

Coach Development Program: A Guided Online Reflective Practice Intervention Study



Eduardo Jorge Da Silva¹, Clifford J. Mallett², David Sánchez-Oliva, Amândio Dias and António Palmeira¹

¹Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, University Lusófona, Campo Grande, Lisbon, Portugal;

²Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia;

³Physical Activity and Education, University of Extremadura, Spain; ⁴Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal, Setúbal, Portugal;

Coaches can influence athlete outcomes, such as performance and personal development; yet, coaches themselves are learners in their own right, who seek to develop their coaching craft. Reflective practice is essential for coaches' development; however, coaches might engage and benefit from reflective practice in myriad ways. This study aimed to evaluate if online reflective journaling (ORJ) enhances the depth of reflection of sports coaches in a 4-week coach development programme (CDP). Participants were a convenience sample of 83 sports coaches from several sports, divided into an intervention group (N = 42) and a control group (N = 41). Data collection used a mixed-methods approach, examining a CDP focused on the coaches' reflective practice. The results revealed that reflection was the only dependent variable that showed significant differences over time. Participation in ORJ showed positive effects on reflection in both groups; however, only the experimental group was statistically significant. For this sample, ORJ was found to help enhance coaches' reflection towards critical reflection. All texts included in pre-, post-, and follow-up tests were coded for trustworthiness purposes. This finding supports the potential of ORJ in nurturing reflective practice, which is considered a core competency in becoming a successful sports coach.

Biography:

I am Eduardo Jorge da Silva, born on March 10, 1976, in Alentejo, Portugal. I have been a PE Teacher for 20 years and a soccer Coach for almost a decade, experiencing development and performance environments. I finished my bachelor's degree in 2005, my Master's degree in 2008, and my PhD in 2021. My PhD was related to Reflexive Practice and Sports Coaching. The main connector of both my work experiences is Reflective Practice. From 2021 until now, I have worked simultaneously as a PE Teacher and as a Professor at the University of Lusófona.