

Cultural Differences in Sport

These notes accompany the PowerPoint presentation that can be found on the TAGS website.

Slide 3

Divide students into the groups of four or five. Give them the Table 1, so they can see the names, ages and chance for success. On the blackboard, re-draw this table.

1. Tell the students that each of the group is independent board of a company. They met to decide which of the athlete would gain the financial support from the company sponsor fund. They should choose one athlete for financial support. The money can be given just to one person, and will provide them enough funds for preparation during the Olympic season. If the athlete is successful, he/she will attend the Olympics. It is the most an athlete can achieve. All the others will not have a chance, as they will not be able to pay for the training and equipment. The committee can choose just one athlete.
2. The basic information are on the Table 1. Students can ask for further information. Each group can ask up to the three clues. These clues will be displayed for all the class. All the class has altogether maximum 12 clues.
3. You have the Table 2 – where all the clues are listed. Use it to publish the clues to the class.
4. After 12 clues are given, give 5-10 minutes to the groups to decide for one of the athletes.
5. Each group has to present justify their decision.
6. Afterwards – show all the clues. Give additional time for the groups to reconsider their decision.
7. Each group has to present and justify their decision once again.

Questions for group discussion:

- Do you agree with the decision of your group:
- What were the key clues that influenced your decision? Why?
- What was the aim of this game? What did you learn?

	Age	Chance for Success	Sport	Identity	Family Background	Other
John	27	low				
Peter	18	medium				
Jane	25	high				
Simone	36	high				
Ahmed	30	low				

Table 2						
	Age	Chance for Success	Sport	Identity	Family Background	Other
John	27	low	Badminton	British/Caucasian	divorced	paralympic - lost his leg
Peter	18	medium	Golf	Greek/Afro-American	single	drunk while driving
Jane	25	high	weight-lifting	Lesbian	rich family	sympathises with extreme-right
Simone	36	high	400 m run	Russian	single mother	doping positive 5 years ago
Ahmed	30	low	Cross country skyding	Lebanon	wife and 3 children	celebrates Ramadan

Comments:

This game is excellent for displaying the prejudice and values of each person. There is no good or bad solution. Use it for deepening the understanding of ethical dilemmas, judging and decision-making. Add comments about the nature of prejudice and how prejudice influence our thinking and actions. Give examples of athletes in similar situations, and add their stories.

Slide 5

Ecological model

The structure of cultural influences and environmental factors is provided by the Bronfenbrenner ecological model (Figure 1). It describes how the external environment contributes to the formation and form of man. It was first introduced in the 1970s. The concept is based on the assumption that if we want to understand human development, we must take into account the whole context in which this process takes place. The model is applied in many areas, so we apply it to sport. It provides a platform for structuring influences. First of all, it is necessary to explain the basic principles on which it works.

At the center of the ecological model is a human (athlete). The model also includes five components, called systems. In fact, each of these systems creates a broader context of when, where and where the athlete is born. Systems offer an ever-increasing variety of choices and sources of individual growth. There are two-way influences between the systems. They have an impact in two ways, both from and to the individual (Stanger, 2011). Thus, a person influences one's surroundings, but at the same time the surroundings change his. The further away the system is, the more indirect it is. Individual systems also interact with each other, regardless of the athlete and his activity.

Microsystem

The microsystem involves relationships and interaction between the child and its immediate environment. These include a family, school, neighborhood or nursing environment. (Bronfenbrenner, 1999). At the level of this microsystem, bidirectional influences are strongest and usually have the most profound impact on the child. Usually, it is

the base for the child to learn about the world. It is the most intimate place for him to learn. It provides a basic landmark for understanding the surroundings.

Mesosystem

Mesosystem is a system of microsystems. It involves the relationships and processes taking place between two or more microworlds in which a person develops. In sport, it means mainly relationships between coach and family, family and teammates, club and coach, or teammates and peers.

