



Advancing Positive Youth Development through Sports in Belize

A Practice & Policy Perspective

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My background in youth development

- *Conscious Youth Development Program.*
- *Working with at risk young people.*
- *Challenges with unstructured programming.*
- *Motivation for seeking higher education to bridge the gap.*
- *Connecting with NIU and learning about the TPSR model.*





BYSC and BAE over the years



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- Fun and learning for NIU students.



BYSC and BAE over the years

- Next steps such include forging partnership with the new administration.



Current Needs and Challenges

- 60%+ of the population is under age 25.
- Many youth face poverty, unemployment, violence, and limited opportunities.
- Limited infrastructure for youth sport and lack of capacity in many youth serving organisations.
- *Limited funding, gaps in coach training, lack of community partnerships, and a fragmented policy framework.*
- *Addressing these challenges requires an integrated, multi-level approach.*





Current
status/Vision of the
new administration

Practical Strategies for Grassroots Programs

- (Wright et al 2018) based on their work with the BYSC recognizes the need for administrator training to foster organisational change, coach education to influence practice, ongoing consultation to support top-down and bottom-up change.
- (NSC) needs to build its capacity to act as the lead administrative body and coordinator of coach education training initiatives.
- It is important to note that Belize does not have a professional development or certification available for youth sport coaches in Belize.
- *Training coaches to adopt the TPSR model, partnering with schools and local organizations.*



Strengthening Community Partnerships

- *Community partnerships are vital for sustainability and reach.*
- *Youth development and sports organizations operate in silos.*
- *Main goal of the BYSC was to bring together coaches and administrators from various organisations to form a coalition with a shared mission.*
- *This aligns with global best practices where sport-for-development initiatives succeed through strong local networks.*
- *Sustainable Development Goal (17) outlines the importance of partnerships for sustainable development.*



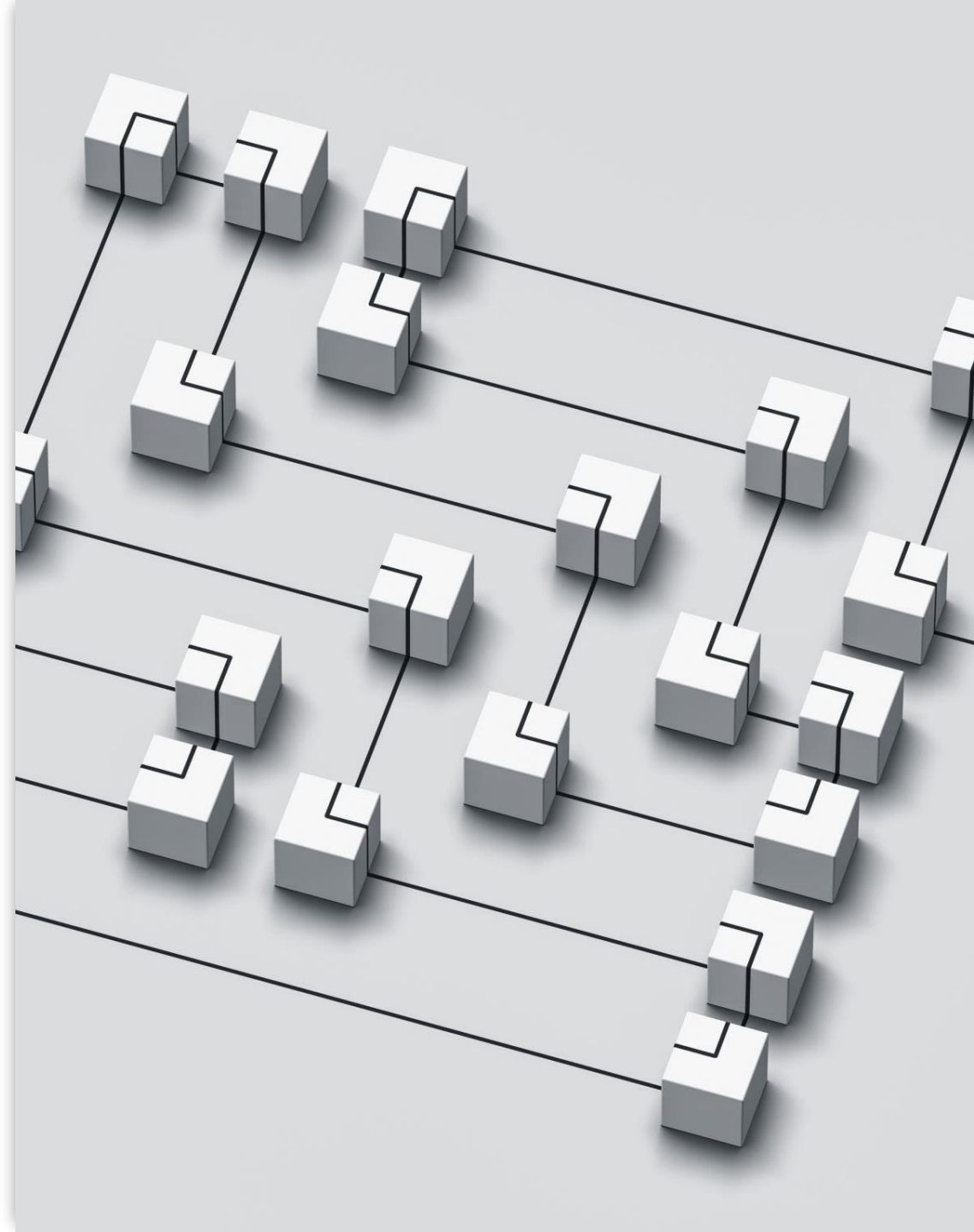
The Role of Policy and Multi-Sector Collaboration

- *Grassroots efforts need to be supported by enabling policies that provide funding, training, and clear frameworks.*
- *Currently, Belize has gaps in national sport policy, limited cross-sector collaboration, and under-resourced governance structures.*
- *Collaboration between government, NGOs, schools, and the sport sector is essential to unlock PYD through sports.*



Integrated Policy Development, Implementation & M&E

- Development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Ensure key stakeholders are included in all phases.
- Establish clear national frameworks to guide PYD through sport.
- Measure impact by collecting data on youth outcomes.
- M&E to inform program adjustments and policy refinement.
- Data informed decision making.



Learning from Global Best Practices

Exploring the possibility of replicating the Project FLEX concept in Belize.



Personal and Professional Impact

- *A step towards becoming a competent sports leader in Belize.*
- *It's helping me bridge theory and practice, and equipping me with insights to contribute to effective sport-for-development policies and programs now and in the future.*
- *Setting an example for other Belizeans to follow.*



Thank You & Questions

- *Thank you for your time and attention.*
- *I welcome your questions, ideas, and suggestions for how we can work together to strengthen PYD through sport in Belize.*

