

## ABSTRACT

### SPIRITUALITY AND SPORT COMMITMENT

The present study examined the relationship between spirituality, experiencing the presence of a power, a force, an energy, or a God, and sport commitment, the psychological state representing the desire or resolve to continue sports participation. Athletes from a Division I university ( $n = 293$ ) responded to the Sport Commitment Questionnaire and the Spiritual Involvements and Beliefs Scale – Revised. Pearson product-moment analysis revealed weak correlations (i.e.,  $r < .20$ ) between spirituality and any component of the Sport Commitment Model (SCM). Despite low correlations, those affiliating with a religion scored significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) on four subscales of the sport commitment model (enthusiastic commitment, investment, recognition opportunities, and overall satisfaction) in comparison to those with no religious affiliation. Results suggest that further investigation into the relationship between spirituality and sport commitment are warranted. It is hypothesized that spirituality might be its own separate construct within the sport commitment model.

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