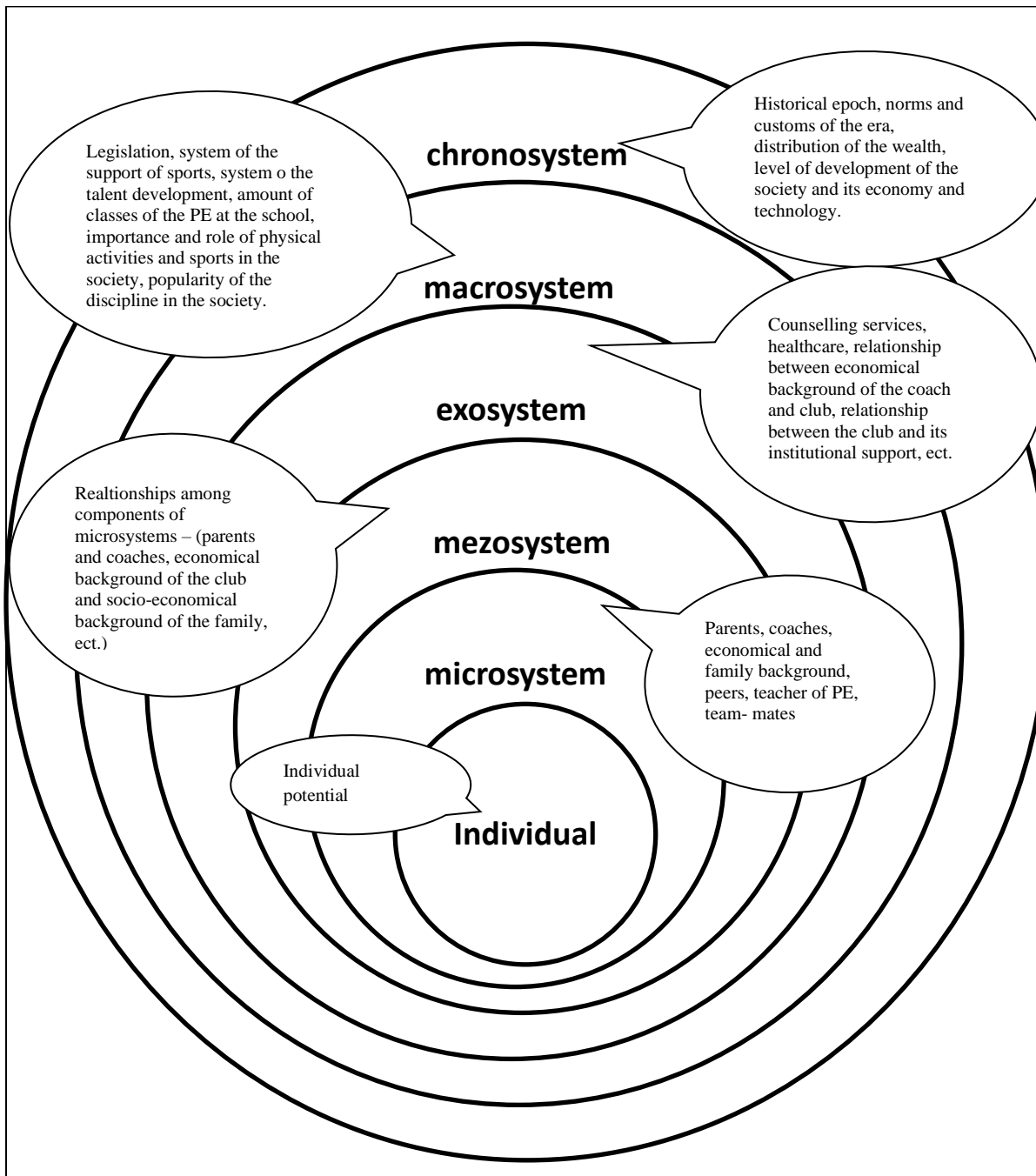
Probably the most frequently discussed problem that can negatively or positively affect the development of sports talent is the relationship between the parent and the coach. Typically, this statement is like, "The boy has tremendous potential only if he has better parents," or "the coach is an ass, doesn't put you on, and doesn't understand what he's doing."

