

Motivation to Participate in Recreation/Sport for Gay Athletes

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Abstract

Understanding of motivation to participation and satisfaction from participation in an activity has provided parks and recreation professionals a window into how to better serve and program. One subculture that has lacked a previous research focus has been the Gay, Lesbian, Transgendered, and Bisexual (GLBT) population. This study investigated those factors which motivate members of the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered) community to participate in a GLBT sports tournament. Data from interviews with 15 individuals at a GLBT sport tournament were examined using Glaser and Strauss' (1967) method for analyzing qualitative data to determine the variables that contributed most to explaining leisure motivation and satisfaction in this setting. The most common factor that contributed to motivation was in the area of social opportunities. In addition, respondents were motivated and found satisfaction from learning a new skill, overcoming childhood obstacles, and the enjoyment of playing softball.

Keywords: Satisfaction, Motivation, GLBT, LGBT, Sports Tournaments

Introduction

Previous lack of understanding as to why members of the GLBT wanted to pursue participation in a GLBT sports event/tournament led to a struggle to hold an event in 2006. Specifically, when the 2006 Chicago Gay Games organizers wanted to hold the rowing competition in a suburban community they were met with resistance. Community members cited concerns over the possibility of lewd behavior and/or allowing a group into their community who may be doing so simply to push a social agenda (Long, 2006). Being assured the motivation to participate was simply to row, the community eventually allowed the competition to continue. While this is one small incident, it raises the question of whether communities understand why GLBT want to participate in sports events/tournaments. It can be argued that if reasons to participate in GLBT activities were better understood, communities would be more receptive to hosting GLBT events. To better understand this issue an examination of the reasons and motives to participate and the satisfaction received from motivation need to be studied.

Several communities across the country and internationally host GLBT sports tournaments. One such community is Chicago which hosts tournaments in flag football, bowling, volleyball, softball etc. through the Chicago Metropolitan Sport Association [CMSA (one of the largest GLBT sport organizations in the country)]. Like many GLBT sport organizations their development has occurred over the past 30 years (Pitts, 1988, Pronger, 2000). Organizations such as CMSA were developed to provide friendly, social, skill development and competitive alternatives to mainstream sport organizations. Pitts (1988) stated the primary motivation was to fulfill a need for sport and recreation as well as to promote a positive image/role model. Pronger (2000), suggests that "the effect of gay community sport has not been the transformation of sporting life but merely had included homosexual people in the established practices of sport" (p. 233). "Where sport was formerly a hostile environment for gays and lesbians, it has in some respects become a haven" (Pronger, 2000, p. 223).

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The concept of inclusion may be questioned seeing these events are designed for GLBT members, however, they provide a non-threatening environment for these members (MacLean & Hamm, 2008). As Pronger (1990) discovered, many GLBT members will avoid mainstream sport organizations due to feelings of estrangement. Similarly, Pritchard, Morgan, and Sedgley (2002) noted these spaces were empowering places which provide a sense of community and territory. Iwasaki and Ristock (2004) found the use of gay subculture-specific leisure space was essential for coping with stress. Having GLBT focused organizations does allow for inclusion regardless of ability, age, sexual orientation, class, and race. One way these organizations accomplished this is through sport tournaments with brackets for various skill levels (i.e. beginner, intermediate, advanced).

A second example of a GLBT sport organization is the Gay Games (founded 1982) which was most recently held in Cleveland (2014) and will be held in Paris, France in 2018. One of the motivations behind the Gay Games was to prove to “mainstream society that gay people were just like everybody else: they played sport” and to do so in an affirming environment (Symons, 2007, p. 140). The Gay Games are now the largest international GLBT event including GLBT members from a wide aspect of the international GLBT community (Symons, 2007).

GLBT sport tournaments also often have governing bodies. The North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (N.A.G.A.A.) represents approximately 56 GLBT softball leagues in over 35 communities (<http://www.nagaaasoftball.org/mission.html>). The mission of N.A.G.A.A. contains the principles of promotion, inclusion, support, skill development, regulations, and the provision of a GLBT softball world series. Similarly, the North American Gay Volleyball Association (NAGVA) provides support and regulations for GLBT volleyball in over 20 communities. So what motivates people to participate in these sport organizations?

