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Perception of Coaches and Students Towards Sports Safety Risk Management Practices in Secondary Schools in Philippines

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ABSTRACT Sports safety is essential to protecting student-athletes and maintaining effective school sports programs. This study examined sports safety risk management practices in three large secondary schools near Isabela State University-Echague Campus and provided inputs to enhance sports safety in schools. A quantitative descriptive-comparative research design was employed, involving a purposive sample of 30 coaches and 150 student-athletes. Data were collected using a sports safety risk management questionnaire and analysed using means, standard deviations, and independent-samples t-tests. Coaching and supervision emerged as the strongest dimension, whereas training and preparation, as well as equipment and facilities, showed notable weaknesses. No significant differences were found between coaches' and student-athletes' perceptions of sports safety risk management practices. Risk assessment and prevention received the lowest ratings, while health and medical support emerged as the strongest area. The findings highlight the need for continuous safety education, systematic risk assessment, emergency preparedness, regular facility maintenance, strengthened medical support, policy enforcement, and institutional monitoring to promote safer school sports environments.