

Public Abstract

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Title:A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF INTERPERSONAL CONFLICT IN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TRAINING

Conflict is a common entity within society and is often noted within athletic training literature. However, limited information could be found regarding the specific nature of interpersonal conflict (IC) within athletic training. The purpose of this study was to describe the prevalence and sources of interpersonal conflict (IC) as well as the challenges to managing IC, strategies for managing IC, and the confidence of athletic trainers in managing IC.

Prevalence of IC was reported by 96.1% of the respondents. Nearly 75% of the respondents reported being mostly confident or better in managing IC. However, nearly 25% of the respondents reported being slightly confident to completely unconfident in managing IC. Common causes of IC were workload, direct contact with others, disrespect for the role of an athletic trainer, and interference from athletes and coaches. Common challenges to managing IC were a lack of time, a lack of resources, others not collaborating on an issue, the emotions of others and themselves, and their impatience. Common strategies to managing IC were utilizing organizational resources, using policies and procedures, collaboration, compromise, open communication, and attentive listening.

The results of this study begin to describe the nature of interpersonal conflict within high school athletic training. However, more research is needed to gain a better understanding of interpersonal conflict in athletic training.