Exosystem

The exosystem conceives a wider social system in which the child does not work directly. The structures in this layer have an impact on the development of an individual by interacting with some of the structures of his or her microsystem. However, the child is not directly part of this level. Nevertheless, it can feel strongly its effect. In sports, it is mainly the relationship between the founder - eg the Department of Sports in the City and the Sports Club, the employment of parents and family background, the life situation of the coach and coaching activity, or the club and financial background.

Macrosystem

The macrosystem is made up of cultural values, customs and laws. It refers to the overall patterns of ideology and organization that characterize a given society or social group. The consequences of the "higher principles" defined by the macrosystem have a cascade effect through the interaction of all other, lower layers. In sport it includes legislation, a system of financing sport, a system of talent development, or a way and time allocation of physical education teaching in schools. These include the importance of physical activities for society.



Picture 1. Ecological model of Bronfenbrenner adapted to sport (by Vicar Protic, and Valkova, 2014).

Slide 8

Communitarism x Liberalism

Theory of Justice - Liberalism

Theory of justice was stipulated by the philosopher John Rawls (1971). It is regarded as the basis of liberal standpoint. It states that people should be perceived as morally equal. They deserve the same respect and care, notwithstanding their talents, abilities or their social advantages. Rawls (1971, 302) describes justice as fairness such that it is governed by the following principles:

1. Each person is to have an equal right to the most extensive total system of equal basic liberties compatible with a similar system of liberty for all.
2. Social and economic inequalities are to be arranged so that they are both:
 - (a) to the greatest benefit of the least advantaged, consistent with the just savings principle, and
 - (b) attached to offices and positions open to all under conditions of fair equality of opportunity.

The first principle takes precedence over the second one and (2a) is prior to (2b). Inequalities therefore cannot appear at the expense of basic rights and liberties and the difference principle (advantage) cannot bring about the detriment of fair equality of opportunity. Rawls further states that positions should be open and attainable to everyone. He does not perceive fair equality of opportunity as a mere formal equality before the law. Instead, he regards it as a guarantee that people with the same talent or preconditions are given equal opportunity to education and growth, independently of their initial social status. The difference in achievements is thus ideally not caused by a different initial position but by the degree of effort and diligence.

If this is applied to the field of sports, equal opportunities should be employed for all the talented regardless of their social status and other preconditions. This should not prevent other children from engaging to the sporting possibilities.

Communitarism

Opposite to liberalism is communitarism. Communitarianism is a philosophy that emphasizes the connection between the individual and the community. Its overriding philosophy is based on the belief that a person's social identity and personality are largely moulded by community relationships, with a smaller degree of development being placed on individualism. Although the community might be a family, communitarianism usually is understood, in the wider, philosophical sense, as a collection of interactions, among a community of people in a given place (geographical location), or among a community who share an interest or who share a history.[1] Communitarianism usually opposes extreme individualism and disagrees with extreme laissez-faire policies that neglect the stability of the overall community.

Prioritisation

Prioritisation means giving more chances and support to some individuals over others and result in not everyone getting a chance to develop their potential. What are the criteria? Bailey & Toms, (2011) speak about social advantages such as wealthy supportive parents, proper school, accessibility of training grounds or supportive group of friends that assist child to succeed the sportive goals. They assert that these phenomena facilitate the successful

process of talent identification. This process can be well documented in sports such as ice hockey, or golf, with where the economic burden is high. Children from less advantageous backgrounds can be easily excluded from the training process

There is also a pressure to distribute community resources predominantly at the widespread sports such as football, swimming or basketball. This happens due to their visibility, marketing applicability and short-term rate of return (Green & Houlihan, 2005). Hence, economically unfavourable sports are ignored. Children with potential in these disciplines are not being given the opportunity to develop in them, equal opportunities are being institutionally undermined and future prospect for children become limited.

