

An Invitation to Participate in a Research Study about Coaches' Needs

We are writing to invite you to join a research study of Canadian coaches' needs with respect to helping their teen athletes deal with dating conflict and violence. We know from previous research that athletes often have close relationships with their coaches and that athletes often turn to coaches for advice and support when they experience difficulties in sport and in life. For coaches to be able to help athletes, coaches need to have the right knowledge and skills. One of the areas that coaches have expressed a desire to learn more about is helping their teen athletes deal with dating relationships. Dating relationships have changed dramatically over recent years in part due to the expansion of social media platforms. One part of this study involves asking athletes between the ages of 16 and 24 years to complete an anonymous online survey about their experiences of dating conflicts. The other part of this study involves asking coaches about their needs for education with respect to helping their teen athletes deal with dating and teen dating conflict and violence.

You may choose to participate in this study by completing an anonymous online survey to assess coaches' educational needs that will be distributed by the Coaching Association of Canada to coaches across Canada. Participation is completely voluntary. You may choose to participate or not participate in this survey and there will be no consequences for you of any kind should you decide not to participate.

Who Can Participate in This Study?

Any Canadian sport coaches 18 years of age and older may join this study.

What Does Your Participation in the Study Involve?

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey which means you will not include your name anywhere. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes. The survey is administered through RedCap, which is a secure server provided by the University of Toronto. The Coaching Association of Canada has agreed to distribute the surveys through their existing database but all completed surveys will be sent directly to the research team at the University of Toronto. Neither the researchers, the Coaching Association of Canada, your athletes or employers will know who has responded to the survey. Consent to participate in the study will be assumed if you complete the survey. You may choose to not answer some of the questions if you like. If you start the survey and then decide to withdraw from the study, you may do so by not submitting the survey. Once the survey is submitted, your data cannot be removed because it is anonymous – we will not know which survey is yours.

At the end of the survey, you may indicate that you are also interested in participating in an online focus group discussion with other coaches about educational needs to learn more about teen dating conflict. We will need your name and email address in order to contact you to

schedule the focus group but this information will not be used for any other purpose. Once you begin participation in the focus group discussion, your data cannot be withdrawn.

Will My Identity Remain Anonymous?

The survey is completed anonymously; you will not be asked for your name at any point in the study. Although we ask for some general demographic data, this information will not be enough to identify you.

The final report of findings will include group results only and no individual participants or results will be shared by the researchers.

No persons other than the research team will see the survey and focus group data, which will be securely stored for seven years at the University of Toronto. After this time, all related study documents will be securely destroyed.

The research study you are participating in may be reviewed for quality assurance to make sure that the required laws and guidelines are followed. If chosen, (a) representative(s) of the University of Toronto Human Research Ethics Program (HREP) may access study-related data and/or consent materials as part of the review. All information accessed by the HREP will be upheld to the same level of confidentiality that has been stated by the research team.

What are the Possible Benefits and Risks to My Participation:

There are no immediate benefits related to participation in the survey. The information we collect from this study will help to inform educational modules to be developed for coaches' professional development.

There is a risk that you may experience discomfort or emotional distress when participating in this study, particularly if you have experienced or know someone who has experienced dating conflict and violence. You can stop your involvement in this study at any time without penalty. You will also be provided with a list of supports you may access should you feel they would be helpful.

Will I Have Access to the Results?

A summary report of the group findings will be posted on the website of the Coaching Association of Canada which will be available to you at the end of the study.

In Summary:

- You may choose to participate or not to participate in this study.
- You are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty. However, it will not be possible to withdraw data you provide through the survey or the focus group.
- There are no known conflicts of interest on the part of the researchers.
- You will not be personally identified in the survey results or any final reports.

If you Have Questions About the Study: Please feel free to contact any members of the research team:

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Concerns about the Study or the Rights of Research Subjects

If you have any concerns about this study, your treatment, or rights as a research subject you may contact the University of Toronto Office of Research Ethics at ethics.review@utoronto.ca or +1 416-946-3273.

Consent:

I understand that my participation in this study is entirely voluntary and that I may refuse to participate or withdraw from the study at any time before submission of the online survey. I have read this consent form and know who to contact if I have any further questions. By continuing, I agree to participate in this study.

Please print a copy of this consent form for your records.