Improvement of the Safe Environment of American University Indoors Sports Facilities of Research

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to explore how to enhance the safe environment in American university indoor sports facilities. A primary research question for this research was: “What are the efforts of enhance the safe environment in American university indoor sports facilities?” This research may be helpful to American university indoor sports facilities’ organizational leaders in their efforts to understand how to build a safe and healthy environment for their organizational members.

In research design the author was compelled to utilize quantitative research method. In sample selection, the author utilized the Taipei, Taiwan Yellow Pages and randomly selected 50 American university indoor sports facilities as study sites. The data also showed that that most of American fitness organizational leaders think that a safe indoor sports facility need have some plan for emergency issues, for emergency training for employees, for dealing with major incidents, and for safety checklists in their indoor sports facilities.

Keyword: Sports facilities, Organizational

INTRODUCTONAL

Since providing decent service, which meets customers’ demands, has been recognized as of the most important parameters of determining success, studies on the conceptualization and measurement of perceived service quality and customer satisfaction have been actively conducted to understand customers’ demands (Wright, Duray, & Goodale, 1992). Heywood and Warnick (1976) showed how intramural games attained a dominant role in campus recreation and social interaction, and McLean (1997) considered the more practical aspect of performance indicators in intramural sports. Boucher and Weese (1991) found that intramural sports are part of a long North American tradition, originating around 1857 at Princeton University, growing through the next 100 years, and leading to the formation of the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association in 1950. Although the discussion tends to focus on the viewpoint of the campus recreation or university professors rather than students, Boucher and Weese’s study illustrate how interwoven the fabric of intramural sports is with the life of universities.

Sperber (1990) studied this problem, concluding that the athletics department and administration of universities are adversaries in the world of “College Sports Inc.” Gerdy (2000) and Chu (1989) illustrated some of the ethical and financial challenges of sports in schools. Gerdy (2000) collected critical essays designed to “challenge the long-held justifications of sport being a valuable and relevant aspect of our nation’s educational enterprise” (pp. 45–46), while Chu (1989) examined the relationship between the character of American higher education and the role of intercollegiate sport. Matthews considered how campus recreation is and should be managed, and discussed potential research avenues. One of the trends Matthews hoped to see in the 1990s and beyond is that “within the next decade most
programs will be fully recognized for their contribution to the lives of the students” (p. 29). But he said that this would happen only if directors used good management techniques to ensure continuing program improvement.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

Accident and injuries are inevitable in an environment in which people are moving at rapid pace, pushing their physical limits, and competing against themselves or others. Not only is the life of person(s) involved, but the financial health of the organization suffers following a poorly handled emergency. Well-organized safety procedures and emergency plans allow the trained practiced staff to respond with confidence rather than react with anxiety to potential danger (Herbert, 1993). Olson (1997) also describes how best to minimize the risk in the university indoor sports facility: Minimizing the risk of litigation depends entirely upon the preventive safety measures that are introduced into a health/fitness setting. Pertinent safety features include conducting daily inspections and maintenance of equipment and facilities, developing an emergency procedure plan, providing qualified personnel, and having a protective insurance policy (p.46).

A safe club environment for exercising members should be a given. Although many clubs place the highest priority on safety, some do not incorporate even basic health and safety practices into daily operations. Compounding this issue is the irresponsible or ignorant actions of careless members. In this section, the author will discuss several related literature about how to create safe environments in the university indoor sports facility. Careless members often ignore the best-intentioned policies and procedures implemented to ensure member safety. Only an aware and educated staff and a well-planned and maintained facility can overcome the obstacles to a safe exercise environment. Ongoing training of staff and immediate correction of potentially dangerous situations must by a consistent practice in all health fitness settings (Patton et. al., 1989).

Implementing health and safety practices and practices and procedures assists the health fitness manager in maintaining a safe club environment. Facility development and design techniques as city, state, and federal health codes can build a foundation for a safe environment (Kilburg & Strischek, 1985). Safety should be considered while the physical structure is in design stages to eliminate many potential problems long before the first member enters the club. Consistent staff training and practice of health codes and standards can also assist (Kurtz & Boone, 1984). The American College of Sports Medicine(1995) identifies four primary purposes of health screening(1) Identifying and individuals with medical contra-indications to exercise;(2) Identifying individuals with disease symptoms and risk factors for disease development who should receive medical evaluation before starting an exercise program; (3) Identifying persons with clinically significant disease considerations who should participate in a medically supervised exercise program, and (4) Identifying individuals with other special needs (p.32). The American College of Sports Medicine (1997) and a joint task force of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association (1995) have published guidelines for exercise testing and prescription. The results from these two sources are presented in a medical management model for handling clients in Figure 1. In this medical management model, participants are identified through marketing efforts, and then screened via a health questionnaire or risk factor analysis.

The literature review related to cresting safe environments in university indoor sports facilities indicates that the university indoor sports facility should provide a facility management plan, clear signage, and a blood-born pathogen standard for the university indoor sports facility’s operation. The
University indoor sports facilities also needed to provide emergency training for their employees and require that their employees have cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid certification. On the other hand, university indoor sports facilities need to use medical clearance, health history questionnaires, and health-related physical fitness assessments to evaluate their organizational members’ health conditions and provide an appropriate and safe environment for organizational members. University indoor sports facilities should also use guest screening to keep their environments safe and should create safety standards, risk-management documentation, maintenance records, and safety checklists for their organizational operations. These efforts could help an university indoor sports facility’s leader build good vision in creating a safe environment.

The literature also indicates that a university indoor sports facility’s leader needs to create some plan to deal with aquatic emergencies, emergencies involving children, weather emergencies, bomb threats, non-life-threatening emergencies, and outages in the organizational. These efforts could help an university indoor sports facility’s leader build good vision in emergency management in the organizational.

