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Predicting Young Athletes' Motivational Indices as a Function of their Perceptions of the Coach- and **Peer-related Climate**

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1	Running head: PREDICTING YOUN	NG ATHLETES' MOTIVATION
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6	of the Coa	ach- and Peer-created Climate
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Predicting Young Athletes' Motivation 1

1 Abstract 2 Introduction. Research on youth sport motivation has mainly focused on the adult-created 3 motivational climate (i.e., by parents, the coach, or PE teacher), while the peer-induced climate 4 has not received much attention. This is unfortunate since both adults and peers are relevant to 5 the sport experience of young athletes. 6 Objectives. The purpose of this study was to examine the additive and interactive influence of 7 perceptions of the coach- and peer-created motivational climates (MC) on cognitive (physical 8 self-worth), affective (enjoyment, trait anxiety) and behavioral (exerted effort as rated by the 9 coach) responses of young athletes. Age and gender differences in athletes' views regarding 10 these psychological environments were also examined. 11 *Methods*. Participants were 493 young athletes, age 12 to 17 years (M age = 14.08; SD = 1.29), 12 from various individual and team sports. 13 Results. Hierarchical regression analyses, controlling for age and gender, showed that a 14 perceived task-involving peer MC was the only predictor of physical self-worth. A perceived 15 ego-involving coach climate emerged as the only predictor of trait anxiety. Enjoyment was 16 predicted positively by both coach and peer task-involving MCs, whereas reported effort was 17 predicted only by the coach task-involving MC. A 2-way MANOVA revealed that perceptions of 18 ego-involving coach and peer MCs were higher among males, whereas females reported higher 19 perceptions of task-involving coach and peer MCs, whereas no age differences were identified. A significant age-gender interaction effect on the peer ego-involving MC emerged. 20 21 Conclusions. The findings provide evidence for the importance of peer-created MC in youth 22 sport and suggest that both coach and peer influence should be considered in future research on 23 young athletes' self perceptions and motivation-related responses in sport. 24 Key words: motivational climate, physical self-worth, enjoyment, anxiety, effort, youth sport

Youth sport involves the participation of children and adolescents in activities organized and/or supervised by adults. However, it is important that the potential influence of peers is not neglected when we consider determinants of the quality of young athletes' sport engagement. Pointing to the salience of peer influence, the peak years of sport involvement for young athletes coincide with the developmentally-dependent tendency for youngsters to rely on peer informational sources in assessing personal competence (Horn & Weiss, 1991). Moreover, the participation motivation research clearly indicates that affiliation with teammates and the development of positive social relations with peers are major motives underlying children's and adolescents' interest in sport and the quality of their experiences while engaged (Weiss & Petlichkoff, 1989). It is surprising, therefore, that only recently has greater research recognition been given to peers as essential contributors, along with adults (e.g., parents, the coach and the physical education [PE] teacher) to the overall social psychological environment manifested in youth sport. Such recognition has resulted in an increased scholarly interest in peer relationships within physical activity contexts (Brustad, Babkes & Smith, 2001; Brustad & Partidge, 2002; Ntoumanis & Biddle, 1999; Smith, 2003). Topics such as the development of social competence (and its link to perceived athletic competence), peer acceptance, and friendship quality are some of the areas that have attracted attention in the contemporary youth sport psychology literature (Brustad & Partidge, 2002; Smith, 2003). Despite the recent work on peer influence in youth sport, there is a scarcity of research on peer-held criteria for success and failure and the way these criteria are communicated and affect children's achievement motivation in sport. A viable theoretical framework that can help foster understanding of the social psychological determinants of children's motivation in sport is achievement goal theory. According to this social-cognitive framework (Ames, 1992; Duda & Hall, 2001; Nicholls, 1989),

