Why?

IOC recognized skateboarding as an Olympic event

Questions?

- Is anyone organizing skateboarding in New Zealand?
- Are there any NZ governing bodies?
- What is happening at the high performance level?
- Does anyone care?
Why?

So I began to ask around and became more interested by the responses....

In a nutshell:

- No-one really knew anything.
- It's a recreation not a sport.
- Skateboarding is a lifestyle, not competitive.
- It should not be in the Olympics.
“I am not aware of any single national organisation having been established to look after skateboarding as a developing community sport – indeed many would argue that to do so would be counter-cultural and probably mark the beginning of the end!”

Anon
A process of referrals lead to...

- Skateboarding New Zealand (SBNZ)
- Learnt about some SBNZ’s successes and challenges
- Skate NZ was the IOC recognised governing body
- While there appears to be external pressure for skateboarding to formalise re: high performance...
- Skateboarding associations are focused on community: growing participation and facility development
### WHAT?

**Key issues governing actions sports...**
**Pressures to formalize and institutionalize.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commercial Brand Involvement</th>
<th>State Funding &amp; Regulation</th>
<th>Olympic Inclusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Have allowed action sports to grow organically</td>
<td>• Governmental physical activity and sport participation initiative funding</td>
<td>• Necessity for effective governance to be in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Have facilitated professional events and international governance</td>
<td>• To meet safety legislation</td>
<td>• High performance funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Concerns, the sector and its athletes need to be protected from further exploitation</td>
<td>• Pressure to create formalized accreditation and processes</td>
<td>• Need formalized processes re: athlete selection and management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tensions for Action Sports

• Institutional structures of mainstream sport are often perceived as contradictory to the institutional logic of action sports

(Batuev & Robinson, 2018a; Ojala, 2014; Wheaton, 2013)

• In some cases such as BMX and snowboarding there is resistance to affiliate with clubs or wear uniforms

(Walker et al., 2005; Steen-Johnsen, 2008)
Tensions for Action Sports

• The IOC’s strategy has allowed for the speedy formalisation of action sports through the sharing of resources, reduction of administration costs, and utilisation of pre-existing mainstream sport organisational structures

(Batuev & Robinson, 2018b; Thorpe & Wheaton, 2011)

It has also created tensions:

a) cultural tensions, between the institutional logics of the action sport and traditional sport,

b) organisational tensions, regarding the development of appropriate organisational structures to provide formalised action sport delivery.

(Sterchele et al. 2017)
“Herding skaters is like herding cats”.
(Anon)

“I’m not sure if skaters want a governing body”
(Anon)
Tensions for Skateboarding

• Governance and formalisation has been problematic as the subcultural, alternative, anti-establishment logic of skateboarders contradicts formalised organisational processes (Batuev & Robinson, 2017; Beal, 1995; Turner, 2017).

• There has been resistance to skateboarding being an Olympic sport (Thorpe & Wheaton, 2011; Wheaton & Thorpe, 2018)

• The Olympic movement is a threat to skateboarding values

• Yet top skaters appear to be keen to represent their countries (Batuev & Robinson, 2018b)
Tensions for Skateboarding

• Lack of:
  • Coaching accreditation and professional development pathways
  • Grassroots to high performance pathways

(Ellmer & Rynne, 2018)

• On the cultural ideology of skateboarders:
  • Are self-taught from personal experience & practice rather than coached
  • Participation is not bound by rules, referees, or, organised contests.
  • Rather the desire to push personal limits by perfecting and creating new tricks.

(Beal, 1995)
What?

Working Title:

Management strategies towards legitimate forms of organising for action sports: A national structure for Skateboarding New Zealand.
Main Research Question...

Is the traditional sport federation model a legitimate form of organising for skateboarding in New Zealand?
How do New Zealand skateboarding and roller skating organisations perceive the legitimacy of their association via umbrella governance as a form of multi-level organising?
How do New Zealand skateboarding organisations determine the legitimacy of federation affiliation and its expected/actual benefits and limitations at the individual organisational level?
3

How do New Zealand skateboarding organisations determine the legitimacy of federation affiliation and its expected/actual benefits and limitations at the network level?
METHOD

• Aims to document the perceptions
• By using a multiple case study approach
• Qualitative via semi-structured interviews
• Main focus on the 4 national & regional associations
• May snowball to include other organizations
Who?
Thank-you!