Motivation refers to recognizing forces that initiate, direct, and sustain human behavior (Iso-Ahola, 1999). Previous research has found multiple reasons for why GLBT members are motivated to participate in sport related activities. Zamboni, Crawford, and Carrico (2008) found motivation primarily based on enjoyment and satisfaction of participation and slightly based on self-esteem, life satisfaction, mood states, and body esteem. Kivel and Kleiber (2000) found motivation based on the desire to acquire or develop new skills and competencies. Wellard (2002) found men motivated by competitive sports and the experience of traditional sporting procedures. Iwasaki and Ristock (2004) found motivation/satisfaction based on the role leisure plays in coping with stress. MacLean and Hamm (2008) and Pronger (1990) found motivation in the desire to build relationships and develop friendships. Specifically, Pronger noted the need for security, community, and support especially for those that are in the process of “coming out”. In addition, Kilpatrick, Hebert, and Bartholomew (2005) found different motivations based on gender. Specifically, men were motivated through the desire for challenge, competition, and enjoyment while women had a higher level of motivation in their desire for exercise and fitness (weight control). Likewise, Pronger found motivation for the purpose of health promotion in an age of AIDS. What has been lacking has been research pertaining to the specific motivations for recreation pursuits and interest of GLBT members/citizens (Pronger, 2000). One research that looked at this area found that several factors contributed to the motivation of GLBT (individuals) participation in recreation and sport (Place & Beggs, 2011). Specifically, this research found GLBT members motivated by intellectual, social (building relationships), skill development, (competency/mastery), and/or to relieve stress (stimulus avoidance). Intellectual motivation includes such mental activities such as learning, exploring, discovering, creating, or imagining. Furthermore, the findings indicate that subjects were primarily motivated by the social aspect of the activity, although, competition is desired and also from daily stresses.

Measuring Leisure Satisfaction

In understanding Leisure satisfaction researchers have been divided on the meaning of this concept. As Beard and Ragheb (1980) note, the division is due to determining satisfaction based on what one did during a leisure experience and those satisfactions associated with the experience. Beard and Ragheb (1980) offer this definition:

“Leisure Satisfaction is defined as the positive perceptions or feelings which an individual forms, elicits, or gains as a result of engaging in leisure activities and choices. It is the degree to which one is presently content or pleased with his/her general leisure experiences and situations. The positive feeling of contentment results from the satisfaction of felt or unfelt needs of the individual” (p 22). Franken and van Raaij (1981) combine these definitions by regarding satisfaction as a concept derived from previous experience, individual achievement, or in comparison to the perceived level of satisfaction of others. Kao (1992) found leisure satisfaction through external factors including social interactions, program designs, and recreational resources. Specific to GLBT sport satisfaction, research is very limited. However, concepts related to sport/leisure satisfaction have been examined.

In their study on tourism specific to GLBT communities, Prithchard, et.al. (2000) found satisfaction/value came from escape, sense of belonging, safety, community, and a chance to be themselves. Symons (2007) found participants obtaining satisfaction and value from the sense of inclusion, participation, promotion of self-esteem, health benefits, and doing their best at the first Gay Games. Riemer (1996) discovered that Lesbians who played softball found value and satisfaction from having a place to see friends, “coming out” to others, meeting other lesbians in a safe environment, and through joining the lesbian community. Filiault and Drummond (2008) found the benefits to GLBT sport participation included enacting social change, combating homophobia, social opportunity to meet other gay people, and being able to be “normalized” by participation with other gay individuals. Complications, whether perceived or real, were lessened for the GLBT members of this study through being themselves in the sport they participated in. A quantitative study by Place and Beggs (2012) found that satisfaction for GLBT participants came from social (highest), psychological (enjoyment, sense of freedom, involvement, and challenge), educational (intellectual stimulation & learning about self), relaxation (relief from strain and stress), and physiological (physical fitness, weight control, and well-being). GLBT members in this study significantly rated the opportunity to develop relationships and to meet friendly people in their activities. Of little significance to a sense of satisfaction was the aesthetic locations of the events and the opportunity to increase knowledge. This limited amount of research on the GLBT community led Zamboni, Crawford, and Carrico (2008) to conclude that “future research should include qualitative methods...to explore how and why gay/bisexual...adults begin their athletic endeavors” (p. 466). Therefore, this project set out to provide qualitative research that could be used in comparison to the quantitative research that was noted above. In like manner to the research of Place and Beggs (2012) this project set out to look at what motivates GLBT members to participate and pursue social connections through sports.

