



Exploring the Quality and Effectiveness of Community Sport Volunteer Training

Sport for Development Research Initiative

Findings Launch and Workshop

15 – 17 November 2010

What is SCORE?

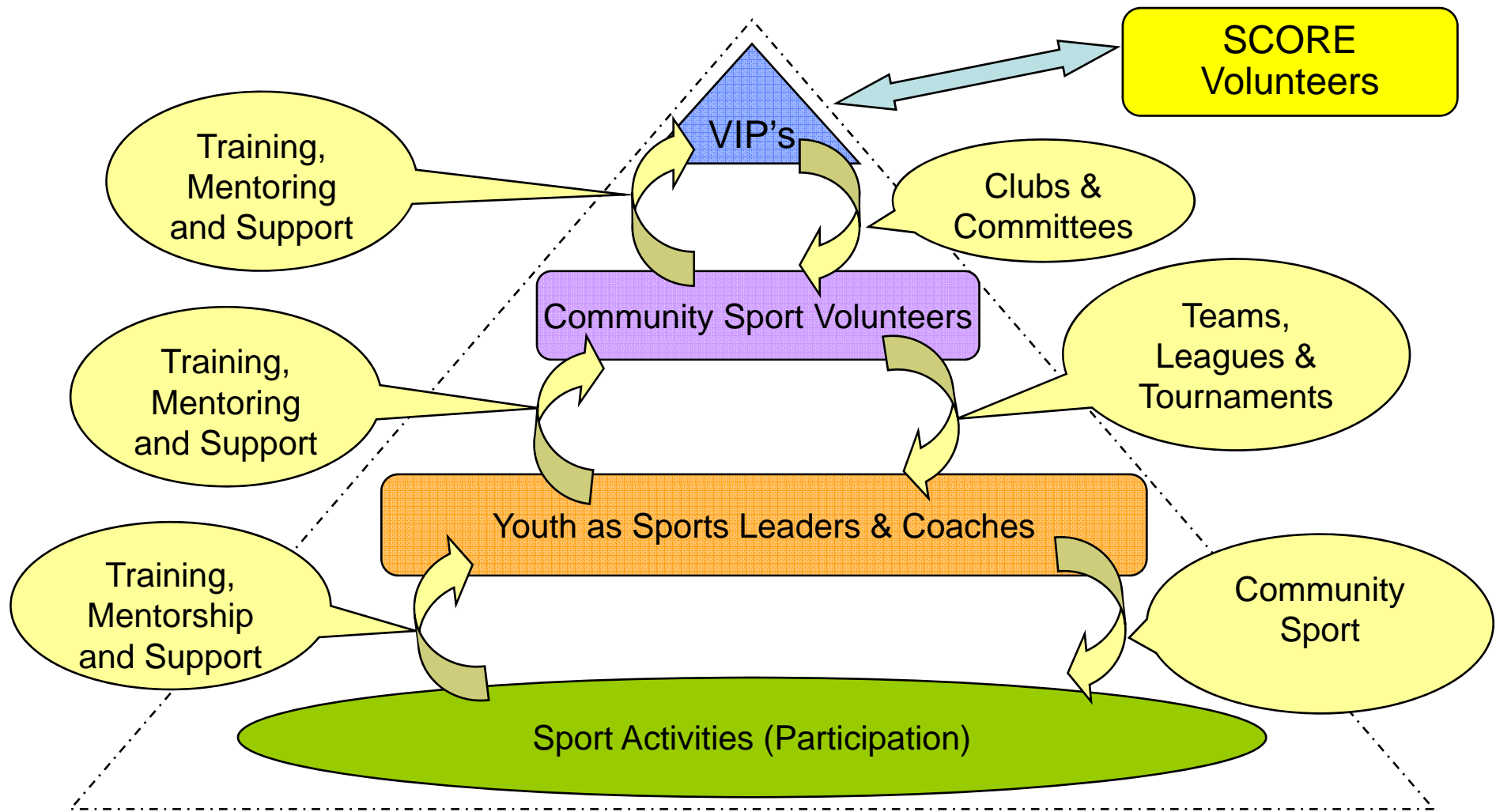
- Founded in 1991 by an Olympic athlete
- Non-profit NGO
- Ongoing Community-Based Programs in South Africa (1991), Namibia (2000) & Zambia (2002)
- Provides training & support services to Partners (especially Zone VI region)



Mission:

SCORE uses sport to provide youth and children with valuable skills & opportunities that they need to succeed in life and contribute to their communities

Involvement in Research Project



Involvement in the Research project

- A sample of Community Sport Volunteers from various SCORE communities were selected on the basis of:
 - being young people aged 16 to 26
 - have been involved with SCORE for more than 18 months
 - have attended at least 3 training workshops

Findings

- The Community Sport Volunteers are benefitting from SCORE training and their experience as community sports volunteers.
- The Community Sport Volunteers have gained information and learnt new skills in areas of sport, leadership, life skills, administration, organisation, and HIV and AIDS.

Findings

- The aim of using sport to promote gender equity, healthy living, appreciation of culture and diversity, and social responsibility is being demonstrated by the community sport volunteers
- The training and development of individual leaders can lead to change within a community structure, and the broader society

Findings

- The trainings and support of SCORE has contributed to the majority of the Community Sport Volunteers increased self-confidence, in addition to influencing their behaviours and decisions to some extent
- From this research it is not indicated whether it is the structure of sport in communities, or sport in itself that is contributing to the increased awareness of specific behaviours and social issues

Findings

- Issues arising from the research that the organisation needs to address to improve programming further...
 - Improved communication with the Community Sport Volunteers
 - Provision of defined roles and responsibilities to community sports volunteers
 - Improved consistency in staff contact and support to communities

Research Learning

- The research findings highlighted the importance of including participants in interview schedule design and development. The research highlighted the need to ensure that the language used in interviews and research should be simple and that effective translation is essential.
- A number of staff members were able to participate in the workshops with Professor Coalter. This has allowed them to increase their own knowledge and skills in terms of M & E, and to develop a greater understanding of what is required to reach the desired outcomes of sports and development.

Research Learning

- At an organisational level, a key learning has been how data can be analysed and used to influence SCORE's programme design – i.e. the importance of understanding the “story” that the data was telling and learning how to interpret that data.
- Gender equality in sport continues to be of great significance in the design and implementation of SCORE's programmes and projects.
- The value of logic models and theories of change, linking objectives, outcome, activities and monitoring and evaluation tools and systems, has resulted in a more rigorous approach to programme design and development in SCORE.

Reflections on Learning

- The process of monitoring and evaluation, how to do it more effectively and how monitoring and evaluation cannot just be done after the fact, but is an essential part of programme design and the tools, methods and processes needs to be designed alongside programmes and based on clearly defined logic.

Reflections on Learning

- The importance of Investing in monitoring and evaluation capacity as an organisation to improve programme management and implementation and not just for reporting purposes.
- Improved consistency in staff contact and support to communities, and better communication with community leaders

Reflections on Learning

- The need to conduct thorough community assessment and planning processes and not to try and rush community processes according to project timelines
- That it takes time to analyse and reflect on research and apply it to changing organisational practice and this time needs to be provided for both in terms of staff capacity and also by creating opportunities for staff to get together for reflection and capacity building.