



Factors relating to the elimination of boys senior high school gymnastics programs in the United States  
by Eugene George Lemelin

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in  
Physical Education

Montana State University

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Abstract:

The problem in this study was to determine factors relating to the elimination of boys senior high school gymnastics programs in the United States by surveying athletic directors and high school principals throughout the country who had experienced the process of eliminating a boys senior high school gymnastics program. Data were obtained from the responses to 18 questions by a sample of 138 personnel from 20 states. Results were presented in tables or listed when necessary, accompanied by a brief narrative description. Three conclusions were supported by the data: first, the Chi Square statistic, significant at the .05 level, showed no significant difference existed between the responses of athletic directors and principals, thus suggesting that both groups had similar perceptions as to why programs were eliminated. Second, for the sample studied, a lack of qualified coaches and a lack of student interest were perceived to be major factors relating to the elimination of boys high school gymnastics programs. Third, a lack of judges, budget cut-backs, other schools' program eliminations, competition with private gymnastics clubs for participants, insufficient facilities, available gym time and equipment, major injuries, and Title IX were perceived to be factors of lesser importance than lack of qualified coaches and lack of student interest.

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Bozeman, Montana

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This thesis has been read by each member of the thesis committee and has been found to be satisfactory regarding content, English usage, format, citations, bibliographic style, and consistency, and is ready for submission to the College of Graduate Studies.

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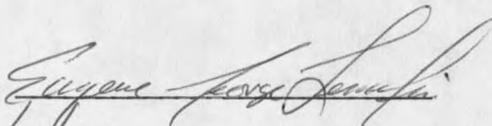
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## ABSTRACT

The problem in this study was to determine factors relating to the elimination of boys senior high school gymnastics programs in the United States by surveying athletic directors and high school principals throughout the country who had experienced the process of eliminating a boys senior high school gymnastics program. Data were obtained from the responses to 18 questions by a sample of 138 personnel from 20 states. Results were presented in tables or listed when necessary, accompanied by a brief narrative description. Three conclusions were supported by the data: first, the Chi Square statistic, significant at the .05 level, showed no significant difference existed between the responses of athletic directors and principals, thus suggesting that both groups had similar perceptions as to why programs were eliminated. Second, for the sample studied, a lack of qualified coaches and a lack of student interest were perceived to be major factors relating to the elimination of boys high school gymnastics programs. Third, a lack of judges, budget cut-backs, other schools' program eliminations, competition with private gymnastics clubs for participants, insufficient facilities, available gym time and equipment, major injuries, and Title IX were perceived to be factors of lesser importance than lack of qualified coaches and lack of student interest.

## CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

Recent figures compiled by the National Federation of State High School Associations indicated a decrease in the number of individuals and schools participating in boys senior high school gymnastics programs in the United States (7). Authors of articles relating to the elimination of gymnastics programs offered only speculation as to why these declines had taken place; included were such items as budget cuts, Title IX, the lack of coaches and officials, declining enrollments, high physical risk, and the 1980 Olympic boycott (1, 2, 3, 8).

Identification of the cause(s) of the widespread elimination of boys gymnastics programs would be a first step in prevention of further reductions. Therefore, the objective of this study was to identify those factors relating to the elimination of boys senior high school gymnastics programs in the United States by surveying athletic directors and high school principals throughout the country who had experienced the process of eliminating a boys senior high school gymnastics program.

Statement of the Problem

The problem of this study was to determine factors relating to the elimination of boys senior high school gymnastics programs in the United States by surveying athletic directors and high school principals

throughout the United States who had experienced the process of eliminating a boys senior high school gymnastics program.

#### Definitions

1. Athletic director (AD): the supervisor or coordinator of athletic events in a school or school district.
2. Boys gymnastics program: structured interscholastic athletic competition at the senior high school level on the following events: floor exercise, pommel horse, still rings, long horse vaulting, parallel bars, and horizontal bars.
3. Executive secretary, director, commissioner (ES): the head administrator of each state's high school association.
4. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSHSA): the governing organization of interscholastic activities whose membership consists of the fifty individual states and District of Columbia high school athletic and/or activity associations whose purpose is to coordinate the efforts of its member state associations toward the ultimate objectives of interscholastic activities (4).
5. Miscellaneous personnel (MS): one group of respondents consisting of personnel other than athletic directors, executive secretaries, or principals.
6. Principal (PR): the head administrator of a public or private school.
7. Senior high school: secondary grades 10, 11, and 12, with the possible inclusion of grade 9.

















































































































