Athlete’s Social Capital Influences and Feelings of Team Cohesion
Katherine Emily Hirsch and Jessica Ashley Greene
Furman University

Conceptual Model

Measures

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE: Social capital
DEPENDENT VARIABLE: Team cohesion

Hypotheses

• Athlete’s overall social capital will have a negative curvilinear (inverted U-shape) relationship with his/her level of team cohesion.
• Teammate network strength will have a positive linear relationship with team cohesion.
• Parental network strength will have a positive linear relationship with team cohesion.
• Coach network strength will have a positive linear relationship with team cohesion.
• Non-teammate peer network strength will have a negative curvilinear relationship with team cohesion.
• Romantic partner network strength will have a negative linear relationship with team cohesion.

Conclusion

• In contrast to our original hypothesis, overall social capital was discovered to have a strong, positive linear relationship with overall team cohesion when controlling for gender, age, number of winning seasons, years played, and current relationship status.
• In agreement with our original hypothesis, teammate network strength was discovered to have a positive, linear relationship with team cohesion when controlling for gender, age, number of winning seasons, years played, and current relationship status.
• Non-teammate, coach, and romantic relationship network strengths were found to have positive linear while parental network strength had a positive curvilinear with team cohesion. However, these results were not found to be statistically significant; therefore, we cannot claim that these relationships have an effect on team cohesion.
• Overall, mean scores of team cohesion demonstrate that athletes feel higher levels of ATGS (M = 37.643), followed by GIT (M = 36.277), ATGT (M = 29.929), and GIS (M = 29.869).

Methods

POPULATION: NCAA Division I collegiate athletes who play an interactive team sport (e.g., football, but not golf).
SAMPLE: A purposive sample was used by accessing coach rosters that were made available on the websites of NCAA recognized sports teams, as well as athletes that the principal investigators knew prior to the study (n = 85). One participant was excluded from data due to having multi-sport athlete status.
COLLECTION: Coaches were asked to forward the survey to their athletes. The survey was sent to around 150 coaches across the country. Athletes answered approximately 60 questions through a self-administered anonymous survey.

Results

Levels of Cohesion by Sport

References