

# **Danielle Alexander<sup>1</sup>, Gordon A. Bloom<sup>1</sup>, Marte Bentzen<sup>2</sup>, and Göran Kenttä<sup>3</sup>**

**McGill University, <sup>2</sup> Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, <sup>3</sup> Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences  
Post-Doctoral 2021**

*Team culture and coaching in parasport: Preliminary data from the Canadian, Norwegian, and Swedish sport context.*

---

Parasport coaching research has received increasing attention over the last 20 years yet is limited compared to research conducted in able-bodied high-performance sport settings. The purpose of this study is to explore the role of the parasport head coach in creating group culture from Norway, Sweden, and Canada. We recruited one individual Summer parasport team from each country and are in the process of collecting data using observations, focus groups, and individual interviews with various members of the team, including head coaches, assistant coaches, athletes, high performance directors, mental and physical coaches, and coach mentors. To date, we have collected data from parasport teams in Norway and Sweden (April 2022) and are currently collecting data from the Canadian parasport team (September 2022). Data from Norway and Sweden were audio recorded, transcribed verbatim and results are being analyzed using a reflexive thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2019). Preliminary data demonstrates that coaches desired a values-based environment that emphasized openness, honesty, innovation, and creativity, yet acknowledged challenges in achieving this goal (e.g., managing difficult athletes, lack of intrapersonal team trust). Coaches managed and facilitated relationships with their support staff to assist in carrying out the coaches' vision and values. Finally, athletes and members of the support staff highlighted the importance for coaches to act in congruence with the values set for the team, indicating that a lack of congruence often led to damaged relationships and group dynamics on the team. Overall, this study will provide a richer understanding of parasport team dynamics and ideal coaching behaviours, by incorporating multiple perspectives and methods of data collection from three countries around the world.