

**TYPE AND GENDER AS PREDICTORS OF SPORTS LEADERSHIP
BEHAVIOR PATTERNS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA.**

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ABSTRACT

Human behaviour is a reflection of leadership, which is seen as an assembly of some common purpose, with the aim of facing significant challenges in achieving their goals, particularly in sporting set up. The purpose of this study was to find out whether type of sport and gender determine the coaching behavior patterns in Northern Nigeria. Respondents in this study consisted of 261 coaches selected from seven Northern States of Nigeria. They were made up of 131 team sports coaches (soccer-30, hockey-26, volleyball-23, handball-28, basketball-24) and 130 individual sports coaches (gymnastics-17, badminton- 23, table tennis-30, tennis-20, athletics-40). Leadership Scale for Sport (LSS of Challadurai and Saleh, 1980) was adopted for use in data collection. It was pertinent that coaches should be aware of athlete preferences of coach leadership behaviours. This will likely encourage harmonization of differences, thereby ensuring greater effectiveness on the part of coaches, and better performance on the part of the athletes. Findings of the study did not show any significant differences in coach leadership behaviours of team and individual/dual sport coaches. This would likely encourage harmonization of differences, thereby ensuring greater effectiveness on the part of coaches, and better performance on the part of athletes.