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Male vs. female motivation for sport practice and success expectance

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The researches conducted so far showed that athletes, regardless of the sex, with a strong success expectance evaluate highly their sport predisposition and display a task orientation – concentration on an individual level of performance but low personal orientation – relativization of themselves to other people. This allowed for the formulation of the assumption that athletes, despite of the sex, with the strong success anticipation are motivated more by the interior needs (self-development, joy of motion) than the external ones (need of winning and social appreciation). The group of fencers, in similar age of 18 years old and time of practice – average 6 years – was examined. They were divided into 4 groups as regards the success expectance: group of women with high expectations (N-7), group of women with low anticipation (N-6), group of men with high expectations (N-25) and group of men with low success anticipation (N-15). The questionnaire method was used for the sport rivalry motives (SRM) measurement and the self-evaluation scale for the measurement of the success expectance force. Assumptions formulated earlier were not confirmed at all. Men with lower success anticipation significantly higher rate some internal motives than their equals presenting high expectations who on the other hand are strongly motivated externally – the need of winning and social appreciation. The women's motivation considering the sport rivalry have some other causes than men's, despite of the similarly high self-evaluation, success chances and displayed task orientation. Women characterized by strong self-confidence in their abilities are prompt to follow internal motives. Similar, strong self-confidence presented by men leads them to follow the external themes – needs of winning and social appreciation. The assumption that men with high valuation of the success chance and task orientation display more feminine, hence internal motivation, than manlike – flowing from the need of winning – did not confirm.

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