Understanding the applicability of good governance systems in developing sports systems

Geoff Schoenberg, PhD
@geoffschoenberg

Centre for Sport Research
Deakin University
&
Australia India Institute
University of Melbourne
Defining Governance

• Process of oversight and direction of an organisation
• Systemic governance
• Organisational governance
Governance Principles and Guidelines

• Increasingly codified

• Recommended actions based on core principles

• Primarily in well-developed sport systems
Research Question

How applicable are contemporary good governance codes to the Indian sport system?
**Method**

**Procedures**
- Semi-structured interviews
- Convenience and snowball sampling

**Participants**
- 12 individuals
- Wide range of roles in Indian sport sector

**Materials**
- Interview guide developed based on legitimacy framework

**Analysis**
- Axial and selective coding based on themes identified in the literature
Results – Governance, Management and Professionalisation

Strategic planning often limited to talent identification (NSF director)

“[NSF] haven't been able to separate policy from management at all” (media member)

“You can have views and vision and strategy and all of that... but there is no on-ground execution team” (nonprofit director)

No distinction between governance and management makes ‘oversight’ impossible
Results - Structures

- Term limits and age limits are hotly debated
- National gov’t limited constitutionally
- State/National federation interlocks

“The way I see it is if you take a professional job, do you have a time limit on how long you can work?” (NSF director)
Results – Transparency

“there is a pushback to this kind of requirement of accountable, or transparency” (media member)

“we do not have energy and time to follow all those principles, or set up those systems where everything can be followed by every person... we are still long way to go in terms of setting up an ideal system where there would be transparency” (National Federation)

“there is no transparent structure. There are structures, but it's still dependent on people” (nonprofit director)
So what does this mean:

- For Indian sport governance?
- For sport governance codes?
Discussion and Questions

Twitter: @geoffschoenberg

Email: g.schoenberg@deakin.edu.au