Methods

A qualitative approach was utilized to collect the information in this investigation. A GLBT Softball tournament (Chi-Town Classic) was selected through the first author’s association with the CMSA sport association. As previously mentioned CMSA is one of the largest sports associations in America with approximately 4000 members. Fifteen participants were chosen based on random request to participate during the tournament. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with all participants lasting 30-60 minutes and held in between games at the softball facility. All interviewees were asked the same questions; however, the questions were ordered differently based upon the natural conversations during the interview. Additionally, probing and clarification questions were asked to gain more detailed perspectives. Questions (see Appendix A) used in this study included demographic questions and questions based on two measurement scales developed by Beard and Ragheb (1980 & 1983). The Leisure Motivation Scale (LMS) and The Leisure Satisfaction Scale (LSS). The LMS developed by Beard and Ragheb (1983) is the most common measure of motivation in a sport and recreation setting. The LMS considers several areas of motivation including whether participants participate to develop intellectually, build relationships, develop skills, and/or to relieve stress. Likewise, the most recognized and utilized measure of leisure satisfaction was developed by Beard and Ragheb (1980). They used 51 items describing leisure needs to comprise the LSS resulting in six factors or subscales. The factors were psychological, educational, social, relaxation, physiological, and aesthetic. Glaser and Strauss’ (1967) method for analyzing qualitative data was employed in this investigation. Emergent categories, such as social opportunities, constraints, benefits, and level of participation were developed and analyzed amongst both researchers. Each transcript was read many times by each researcher and then compared between investigators to increase the accuracy of themes and sub-themes.

Results

All the respondents were male with ages ranging from mid-twenties to mid-fifties. Two respondents were in their twenties, four were in their thirties, three were in their forties, three in their fifties, and three respondents did not provide their age. Analysis of the data resulted in 6 categories. These categories consisted of motivations to join a GLBT sports league, previous experience and constraints, joining a GLBT vs. heterosexual sports league, social aspect of participation, benefits and level of involvement. In comparison, the LMS contained the categories: develop intellectually, build relationships (social), develop skills (competency/mastery), and/or to relieve stress (stimulus avoidance) (Beard and Ragheb, 1983).

The LSS contained the categories: psychological (enjoyment, sense of freedom, involvement, and challenge), educational (intellectual stimulation & learning about self), social (rewarding relationships), relaxation (relief from strain and stress), physiological (physical fitness, weight control, and well-being), and aesthetic (pleasing, interesting, beautiful and well designed represented) (Beard and Ragheb, 1980).

The obvious category present in all three is the benefit/motivation/satisfaction found in the concept of socialization. Several factors were indicated as to the motivation to join a GLBT sports league (in this case CMSA). These factors include enjoyment of sports (softball) (I-1,5,9,10,11,12,13,15), wanting to be a part of a GLBT sport organization (I-1,5,13), being asked by friends (I-3,7,12,14,15), having a boyfriend who participated (I-4,8), having the perception that this would be valuable socially (I-4,6,8,9,10,11,14), and overcoming a childhood obstacle (I-6,8).

Discussion

Teams arriving from Nevada, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New York, Wisconsin, Missouri, Tennessee, Ohio, and Washington D.C. joined 18 teams from Chicago to participate in a GLBT softball tournament held in Chicago, Illinois. As with most GLBT tournaments individuals begin arriving 1-2 days before the weekend event to enjoy several social events as well as explore the city. I (first author) have traveled to numerous tournaments (Minneapolis, Tampa, Toronto, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Memphis, Cleveland, and Milwaukee) over the past decade and view them as a chance to get away for a weekend with friends, see a new city, get to know other GLBT participants, and get to know my teammates better. Similarly, to my experiences, the Chicago tournament was set up in typical fashion. Various nightclubs/bars are identified as 'host bars' for the travelers who wish to enjoy the nightlife beginning Thursday night and going through Sunday night. Typically, one or more hotels are identified as 'host hotels' where the travelers know they can socialize with other GLBT sports participants. Travelers enjoy hotels that are located sensibly to the airport, softball fields, and nightlife. Also, desired are hotels with accommodations such as pools and hot tubs which are highly desired after a day of softball. For those arriving Thursday, Fridays are often spent exploring the sites of the cities, practice, shopping, and/or relaxing by a pool. Teams are then given a location on Friday nights to register for the tournament (sign in as teams would have already paid their registration fees and provided a list of players) providing them an opportunity to get to know other players. These registrations also provide an opportunity for meetings with the managers to go over any rules specific to that city (or fields). Also common to each tournament is a web site which is provided to advertise the tournament, register teams, identify weekend events, and to provide directions/maps. In addition to my experiences with tournaments it was no surprise that the responses included the enjoyment of sport and specifically softball. Interviewee 5 noted "I love softball, I never played sports until after college and after moving here...when I found out there was a softball league I was like Oh rock on" and that it was "nice to have a gay organization in which to play". Interviewee 13 also indicated that he liked "to play sports and wanted to be involved with some sort of sports affiliated organization".

