with relationships; try out various roles without having to commit oneself irrevocably.*
7. *Develop a feeling of accountability in the context of a relationship among equals.*
8. *Cultivate a capacity to enjoy life.*
9. *Engage in physical activity and expression of art.*

(Konopka, 1973)

Conclusions & Implications

- No pass/no play sanctions overwhelmingly negatively impact the youth development of athletes
- Sanctions may encourage dishonesty and cheating, with adults facilitating such actions
- Apologizing to teammates is as an effective form of youth development

Definition of Youth Development

"A process that prepares young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated, progressive series of activities and experiences that helps them to become socially, morally, emotionally, physically, and cognitively competent. It addresses the broader developmental need of youth, in contrast to deficit-based models, which focus solely on youth problems."

(National Collaboration for Youth Members, 1998).

References

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