

Research Project: Performance knowledge in women's and girls' football

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The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the
ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2022/394).

Research Overview

In the wake of the 2023 World Cup, women's football in Australia is receiving more attention and resourcing than ever before. From grassroots to pro-level, our sport is growing quickly.

The recent growth and attention presents a window of opportunity to intentionally shape a safe and positive culture that allows athletes to excel.

This research supports and aligns with movements within the field of women's sport to document athletes' experiences and work towards healthier and safer sporting environments for women. Findings from this project will increase knowledge of the governance and cultures of women's football in Australia.

Project Objectives:

To understand current practices of knowledge-making in women's football through analysing the everyday work of athletes, coaches and other volunteers and staff. This includes learning about how technology, data, sports science and coaching expertise are used in the elite women's football pathway to produce athletes and athletic performances. Additionally, it seeks to uncover how these narratives shape the future of women's football.

Method

Research will take place from September 2023 – April 2025.

My main method of research is called **participant observation**. This means that I will spend time with participants as they go about their work, sport, or life. With permission, I will **take notes** and sometimes take **photos or videos** that don't reveal identities.

Participants may also be asked to participate in **interviews or workshops**. These will be organised ahead of time, with additional information and indicative questions and themes provided ahead of the event.

Confidentiality and Consent

No one's information will be included in this research project unless they give consent. Consent can be withdrawn at any stage, and no one should feel pressured to consent just because their colleagues or teammates are participating in this project.

Participant identities will be kept confidential unless they expressly choose to share their identity.

More information is available in the attached Participant Information Sheet.



Researcher Profile

My name is Madeleine Dove. I'm a PhD student at the School of Archaeology and Anthropology in the College of Social Sciences at the Australian National University.

I grew up playing sport in Canberra and have been involved as a coach at various levels of football. I am passionate about inclusive sport and investment in women's football, and I have previously researched fan behaviour at the 2019 Women's World Cup in France.

My professional background is in service design, futures research, and stakeholder engagement for government, and that shapes my approach to doing research that has practical applications for organisations and the public.

I am open to chat about this project at any time. Please contact me in case of questions, concerns, or feedback.

Project information is available at www.madeleinedove.com

Primary Investigator

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If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager

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