In addition to these individuals, interviewees also noted their motivation as a result of being asked by friends such as interviewee 15 who noted "I was around all these sports people (due to serving on a Gay Games board) ...and saw how much they loved playing on these teams and the friendships they had". He went on to note that although he had lived in other cities that had gay sports he was not aware of them at the time because his social network was not involved. In addition to friends a couple respondents noted learning of CMSA through previous or current relationships. Perhaps the most discussed factor during the interviews was the motivation for increased social opportunities. Interviewee 4 indicated "it's a great way to meet friends...so, it was a social reason, to join". He also noted that he encourages other people he meets who are looking for a greater social outlet to join: "you know you should join, get on a softball team, get on a volleyball team, it's a good way to meet people" Interviewee 6 echoes this thought by saying: "I think people just join really to have a sense of place within our community". A couple respondents also indicated their motivation was to overcome a childhood obstacle or negative experience with sports. Interviewee 6 said it best when he noted: "You don't understand the feeling that we all had after winning that championship. Each of us felt like we've, we've closed a chapter in our life that was always left up, because of that growing up and not being sports oriented and here you are, winning your first ever championship game...and the sense of accomplishment and sense of fulfillment ...some of us were really traumatized by that as kids, and then when you sit here, and you swing a bat and people encourage you to continue rather than make fun of you, you know, there nothing but good that can come from it" In addition to these motivation factors, the concept of previous experience and constraints was also noted as reasons to participate.

Previous Experience and Constraints

While some indicated not having played many sports growing up, several indicated having negative experiences as a child playing sports. Interviewee 6 noted “I think people join...to kind of overcome a childhood obstacle that many of us had as gay men.

Because there’s probably a lot of us that were on the sidelines who were ridiculed or picked last or who really weren’t coordinated and here we’re finding that we can actually do this as, as adults and having a blast about it” Interviewee 9 felt also felt the GLBT sports associations provided a different experience: “I was always fearful of gym class...I don’t feel that here, but I have to overcome the nervousness and the anxiety of performance, of trying to perform and not getting too down on myself”. The same type of sentiment was noted by Interviewee 15 when reflecting on his High School years: “all my brothers played sports..I did not want to be the gay guy that’s really bad at sports (came out at 16) and I had this really horrible experience playing basketball...it intimidated me and I think a lot of that had to do with me, I don’t want to be made fun of, so I abandoned sports right away” My own experience (first author) did not echo these comments as I have played over 3 decades of baseball/softball as a youth and adult. Due to this experience I found myself in the role of coaching and helping others overcome the constraints they possessed. I remember one player I coached noting how his father would not believe his forty plus son was finally playing a sport. Several of the motivations and previous experiences provide a picture of why these men wanted to play sports but why did they select a GLBT association over a mainstream association?

GLBT vs. Heterosexual Sports Tournament

Having had played over 3 decades in community parks and recreation leagues I found myself wanting to experience what it was like to play in a GLBT league. While I found the structure and competitiveness to be similar I have been surprised at the level of acceptance and social opportunities it has provided. While some of the individuals had similar experiences in mainline (heterosexual) sports leagues some of the respondents had not. Therefore, the comments represented real and perceived reasons for their preference for a GLBT sport association. For those individuals who have not had previous experiences in community sports leagues their perceived view of these leagues centered around concerns over the level of competitiveness and acceptance. Some interviewees indicated the impression that a Heterosexual league would be very competitive with players who are very serious (I-2, 7). Other individuals with no previous community sport league experience held concerns that they may be ridiculed on a straight team and/or did not have enough ability to join (I-1, 5, 12). While interviewee 5 had limited experience as a youth he echoed this sentiment “I didn’t want to embarrass myself, here I found an introductory level”. Having started out in this introductory level he has since advanced to the upper, more competitive level. Several of those interviewed had previous experience in community sport leagues with a mixture of reactions to their experiences. On the one hand a couple individuals indicated they could not click with straight people or felt intimidated by them (I-1, 5) while a couple other individuals noted the desire to expand their experiences to include Heterosexual sports leagues. “I wanted to join a different league besides just the CMSA...I didn’t want to basically just affiliate myself with just the gay population...did not want to focus on one segment.” Another respondent echoed this sentiment “I think it’s becoming more and more accepted to do both” (I-11). The remaining reaction for those that had previous experience in community sports leagues was that of experiencing a competitiveness that was greater than they desired. “I tried once, um and I didn’t like it. I dropped out after the first game. It was just too intense for me. It’s not the type of scene for me.” (I-6). Alternatively, the opinion was that the GLBT league was more social for some: “did growing up but now preference is the gay leagues to socialize” (I-6, 10).