Consequently, identification and providing “the apt ones in the right sports” with an opportunity systemically prevents a child with no supportive socio-economic background or with talent in a sport not supported by the society from participating. This practice violates the Rawlsian principle. Facing these phenomena Bailey and Toms (2011, 161) argue that selection is “acceptable if it is the result of an individual making the most of the innate gifts available”. They state that selection is not tolerable if opportunities are based on and mediated by social and environmental circumstances.

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Example of macrosystem - Popularity of the sport discipline in the community

The macrosystem is made up of cultural values, customs and laws. It refers to the overall patterns of ideology and organization that characterize a given society or social group. The consequences of the “higher principles” defined by the macrosystem have a cascade effect through the interaction of all other, lower layers. In sport it includes legislation, a system of financing sport, a system of talent development, or a way and time allocation of physical education teaching in schools. These include the importance of physical activities for society.

There are sports played worldwide (soccer), and other just in some nations (e.g. baseball) or even just in some part of the nation or community (e.g. native americans). Canada, for example, has a long tradition in ice hockey (Baker & Horton, 2004). A number of factors contribute to this. Canada has an excellent climate for ice hockey, and it is possible to play outdoors several months a year. In addition, hockey heroes are highly acclaimed in Canada, and hockey is given great attention by national media. As a result, Canadian children are extremely high in this sport. In fact, Canada has 3.5 times more children playing ice hockey than other hockey powers, Russia, Sweden, Finland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia combined. In Austria, we can see a similar pattern in alpine skiing, in Kenya in long-distance runs, in Brazil in football and in the US in baseball (Baker & Horton, 2004) However, there are many similar examples worldwide

Examples of mikrosystém effects

Basically, children have no chance of achieving exceptional performance unless they are supported by adults - especially coaches and parents - during their development (Csikszentmihalyi, Rathunde, & Whalen, 1993). Bloom, (1985) and Côté and Hay, (2002) found in their traditional research by experts from various sectors that parental support was absolutely necessary to develop talent and sport participation. It is they who bring children to the sports club and support them in this activity. Both authors also describe the fact that as athletes grow up and go through stages of development, the role of parents changes. Ideally, the role of the parent should gradually lose importance as the athlete takes control of the career decision-making process. During the early stages of sports development, parents usually act as leaders who regularly initiate contact with sport. Even later, parents continue to support their descendants, especially financially and emotionally. It is on the basis of the level of support that we can distinguish between two extreme types of parents who adversely affect the development of their children's talents. The first is neglecting parents and the second is ambitious parents. The third type is parenting (Hellstedt, 1987). They have realistic expectations of sports performance. They are open to discussion with the child, taking into account their individuality and leaving room for their own decisions. On the other hand, they are consistent and support the active development of the child in sport and fulfill its potential.

Example of mezosystem - The Size of the community

The size and type of community influences the sport participations. Examining the birthplace of professional basketball, ice hockey and golf players in the US and Canada, they found that the optimal city size for the development of athletes was between 1,000 and 500,000 inhabitants (Côté, Macdonald, Baker, & Abernethy, 2006) consistent in all corners of both countries. Similarly, professional football players born in cities with less than 1,000,000 residents were more represented than big city players (MacDonald, Cheung, Côté, & Abernethy, 2009)000. (MacDonald, King, Côté, & Abernethy, 2009)

This suggests that areas with smaller populations provide better conditions for achieving top levels in a given sport than large urban environments (Davids & Baker, 2007). It is likely that a number of factors play a role. For example, adolescents in smaller communities receive better social support, have more scope for self-realization, and experience fewer conflicts with others than their peers from larger cities (Elgar, Arlett, & Groves, 2003). In addition, smaller cities can provide a more supportive environment sporting abilities and skills. They also tend to have lower crime rates and offer more safe recreational space. It should be noted that the conclusions of these studies have not yet been confirmed outside the North American continent.

