

Malee Poomiphak 2011: Core Competency Model in Sports Science Personnel of the Sports Authority of Thailand. Doctor of Philosophy (Sports Science), Major Field: Sports Science, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Mr. Somchai Prasertsiriphan, Ph.D. 220 pages.

This research aimed to identify model and assessment tools of core competency including the improvement of the Sports Authority of Thailand's sports science personnel. The researcher adopted a mixed methodology, combining a qualitative with a quantitative technique and using the tripolar technique for data attestation. The sample subjects consisted of sports science scholars, Sports Science Division administrators and personnel, and athletes and coaches from sports associations in pursuit of excellence and professionalism. The research instruments were an interview form, questionnaire and competency evaluation form, all of which were approved by experts. The qualitative data were analyzed using the descriptive analysis method, whilst the quantitative data were analyzed using the Lisrel Programme, version 8.72

Based on the Confirmatory Factor Analysis, model of core competency of the sports science personnel, consisting of three components, conformed to the empirical data. The three components were (i) 12 areas of knowledge competency; (ii) 16 areas of competency in sports science skills; and (iii) 16 areas of competency in qualities needed for sports science occupations. The chi-square values were 25.76, 70.81 and 68.44 respectively, and a balance of standard components were at the statistically significant level of .05. The instruments used to assessment sports science personnel's competency were designed to assessment all of the three components, namely, knowledge competency, competency in sports science and technology skills and competency in qualities needed for sports science occupations. They were adjusted to correspond to the model of core competency of the sports science personnel and accepted by the scholars.

The study found a principal means of improving sports science personnel that could be 1) to improve their skills via a mentoring system, and to emphasise autonomous self-improvement amongst sports science personnel and 2) to enhance their knowledge and efficiency by supporting them to further their studies, to offer them short training courses.

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