

Abstract

Implications of giftedness on premature dropout among young athletes in Hong Kong were examined. Competitive nurtured ($N_{nurtured} = 48$) and gifted ($N_{gifted} = 64$) athletes were involved in this research; the level of burnout was adopted as an indicator of dropout. The Behavioural Regulation in Exercise Questionnaire (BREQ); Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory (PFAI); Sports Competition Anxiety Test (SCAT); and Athlete Burnout Questionnaire (ABQ) were utilised to assess motivation, fear of failure, competition anxiety, and burnout respectively. Primary finding reported that gifted athletes ($M_{gifted} = 2.873, SD = .549$) and nurtured athletes ($M_{nurtured} = 2.113, SD = .382$) differed significantly in the level of burnout. Meanwhile, external ($z = 2.531, p = .011$) and internal motivation ($z = 2.080, p = .038$) significantly mediated the effect of giftedness on burnout. However, while giftedness significantly predicted fear of failure ($t = 3.599, p < .001$). and competition anxiety ($t = 2.297, p = .023$), fear of failure and competition anxiety failed to predict burnout. Thus, fear of failure and competition anxiety did not significantly mediate the effect of giftedness on burnout.

Keywords: gifted, athlete, burnout, motivation, fear of failure, competition anxiety