

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.

We're interested in learning more about coaches' needs in supporting athletes in their experiences of dating relationships. To do this, we're inviting you to participate in a one-hour online focus group with 5-7 other coaches in Canada. Participation is completely voluntary. You may choose to participate or not participate in this focus group 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, there will be a one-hour online focus group discussion with other coaches about 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.

Will My Identity Remain Anonymous?

It will not be possible to keep your identity anonymous when you participate with other coaches in the online focus group discussion.

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

No persons other than the research team will see the 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 focus group discussion although it is possible that you may learn from your peers through the discussion. The information we collect from this study will help us develop educational modules 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 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 accessible to you at the end of the study.

In Summary:

- You may choose to participate or not to participate in this study.
- It will not be possible to keep your identity secret or anonymous with the focus group.
- 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 focus group discussion.
- There are no known conflicts of interest on the part of the researchers.
- You will not be personally identified in the final report.

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. 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.