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Contribution in the Context of Youth Sport

The term “contribution” appears in the 5Cs model of positive youth development (PYD), one of the most prominent models used in PYD research in sport. However, despite its position in this model as the desired positive outcome of PYD, contribution is not been defined or researched. The lack of a clear definition limits researchers’ and practitioners’ ability to discuss ideas, conduct research, and design programs related to contribution. In addition to being poorly defined, it is not understood how contribution through sport develops. The overall objective of this dissertation is to understand the process by which contribution is developed among young athletes. This research will be guided by two research questions: (a) what properties are associated with and define contribution through sport? and (b) how do youth athletes develop contribution and the associated properties through involvement in the context of sport? The findings pertaining to the first research question are shared in this poster presentation. A scoping review was conducted to identify the properties of contribution and establish a theoretical definition of contribution. The study was guided by Levac and colleagues’ (2010) updated scoping review framework and identified six properties that were combined to form a theoretical definition of contribution. These properties and definition were then rated by 20 expert judges and focus groups were conducted to obtain youth sport coaches’ perspectives on contribution. Overall the theoretical definition was rated as fitting well with the expert judges conceptualization of contribution and parts aligned well with youth sport coaches perspectives.