

JOURNAL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

International Interdisciplinary Journal of Man-Environment Relationship

© Kamla-Raj 2010
PRINT: ISSN 0970-9274 ONLINE: 2456-6608

J Hum Ecol, 32(3): 197-203 (2010)
DOI: 10.31901/24566608.2010/32.03.08

Perception of Nigerian School Boys on the Influence of Contrasting Geographical Locations on Participation in Soccer

E. O. Agwubike and A. O. Okunbor

*Department of Health, Environmental Education and Human Kinetics,
University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria*

KEYWORDS Male Adolescents. Recreational Soccer. Atmospheric Conditions. Topography. Players' Comfort.

ABSTRACT The paper investigated the extent to which geographical locations influenced male secondary school students' level of participation in amateur soccer within Zaria and Benin metropolis in the 2006/2007 school year. It also sought to ascertain if relative changes in geographical locations influenced the welfare of soccer players and examined the influence of landscape patterns on participants. A total of 836 respondents formed the sampling unit. Percentages were used to analyse the data for the study. Hindrances to soccer participation in Zaria were cold weather which was attested by (81.5%) respondents, hot weather (78.94%), low humidity (71.05%) and cold winds (69.46%). In Benin metropolis, impediments to soccer participation were reported to be rainfall (83%), thunderstorms (78%), hot weather (70%) and lightning (53.9%). Amateur soccer participants in Zaria were influenced by expenditure on accommodation (84.21%), feeding and first aid treatment (60.42%). However, in Benin metropolis influence on feeding and accommodation recorded (66.82%) while first aid treatment attracted (55%) rating. Although (63.1%) respondents in Zaria, indicated that soccer pitches were undulating, (73.68%) claimed they were dry during the dry season. Some soccer pitches remained dry between May and July, a period that usually experiences some rainfall in Nigeria. Also, (92%) respondents in Benin metropolis remarked that soccer pitches were waterlogged particularly during periods of heavy rainfall, between April and October yearly. The results call for differential planning strategies in organizing soccer training and competition in these two divergent geographical areas in Nigeria.