The Role of Secondary Control in Fostering Psychosocial Wellbeing for Athletes During Setbacks

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INTRO

- -Secondary control (SC) involves adjusting the self to the environment; whereas Primary control (PC) involves acting on the environment
- -SC in health & achievement settings can be adaptive for individuals facing setbacks when PC is low
- -We tested the impact of athletes' PC & SC on important psychosocial outcomes

METHODS

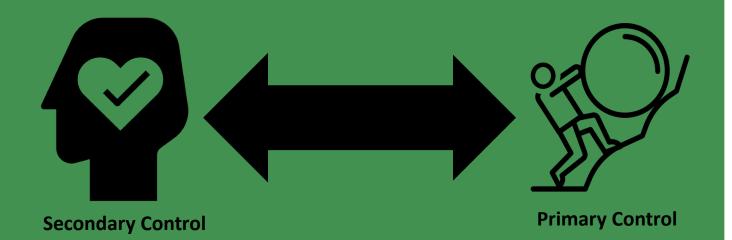
- -129 postsecondary North American athletes recruited via Prolific ($M_{ade} = 21$)
- -87 women, 39 men, 1 non-binary, 2 did not disclose
- -USA 68%; Canada 32%

ANALYSIS

- -Cross-sectional design
- -Tested main and int. effects of SC and PC on anxiety, rumination and affect when reflecting upon a critical past sport setback

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Secondary Control (SC) is linked to lower rumination and negative emotions following sport setbacks



When **primary control** is low, **SC** relates to less worrying about being perceived weak, pain, and letting others down



RESULTS

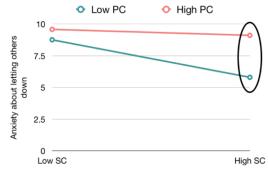
	Perceived	Pain	Let others	Reoccur
	weak		down	
	B (SE)	B (SE)	B (SE)	B (SE)
SC	22*(.10)	17 (.10)	29*(.10)	22*(.10)
PC	.14 (.10)	.34" (.10)	.29" (.10)	.29"(.07)
SC x PC	.17* (.09)	.20°(.08)	.17 (.08)	13 (.08)
Comp. Spo	rt31 (.21)	.03 (.20)	.10 (.21)	.16 (.20)
R ²	.07	.11	.09	.13

-	Negative affect	Rumination
-	B (SE)	B (SE)
sc	21 [*] (.10)	19 [*] (.10)
PC	.11 (.10)	.02 (.07)
SC x PC	.01 (.09)	12 (.08)
Comp. Sport	.13 (.21)	.38 (.21)
R^2	.04	.08

*p <.05; "p < .01. Comp. Sport = currently competing in competitive spoi (dummy-coded: 1 = no; 2 = yes). Partially standardized regressions are reported as competitive sport status was left in its original metric.

SUMMARY

- -SC may serve an adaptive function for various setback-related anxiety outcomes, particularly when PC is low, as well as help to attenuate negative affect and rumination
- -With frequent setback experiences and rising mental health issues being reported by athletes, findings may be used to promote SC beliefs through control-enhancing interventions





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