Introduction

Women’s ice hockey (WIH) is dominated by two countries, Canada and the U.S. The reason for the large differences in ice hockey performance between these and the rest of the world has not been investigated.

Aim

The aim of this study was to investigate socio-cultural influences and demands important to performance in elite WIH in North America and Sweden.

Methods

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with elite ice hockey coaches, two women and six men, from the top ten teams in Sweden and North America. Interviews were analyzed according to Qualitative Content Analysis (1).

Results

Interviews yielded seven categories that represent factors important to performance and development of women’s ice hockey.

Conclusion

Running a team requires access to money, time, knowledge and personnel. WIH needs greater support from their federations in terms of gender equity, economy and marketing, which coaches experience important to increase the value of WIH and make it more competitive.

Upcoming projects

Methodological comparison field- laboratory-ice-specific physiological testing Comparison; Canada/Swe/U.S., resources for performance