

Title of Study: Exploring Experiences in Parasport

You are being asked to participate in a research study conducted by Dr. Amy Latimer-Cheung, in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies at Queen's University. Results obtained from this research study will contribute to implementation of safe sport policies and practices.

What is this study about?

This study seeks to evaluate safe sport from a broad perspective of individuals who comprise the sport ecosystem, (i.e., athlete, coach, program co-ordinator/manager, sport administrators, personal and health support, family members).

What does participation in this study involve?

As a participant, I will be asked to participate in an audio-recorded interview session discussing various perspectives of maltreatment and safe sport within parasport (i.e., sport environment, policies and practices, reporting, intervention, prevention, needs assessment, and suggest strategies or areas of improvement).

Is my participation voluntary?

Participation in this study is voluntary. You may withdraw from this study for any reason for up to 6 months following the completion of data collection without any consequences by contacting the Amy Latimer-Cheung (Principal Investigator) at amy.latimer@queensu.ca or 613-533-6000 ext. 78773, or Lauren Tristani (lead interviewer) ltrist@yorku.ca. You may also refuse to answer any questions without penalty. Any information collected up to the time you withdraw from the study will be destroyed.

What are the risks of participating?

Due to the sensitive nature of the interview topics, there is the potential for the discussion to trigger psychological distress. The researchers do acknowledge the possibility for participants to experience emotional discomfort and will make every effort to minimize these risks. In the event that a participant experiences psychological or emotional distress, the participant be encouraged to speak to a health professional (e.g., family physician). The participant will also be provided with the following resources; Game Plan (<http://www.mygameplan.ca/>), Mental Health Support (1-844-240-2990), The Canadian Sport Helpline (1-888-83-SPORT (77678) or info@abuse-free-sport.ca), and the Canadian Mental Health Association (<http://www.cmha.ca/get-involved/find-your-cmha>).

What are the benefits of participating?

While there are no direct benefits to your participation, this study will to current knowledge, understanding, and awareness concerning maltreatment within a parasport context. The practical implications of this work will extend to the development of evidence-informed prevention and intervention strategies contributing to safe sport. With the implementation of such practices and policies, we will work toward enhancing the quality of athletes' experiences in parasport and the creation of safe sporting environments.

What will happen to the information that I provide?

The data from this study will be published and presented at conferences; however, your identity will be kept confidential to the greatest extent possible. With regards to the questionnaire data, the information you provide us will be de-identified and given a code so that no one will be able to identify you from the information unless they have the participant code key. Direct quotations from the interviews will be used during the presentation of results, but each participant will be given a pseudonym to conceal his or her identity. The only individuals with access to identifying information will include Amy Latimer-Cheung and Lauren Tristani. Members of the research team will have access to the de-identified questionnaire data and interview transcripts – all of whom are required to complete a confidentiality agreement. All the information provided through the questionnaires, interviews, and consent forms will be kept confidential and stored in a controlled-access location (e.g., locked office, password protected files) in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies at Queen's University for a minimum of five years after the completion of the study as per University requirements.

Will I be compensated for participating?

You will be provided with financial compensation (\$15) for taking part in this study.

If you have any questions or wish to receive any additional information regarding this research, please contact the principal investigator Amy Latimer-Cheung (see below). Any ethical concerns regarding this study may be directed to the Chair of the General Research Ethics Board at chair.GREB@queensu.ca or 613-533-6000 ext. 74025 (1-844-535-2988 toll free in North America).

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