Social Aspect of Joining:

This social aspect was one talked about by every participant in this study. Simply attending a softball tournament, whether GLBT or not, one can witness the social aspect of the tournament. Having played in both heterosexual and homosexual sport leagues (first author) I have witness the similar attribute of high levels of socialization. Teams often have hours of time to fill during their time at the fields waiting for their next game. Saturday mornings are spent in a 2-3 game round robin play (to determine seeding) followed by the start of a double elimination tournament. Teams can be seen hanging out around the complex waiting for their next games, watching other games in progress, and/or grabbing a bite to eat.

It would be very difficult to not have multiple social opportunities during the time one spends on the field or with their team at the host bars or hotel. “The close knit relationships I see between people within the league is amazing. I mean these people have been playing ball together, some of them together for 15-20 years...when you start in a lower division and you work your way up on a team, it solidifies so much” (I-5). As with other GLBT events some participants find value in the ability to meet other GLBT members noting “it’s an easier way to meet people” and “it was a good way to get out and meet people that’s not at a bar” (I-2). This socialization can transcend the field as participants noted the how everyone on their team was interested in camaraderie “they are like my best friends...so we do...dinner, movies, travel, everything” (I-11, 15).

This sense of camaraderie was echoed by another participant -“camaraderie with all the guys and everyone kind of keeps together and usually after the games we might go to a bar and hang out there”...“You meet a lot of friends and you know, other social things, besides being on the softball field. There’s parties, and stuff like that. A lot of the guys have like parties during the summer so we get together and eat and...it’s really quite fun” (I-3).

Over the years of participation, I have heard jokes from GLBT members on players participating to find “dates” or “one night stands” and I have heard communities fear allowing GLBT events due to fears of “lewd” behavior, but is there any truth to these type of suggestions? When posed with this questions the respondents were overwhelmingly focused on the purpose of meeting friends rather than “dates” (I-1,2, 3, 7, 8, 9,11,12, 13,14,15, . “I think there are a few but they are far in between...I think it’s just to be social and have a good time, without getting drunk every night or whatever...I think it’s a small minority of people that do it to hook up or whatever” (i-8). A couple mentioned that it could be possible and one mentioned it was how he met his partner: “it’s a great way to meet people and whether or not you’re directly or indirectly looking for something like that (bf or date), um it can happen very easy. It’s a nice alternative to the bars. You’re not supposed to be drinking out here so the relationships tend to be much more solidified, much more concrete and based upon real things...that’s how I met my partner”

Benefits gained from participation

With the motivations established by the participants it was also of interest to find out if the benefits they received from participation fulfilled their desire to join. Post tournament one can certainly expect to feel physical fatigue. Each team plays a minimum of 4 games and those that find success will play double or triple that. Along with the sense of fatigue what can be other benefits? As expected, often the conversation revolved around friendships and the sense of camaraderie (I-3, 4,13). Interviewee 6 noted: “we have made some extremely close friends...we still keep in contact, especially when...it’s not in season. We still go to each other’s parties and have dinner with each other and just formed a really unique bond. Our chemistry is just outstanding” There is a definite benefit not only in developing friendships with those you play with but due to those you meet through those you play with “my social life pretty much revolves around not just the games but the people I’ve met...I’ve expanded my social network probably exponentially” (I-6). Interviewee 7 also noted having “met a lot of friends some of which I have had nine years...I can’t even tell you the number of friends. I went from like having nothing ever to do on the weekends...to having something going on every weekend year round”. This bonding for some crossed over previous felt barriers of age, race, and personality types. Often in the GLBT community various age groups and personalities (feminine, athletic, large, small, old, young) will socialize in similar groups (young with young, athletic with athletic, etc.) and many cities will have bars that cater to one group or another but as pointed out by one participant: “realized that those perceptions (not being good enough and being older than everyone else) were false, it speaks a lot about you know, the internal struggle that gay men have I think about youth, perfection, etc.” and that I have met a group of gays that have “probably gone through something similar to what I do, like self-doubt or trying to fit in, or maybe issues with their family or their jobs etc.” (I_15). Another benefit was discussed by those who have had experiences coaching teams and by players who, due to their experience, help other less experienced players develop. “Being a coach can be very fulfilling as you get the chance to “not only help people develop as players but to bring people together as a team, and that’s, that’s just a wonderful, wonderful thing. It’s the best part about it” (I-5). Interviewee 6 had never played sports and in forming a beginner softball team said: “I was just like interviewing people about their personality. I had no idea what they played or their position, and I picked a lot of people that had just ended their relationships or were just lonely...and we were comprised of people that really formed a good bond for the past five years”. Another noted: “we’ve had fun over the years adding younger people to our team and kind of helping them develop as players...so just helping other people that want to get involved” (I-11).

