

## **Abstract**

### **How to realize a pedagogical youth sport climate?**

Sport is popular. In the Netherlands, about 2.4 million youngsters between 5 and 18 years old are active in sports of which 1.6 million youngsters practice sports in an organized setting. Sport is beneficial and has added value for health, well-being and social contacts. It turns out from substantial research analysis that sport participation can yield very positive effects, provided that sport and physical education are offered in such a way that it corresponds with the development of the youth. If this is not the case, then sport participation may yield negative effects. Research studies regarding the prevalence of improper/ transgressive behavior in sport reveal great risks within the sport context. Numbers vary from 2% up till 50%. The key to both the positive effects as well as combatting the negative effects, is to create a pedagogical climate in a sport context. The pedagogical climate refers to the way in which the intention from coaches / teachers to create favorable conditions for the development of young people is realized.

The dilemma regarding the term pedagogical climate is that it does not have an unambiguous definition in (international) literature. Based on a literature research, we distinguish four relevant pillars of a pedagogical climate: a development-oriented climate, a caring climate, a motivation climate and a safe climate and what this means in the practice of sport. In order to guarantee that children practice sports and that they will do so for a longer period of time, make sure that practicing sports is great fun!

Within (elite) sport the focus is not fun, but is mainly on performance. With our research we want to contribute to the awareness of the necessity of pedagogical competences for youth sport coaches. In the discussion we want to address pedagogical dilemmas in youth sport such as child-friendly selection procedures, topics as individual interest versus team interest, volunteer coaches.

## **References**

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## **Short biography of the presenting author (80-word)**

Nicolette Schipper van Veldhoven is Professor in Sports pedagogics, Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, Zwolle, the Netherlands. She also works for the Netherlands Olympic Committee\* Netherlands Sports Confederation (NOC\*NSF), as program manager Research and Intelligence. Prior to these positions, she was an associate professor in Sports, Physical Education and Health, at Utrecht University. She is an expert in and has quite some experience with the domain of physical exercise programs for children especially ‘with whom something is the matter’, a pedagogically justified sports climate and safeguarding sports.