Evaluating the experience of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in the career histories of elite equestrian athletes
Title: Evaluating the experience of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in the career histories of elite equestrian athletes.

Authors: de Haan, Donna

Keywords: Equestrian sport
Athlete experience
Olympic
Paralympic
Career history

Issue Date: 2015

Publisher: © D.de Haan

Abstract: Equestrian sport has been present on the Modern Olympic programme since 1900 with Para-Equestrian Dressage making its debut at the 1996 Paralympic Games. Due to the combined governance of Olympic and Paralympic versions of the sport, the mixed gender of competition and the potential age range of competitors, equestrian sport provides an opportunity through which to understand a unique context of athlete experience. This thesis has sought to identify and evaluate athlete experience within the context of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and to place this experience within the wider career histories of members of the British Equestrian Team. This study utilised a combination of a systematic literature review methodology and ethnographic data collection and analysis with a critical realist approach, creating a framework that values interpretive insights into how the subjects perceive and construct their world whilst at the same time considering ways in which the literature and individual subjects identify, comment on, and frame the reality of the world of equestrian sport. This study has resulted in the emergence of six themes pertaining to experiencing the games; equestrian sporting culture, identity, values, challenges, performance support and success. Results show many similarities and shared experiences for both the Olympic and Paralympic equestrian athletes. The differences regarding the lived experience for these athletes are predominantly associated with the development of the sport, the relative short Paralympic history of equestrian sport in comparison to the Olympic disciplines, and the place of the Games in the context of the riders career histories. Recognising and understanding the kinds of satisfactions and challenges that individuals experience, the significant features of their athlete identity, and the structural constraints and opportunities of their environment may help identify and design the services and provision required to support the athletes through this elite sporting experience.

Description: A Doctoral Thesis. Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Doctor of Philosophy of Loughborough University.

Sponsor: none

URI: https://dspace.lboro.ac.uk/2134/17384

Appears in Collections: PhD Theses (Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences)

Files associated with this item:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis-2015-deHaan.pdf</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.29 MB</td>
<td>Adobe PDF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Show full item record

Items in DSpace are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.
with elite athletes and equine experts from all over the world, the jobs would also offer attractive remuneration and valuable working experience in Hong Kong.

Senior Veterinarian/ Veterinarian. Duties The successful delivery of Games events centered on effective Games-wide operations. This was result of intensive planning and preparations by teams that were well prepared, enabled and empowered by a leadership team whose confidence in the delivery of the Games came from strategies and plans that were carefully developed, tested and reviewed. The role and influence of the Chairman of the London Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, the double Olympic gold medalist and former politician Sebastian Coe, however, was pivotal to the success of these Games and cannot be overestimated. We could not allow our planning inadequacies impact on the Olympic experience of the athletes or the global community in any way. The Paralympic Games, also called the Paralympics, are an international athletic competition for people who have physical disabilities. Originally a combination of the words “paraplegic” and “Olympic,” the word “Paralympic” now is a combination of “parallel” and “Olympic” and refers to the fact that the games are held in the same years and at the same locations as the Olympic Games. Paralympic athletes are classified according to their physical disabilities, and they compete against athletes with similar disabilities. Athletes who have intellectual disabilities that impair them in athletics did not compete in the Paralympics as of 2012. These athletes can compete in the Special Olympics, which are an event that is separate from the Paralympics.