

Abstract

This dissertation presents a research process exploring the topic of psychological climate in sports clubs as perceived by athletes from team and individual disciplines. Psychological climate is collectively created by members of a group with individual and group aspirations, goals, attitudes, and behaviours. One approach to understanding climate involves distinguishing two dimensions: communal climate, where priorities are placed on cooperation, relationship-building, and group collaboration, and agentic climate, which reflects a tendency to strive for effective performance outcomes. The main objective of the study is to explore the communal and agentic dimensions of climate in a sports club in relation to the type of sport discipline (individual vs. team), and to deepen the understanding of how these climate dimensions relate to athletes' performance, the leadership style demonstrated by the coach, various indicators of sport orientation, and selected demographic variables. To achieve this, specific research tasks were outlined, including the psychometric validation of a tool for measuring communal and agentic climate in a sports club, examination of relationships with athletes' subjective and objective performance, climate correlates, and selected demographic variables. Based on these tasks, research questions and hypotheses were formulated to investigate the relationships between communal and agentic climate and athletes' subjective and objective performance, considering the type of sport discipline; the relationships between climate and democratic, authoritative, training/instructional behaviours, and feedback provided by the coach; as well as the mediating and moderating role of climate in the relationship between coach behaviours and athlete performance. Additionally, the study explores the relationships between climate dimensions and competitive orientation: goal motivation, winning, and competitiveness. The research method includes four study samples: 106 participants in a pilot study, 523 participants in a validation study and demographic analysis, and 189 participants in a study on the relationship between climate and subjective and objective performance. The used research tools were: the Sports Club Climate Scale, the Leadership Scale for Sports – Coach Behavior Perceived by Athletes, the Sport Orientation Questionnaire, and a self-developed sports performance self-assessment scale. Psychometric validation of the climate measurement tool through pilot and validation studies showed satisfactory reliability indicators for agentic climate (Cronbach's alpha = 0.78, McDonald's omega = 0.81) and communal climate (Cronbach's alpha = 0.86, McDonald's omega = 0.89). The analyses revealed significant relationships between the perception of the environment as communal or agentic and athletes' subjective performance. No such relationships were found with objective performance, and the moderating role of sport discipline was not confirmed. Relationships between coach behaviours and the perception of agentic and communal climate in the sports club were confirmed, and the mediating role of climate in the relationship between coach behaviours and athletes' self-assessed performance was

partially confirmed. However, no evidence was found for the moderating role of climate in the relationships between motivation to win, compete, and goal motivation with athletes' self-assessed performance, although the mediating role of climate was confirmed. Significant differences were also found in the perception of agentic and communal climate in the sports club in relation to selected demographic variables. The most prominent difference was that athletes from individual disciplines perceived the climate as more communal, while representatives of team disciplines perceived it as more agentic.

Key words: sports club, psychological climate, communion climate, agency climate