Level of Participation

A concluding topic of conversation revolved around the level of involvement of the participants. Many in the GLBT sport community participate in multiple sports. Myself (first author), I have participated in softball, bowling, dodgeball, and volleyball at one point or another. I have met individuals that in a given year will participate in almost a dozen different sports. Eleven of the 15 respondents mentioned current or recent participation in other sports including football, volleyball, darts, dodgeball, kickball, and tennis. Participation often increases as social networks increase as one noted that he began to get asked to play in other sports through those he met playing softball (I-7). Each sport has its positives and negatives. For example, I have heard that bowling was considered to be the most social because of the time you spent socializing in between frames. It also does not hurt that it is one of the few sports you can drink during participation.

The location, cost, and the time of the week the sport is held can be positive and negative factors. For example, while bowling has a social benefit it is also one of the most expensive due to weekly lane fees. Having interviewed softball players our results have limitations in regards to the comparison of sports. Interviewee 4 noted: “softball is much more social and um, there’s more of a community”. Tournaments such as the one involved in this study represent a tourism revenue source. While the community benefits from tourism the players benefit through playing their preferred sport and spending time with other GLBT participants. Our participants mentioned having played tournaments in Toronto, DC, Dallas, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Tampa. As mentioned depending on individual schedules participants may go for a week (combining a vacation with the tournament) or weekend. Interviewee 6 noted the social benefit when he stated: “as a team, we’ve gone on, we do trips, we do travel to other tournaments and stuff like that, out of town, which has made us closer, sharing rooms, spending a whole week together, you know really getting to know each other on a deeper level, and as a league” This opportunity to travel, hang out with friends, and bond were identified as several participants as the reason they enjoy tournaments.

Conclusion

The findings of this study were consistent with the findings of previous quantitative studies centered on the GLBT community. Similar to previous studies this study suggests that social factors and competency mastery are primary motivational factors (Kanters & Forrester, 1997; MacLean & Hamm, 2008; Place & Beggs, 2012). Specifically, for Place and Beggs (2012), approximately 89% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the factors dealing with competency/mastery. In this category the 3 highest factors of motivation were “to be active” (98%), “to keep in shape physically (91%), and “to use my physical abilities” (91%). Second to competency/master, respondents were in most agreement with the factors/questions included in the social category. Approximately 75% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the desire for a social outlet as their motivator to be involved in this GLBT sport association. In this category the 3 highest factors of motivation were “to build friendships with others” (98%), “to interact with others” (98%), and “to meet new and different people” (96%). Other factors included intellectual reasons (i.e. discovering new things – 59%) stimulus avoidance or stress relief (72%)

This study also had similar findings to other previous examining the satisfaction derived from participation in GLBT sports (Place & Beggs, 2011; Broughton & Beggs, 2010). Satisfaction derived from participating in the GLBT sports league (being researched by Place & Beggs) was due to social interaction (98%), interesting activities (99%), sense of accomplishment (96%), physical challenge of the activity (95%), sense of emotional well-being (91%), reduction of stress (91%) and for educational reasons just to name a few. Also similar to this study and the studies by Broughton and Beggs (2010) as well as Place and Beggs (2011) Gender was not a factor in regards to satisfaction. What has been evidenced is the desire by GLBT members to have sport and recreation opportunities where they have a chance to socialize, compete, develop skills, and feel accepted. We need to provide the opportunities for GLBT members to find the same experience this young man did: “I had played when I was younger with my family, but I never felt good enough for my family, because they were really competitive and of course they are all heterosexual but, I would never get praise for what I would do in sports...so I thought this was the perfect opportunity for me to play with people that are like me that ...yell at me for not doing as well”

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