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1 in order to understand the motivation of young athletes, it is necessary to study the function and 2 the meaning of their goal-directed actions. Such actions focus on the demonstration of 3 competence and the avoidance of showing incompetence (Nicholls, 1989). It is assumed that 4 individuals can evaluate their competence in two different ways, and these divergent conceptions 5 of ability are assumed to be intimately tied to two different achievement goal orientations. The 6 first goal orientation, namely task orientation, is evident when perceptions of competence are 7 self-referenced and primarily based upon personal improvement and exerting maximum effort. 8 The second goal orientation, namely ego orientation, is evident when competence is normatively 9 referenced and inferred by demonstrating superior ability and outperforming others (Nicholls, 10 1989). A plethora of studies has demonstrated that high task orientation, compared to high ego 11 orientation, relates to more positive outcomes in youth sport (for reviews, see Duda, 2001; Duda 12 & Hall, 2001; Duda & Ntoumanis, 2005). 13 In addition to dispositional achievement goals, social situational factors are assumed to 14 play a substantial role in the activation and direction of children's achievement behavior (Ames, 15 1992). The term motivational climate refers to perceptions of situational cues and expectations 16 that encourage the development of particular goal orientations, and at a given point in time, 17 induce a certain goal involvement state. It is assumed that variations in achievement behavior 18 can be explained by the interplay of individuals' achievement goals and the motivational climate 19 created by significant others (Ames, 1992; Treasure & Roberts, 1998). Two types of motivational climate have been proposed by Ames (1992): A task-involving 20 21 (or mastery) motivational climate that encourages effort and rewards task mastery and individual 22 improvement, and an ego-involving (or performance) motivational climate that fosters social 23 comparison and emphasizes normative ability. More specifically, in a task-involving 24 motivational climate, the athletes are assumed to be more likely to derive satisfaction from

personal progress and perceive that significant others emphasize personal skill improvement and regard errors as part of learning. On the other hand, in an ego-involving motivational climate, the emphasis is on interpersonal comparison, the demonstration of normative ability, and competition with teammates. These two aspects of the climate always co-exist in the same context, that is, the climate is always task-involving to some extend and ego-involving to some extend. The perceived motivational climate has been mainly studied in reference to the social psychological environment created by adult. Unfortunately to date, there has been limited work centered on the potential of peers to transmit task-involving versus ego-involving cues. That is, the nature and implications of the peer-created motivational climate has not received much attention in the sport psychology literature, even though past research has demonstrated that both adults and peers make important contributions to the achievement-related experiences of young people (Harwood & Swain, 1999; Pintrich, Conley & Kempler, 2003). For example, Pintrich and colleagues have argued that students' achievement goals might be impacted by their interactions with peers who may have a "distinct approach" from the teacher toward engaging in the task. Within the sport domain, Harwood and Swain studied the distinct influence of coaches, parents and peers on achievement goals. They concluded that it is important to consider peers as significant social agents in sport and to assess the relative influence exerted by all aforementioned significant others on young athletes' motivation-related responses. Carr and associates (Carr, Weigand, & Hussey, 1999; Carr, Weigand, & Jones, 2000) have examined the relative influence of peers, along with parents, teachers and sporting heroes, on children's achievement-related responses. This work indicates that both adult- and peercreated climates may influence children's goal orientations, intrinsic motivation and perceived physical competence. In these studies, it is important to note that the peer-created climate was assessed by rephrasing items from the PE Class Climate Scale (Biddle, Cury, Goudas, Sarrazin,

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- 1 Famose, & Durand, 1995) and the Parental Initiated Motivational Climate Ouestionnaire-2
- 2 (White, 1996). However, we would argue that by simply rewording the items contained in adult-
- 3 focused climate questionnaires, one might not tap the unique aspects of peer influence
- 4 experienced by young athletes.

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In order to better understand the nature and dimensions of the peer-created motivational climate in sport, Vazou, Ntoumanis, and Duda (in press) recently conducted a qualitative study with young athletes aged 12 to 16 years, who were participants in both individual and team sports. In-depth interviews offered considerable insight into how young athletes perceive and formulate a peer motivational climate. Eleven dimensions of the perceived peer-created climate were identified; i.e., improvement, equal treatment, relatedness support, cooperation, effort (assumed dimensions of a task-involving motivational climate), intra-team competition, intrateam conflict and normative ability (assumed dimensions of an ego-involving climate), autonomy support, mistakes and evaluation of competence (dimensions that have aspects of both task- and ego-involving climates).

