

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Understanding volunteer motivations and concerns in coaching and officiating basketball: implications for sport policy

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Background

Sports volunteers are vital for Australian community sports clubs to deliver sport programs and competitions.

The sports sector has been faced with increased challenges to recruit and retain volunteers due to increased bureaucracy and compliance demands.

Aim

To explore coaches and officials intentions and motivations and decisions to return to basketball post-COVID-19.

Methods

Online survey of volunteer coaches and officials in community basketball.

Results

Volunteers had positive intentions to return to basketball post-COVID-19 restrictions because

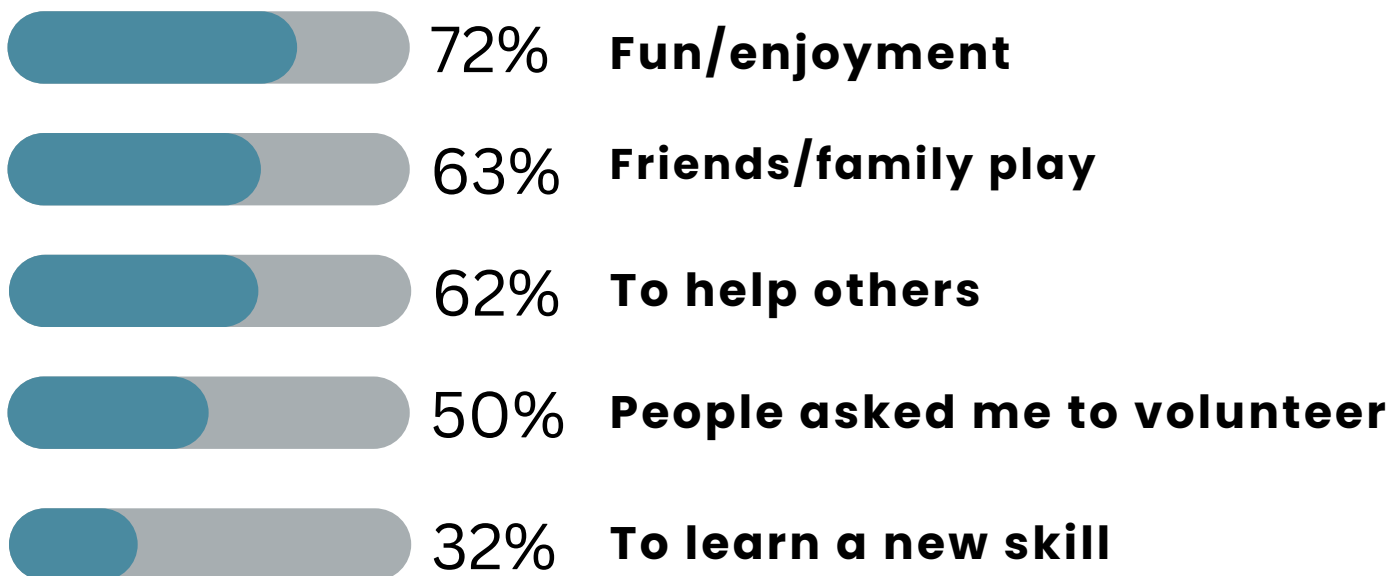
Volunteering in sport is all about:

- **Fun/enjoyment**
- **Helping others**
- **Supporting family/friends who play**

Volunteers were most concerned with:

- Others not complying with COVID-safe policies
- Inconvenience of some COVID-safe policies

Motivations to volunteer in sport



Adolescents were significantly more likely than adults to report the following motivations to volunteer:

- Learn new skill
- Allows me to explore my own strengths
- There is some reimbursement
- Assists me to develop my career
- Way to make new friends

Conclusion

It is positive that COVID-19 and associated restrictions do not appear to have severely negatively impact volunteer coaches and officials' intentions to return to basketball.

Recruitment and retention of volunteers should focus on their motivations of fun, to help others and to support family and friends.

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