

## PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF PLAYER'S ENGAGEMENT TO THE SITTING VOLLEYBALL

### **Abstract**

*The purpose of this study was to examine motivational factors for sitting volleyball participation among athletes with physical disability from the Balkan countries. The investigation aimed to determine what the most important motivational factors are and whether they differed by the age category, years of training and between players with congenital and acquired disability. Number of athletes participated in this study was 88 (M: 83 and F: 5). All of them were high level players and participated in International Sitting Volleyball Tournament in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the most of the research took place. They were with and without physical disabilities, in origin from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Greece. Athletes were asked to complete Sitting Volleyball Participation Survey, which is modified version of Disability Sport Participation Questionnaire. Descriptive statistics (frequencies) and Spearman's Correlation Coefficient from SPSS 16.0 for Windows were used for statistical analysis. The results showed that Socialization (78.8 %), Health (76.7 %) and Entertainment (76.7 %), were the three highest motivational factors for sitting volleyball participation. Fitness (74.4 %) and Sport Competition (69.0 %) were closely behind, whereas Rehabilitation (60.5 %) was the lowest motive for participation. Significant correlation ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) was found between the category of young adulthood and factors of socialization and rehabilitation. Significant correlation ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) was found between years of training and rehabilitation factor, as well as between injury age and factors of sport competition and fitness ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). In conclusion, the results of this study indicated that Socialization, Health Reasons and Entertainment were the three major factors of sitting volleyball participation, whereas Rehabilitation was the lowest factor. Therefore, coaches should create more competitive opportunities for athletes to increase competitive spirit, and at the same time create activities that are more interesting for athletes, to enjoy participation in this sport.*

**Key words:** sitting volleyball, physical disability, motivation, activity participation

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