Example of chronosystem – historical era

Chronosystem conceives change or coherence in time, but also in the environment in which the individual lives. It includes, for example, the historical stage in which the child is born, the distribution of wealth, the maturity of society, the economy, technology and technology.

An example of the chronosystem is the German Democratic Republic. The political system during communist era favorite the sports deeply on all levels - by money, creating sports centers, educating coaches, legislation, but also development of doping. The reason was, among other things, the need to achieve international and world sporting success in a situation of confrontation of two world power systems. Sporting achievements and medals were presented as the quality of care for the people, the talented and the quality of the economic system. It resulted into great sports success on one side. This small nation with population just over 16 million won 102 medals at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, 8 more than United States with population more than 250 milion people. On the other hand doping was widely used with all its negative influences on the athletes.

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Example of Nationality

Accordin to te Siekmann (2006). the core of the problem is the extreme diversity of the legislation concerning the acquisition of "ordinary" nationality in the world community of states. The conditions and required residency periods for naturalization differ greatly per country. In one country, a candidate national must have resided in that country's territory for at least three years in order to be eligible for naturalization, while in another country this may be five years, and in yet another country ten. States have further established quite diverse additional requirements as to the necessary degree of integration. On the other hand, however, the legislation in some countries permits that a foreigner is naturalized almost instantly for reasons of general, national interest! Traditionally, the sports community in principle follows the "ordinary" public law rules concerning nationality. However, already in the past considerable obstacles were put into place by, for example, the international basketball federation FIBA to prevent accelerated naturalization, or rather, to avoid its consequences by applying residency requirements in respect of the adopted country. A well-known example is the FIFA rule that once a player has played for a particular country in an official competition of any category or any type cannot represent other country.

Other FIFA rules state, that he/she shall be eligible to play for the new representative team only if he fulfils one of the following conditions:

- a) He was born on the territory of the relevant association;
- b) His biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant association;
- c) His grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant association;
- d) He has lived continuously for at least five years after reaching the age of 18 on the territory of the relevant association.

Slide 12

Race and Racism

Definition of race and racism.

Of course, we are not all the same people, but it is worth remembering that in the past, white people strongly focused on differences between race which should justify their often cruel behavior towards other ethnic groups from a position of power. In the 19th century, Europeans invented the concept of the so-called "burden of a white man" when a white man is seen as superior to other races and his duty is to spread his higher culture around the world. The White Man was portrayed as a superior race that is wiser than the rest of the world. This view has been rebutted many times by the scientific community, but unfortunately a certain hostility towards the others can still be seen today, not only in sports. National human right institution The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) in 2007 released a report which claim, that racial abuse and vilification is commonplace in international sports, in places such as Australia, Europe, and America (Australian Human Rights Commission. p. 9. Retrieved 28 March 2014. from What's the Score? (16 October 2007).

- Working in a group: So why is the world of sport full of prejudice, racial discrimination and hatred towards others?

Slide 13

This slide represents the problem of racism in sport and we ask to groups, if they know other discriminations in sport?

Slide 14

We can describe the problem of discrimination from lots of point view. In our presentation we decided to follow the biological roots of the mutual intolerance of groups who have your original in the deep past. Interpersonal group intolerance is well described by psychology and is termed in-group and out-group bias. Through this bias we explain to students interpersonal discrimination.

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Well known world organizations fighting racism and discrimination in sport.

- Show Racism the Red Card (established in 1996)

- A campaign called 'Let's Kick Racism Out Of Football' was launched in 1993 in Britain
- No to Racism - campaign by UEFA
- Stand Up Speak Up was a Europe-wide campaign that was launched in January 2005 by the French Football player Thierry Henry following an increase in reports of racism incidents in football across Europe. Together with Nike and other top European players, he protests against this continuing problem inviting football fans to voice their opposition to racism.

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