**METHOD**

In this research, the author was compelled to utilize quantitative research method. The research question posed the issue of how to enhance the safe environment in American university indoor sports facilities. The data was collected from the university indoor sports facility leaders’ or owners’ opinions of how to enhance the safe environment in their university indoor sports facilities. The author utilized the Taipei, Taiwan Yellow Pages and randomly selected 50 fitness organizations as study sites. Because the author wanted to understand the research participant’s opinion on how to build and maintain a safe and healthy environment for the fitness organization, the author used the interview process in addition to the questionnaire. The author utilized quantitative analysis to investigate the data.

Descriptive provided a way to summarize and aggregate results from the survey research. The research data were also described in narrative style. Survey data are presented through the use of descriptive statistics and narrative description. Data are described in narrative. Total sample size was fifty (N=50). For all survey question of reference, the scale responses have been collapsed into the following five categories: “Very important”, ”Important,” ”No opinion,” Not important“ and “Not very important”. The participants indicated that there were several points that could improve safe environment in university indoor sports facilities in following:

1. University indoor sports facility need have emergency plan for organizational operations.
2. University indoor sports facility need have professional supervisor to manage facilities for the university indoor sports facility.
3. University indoor sports facility need have professional supervisor to manage any programs provided from the university indoor sports facility.
4. The operation for the university indoor sports organization need conform to all relevant laws, regulations, and published standards for this country.
5. The facility for the university indoor sports organization need had properly design.
6. University indoor sports facility need provided enough illumination.
7. All walking surfaces for the university indoor sports facility need safe and clean.
8. The facility for the university indoor sports organization need had periodically inspection.
9. The facility for the university indoor sports organization need had periodically maintenance.
10. The facility for the university indoor sports organization had periodically sign and system.
11. The supervisor for the university indoor sports facility need have abilities for deal with any potentially dangerous situation in the university indoor sports
facility. (12). University indoor sports facility must provides clear user instruction for equipment. (13). University indoor sports facility must provides support for user who has disability. (14). University indoor sports facility must provides good air condition system.(15). University indoor sports facility must provides emergency phone.(16). University indoor sports facility must provides emergency medical system. (17). University indoor sports facility must have medical staff in the university indoor sports facility. (18). The individual assigned responsibility and followed up with appropriate actions in the university indoor sports facility could document the incident in writing. (19). Maintain could be documented in writing by the individual assigned the responsibility and followed up with appropriate actions in the university indoor sports facility. (20). The periodically inspection could be documented in writing by the individual assigned the responsibility and followed up with appropriate actions in the university indoor sports facility. (21). University indoor sports facility must have the medical history for organizational members. (22). University indoor sports facility need have the team for deal with emergency incident. (23). A facility need have a first-aid kit available within the facility for use in the treatment of medical incidents in the university indoor sports facility. (24). A facility need periodically practice its emergency plan in the university indoor sports facility. (25). University indoor sports facility need create risk-management department to assist in the maintenance of all emergency and procedures. (26). University indoor sports facility need create the regulation of use facilities for the university indoor sports facility. (27). University indoor sports facility need create the regulation of maintain facilties for the university indoor sports facility.

In summary, the results of this research indicated that most of Taiwan’s in University indoor sports facilities’ organizational leaders thought that the university indoor sports facility’s organizational leader needed had vision in the provision of measures that respond to reasonably foreseeable emergencies that threaten the safety of its users. In addition they also said that the university indoor sports facility’s organizational leader also needed had vision in providing credible, professional supervision of facilities and programs in the university indoor sports facilities and they also needed pay attention to the relevant laws and regulations that apply to facilities.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, research results indicated that most of American university indoor sports university indoor sports facilities’ organizational leaders agreed that they needed had the vision to provided credible, professional supervision of facilities and programs in the in the university indoor sports facilities. The data indicated that did pay attention to the provision of appropriate signage in their facilities and they also obeyed relevant laws and regulations that apply to facilities. The data also indicated that most of American fitness organizational leaders were think that they needed concerned with providing enough illumination, an emergency calling system, or an emergency team in their university indoor sports facilities.

They also said that the university indoor sports facility need have process of documenting incidents, maintenance record, periodic inspections, member’s medical history, or providing a risk-management program in their university indoor sports facilities. The data also showed that that most of American fitness organizational leaders that a safe university indoor sports facility need have some plan for emergency issues, for emergency training for employees, for dealing with major incidents, and for safety checklists in their university indoor sports. In addition sports facility’s organizational leader also need have ideas for regulating the use and maintenance of their facilities.
The following recommendations focus on how to provide safe environments for American university indoor sports organizational leaders:

1. University indoor sports facilities’ operators should work with legal counsel to determine a registration and screening procedure identify appropriate information to gather, and select the content of the waiver or assumption of risk statement.

2. University indoor sports facilities’ staffs should use appropriate signage throughout the facility to provide important information to the facility user. For signage to be effective, it must clearly and concisely present the intended message, be easily read, and be properly located in the facility.

3. Incident and accident reports should be written. The manager on duty should direct the staff to go to a quiet place and write down everything they can remember about the incident and the care provided in University indoor sports facilities.

4. A cellular phone should be available to use in the event of an emergency. This cellular phone allows the manager to make phone calls while moving throughout the University indoor sports facilities.

5. A flashlight should be kept in all first aid kits as well as designated areas throughout the center/club in the event of power outage in University indoor sports facilities.

6. For any emergency plan, managers and staff should do pilot practices in University indoor sports facilities.

REFERENCES