More specifically, the improvement dimension was defined as encouraging and providing feedback to teammates to improve. The equal treatment dimension referred to whether everyone has an important role on the team. The Cooperation dimension captured working together in order to learn new skills, whilst effort measured the degree to which athletes emphasized to their teammates to try as hard as possible. Intra-team competition was defined as the promotion of inter-individual competition by the peer group. Intra-team conflict encapsulated negative and unsupportive behaviors exhibited by teammates, whereas the normative ability dimension denoted the perceived peer emphasis on displaying normative ability and preferring the most competent players. The relatedness and autonomy support dimensions that emerged in the study were consonant with constructs embedded in Self-determination Theory (Deci & Ryan, 2000),

but are also consistent with the grouping and authority structures (see Ames, 1992) assumed to be central facets of the perceived motivational climate. Relatedness support was defined as the fostering and facilitation of the feeling of belonging and being part of a group, as well as the creation of a friendly atmosphere on the team. Autonomy support referred to whether athletes felt that their teammates allowed them input in decision making and freedom in the way they played or whether they acted in a controlling manner. The mistakes dimension captured the positive and negative reactions from teammates when athletes made mistakes. Lastly, evaluation of competence referred to whether athletes were deemed to use normative or self-reference criteria to evaluate their teammates' competence. Most of the dimensions (e.g., effort, improvement) that emerged in the Vazou et al. (in press) study have been previously identified as dimensions of an adult-created motivational climate in sport. Nevertheless, new facets of the psychological environment surrounding youth sport athletes were revealed that had not previously been tapped by existing coach- or parent-focused motivational climate questionnaires (e.g., intra-team conflict, relatedness support). Items were generated to capture the above dimensions emanating from the qualitative analysis. This items comprised the initial version of the Peer Motivational Climate in Youth Sport Questionnaire; PeerMCYSQ) which was psychometrically tested in a series of three studies by Vazou and Ntoumanis (2004). Support was gleaned for the hypothesized hierarchical structure of the PeerMCYSQ; i.e., there was a task-involving higher order peer climate factor comprised of the sub-dimensions of Improvement, Effort and Relatedness Support, and an egoinvolving higher order peer climate factor that consisted of the Intra-team Competition/Ability and Intra-team Conflict lower order sub-dimensions. The PeerMCYSQ includes sub-scales that represent an empirically-supported, parsimonious set of most of the 11 peer climate dimensions

that emerged from Vazou et al.'s (in press) qualitative work. That is, the items that comprise the

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five PeerMCYSO factors, besides the same-named dimensions of the qualitative study, include also some items from related but different dimensions of the qualitative analysis that did not emerge as separate factors in the quantitative analysis. For example, the Improvement factor includes also items from the Cooperation factor and Relatedness Support includes items from the Equal treatment factor. In addition, Effort and Intra-team Conflict incorporate items from the Mistakes factor that reflect positive and negative reactions to mistakes respectively. The only dimensions from the qualitative work that are not included in the questionnaire are Autonomy Support and the Evaluation of Competence. Although, some items tapping these factors were initially extracted in the factor analyses, these were eventually removed because they were problematic.

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It is important to note that the PeerMCYSQ taps the broader perceived motivational climate that includes aspects of social affiliation, embedded within task- and ego-involving structures. That is, the Relatedness Support and Intra-team Conflict measure supportive/more task-involving and unsupportive/more ego-involving behaviors respectively. The Improvement subscale captures the degree to which peers on one's team work together and offer help when needed (a more task-involving feature of the climate), and the Intra-team Competition/Ability sub-dimension assesses whether one's peers on the team emphasize social validation and acceptance through the demonstration of normative ability (a more ego-involving aspect of the climate).

Recently researchers have argued that social goals, such as social affiliation and acceptance, are important in sport and should be investigated within achievement motivation research (e.g., Allen, 2003; Stuntz & Weiss, 2003). For example, athletes might actively seek to be part of a popular group or to validate themselves through peer recognition (Allen, 2003). An independent social climate factor, along with the task- and ego- involving factors, was also

examined in the measurement development by Vazou and Ntoumanis (2004) but it did not show adequate fit. However, this issue should be further examined in future research.

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The newly formed peer motivational climate we believe could provide an essential contribution to the overall motivational climate in a team because, as we have already mentioned, it includes some unique (e.g., social) aspects of peer influence that are omitted in existing motivational climate measurements, and moreover, there is evidence that both adults and peers are important contributors to young athletes' motivation (Harwood & Swain, 1999; Pintrich et al., 2003). Thus, in the present study, we determined the interdependencies between perceptions of the peer-induced motivational climate (as assessed via the PeerMCYSQ), perceptions of the coach-induced motivational climate, and their potential interaction with respect to young athletes' self perceptions and responses. We examined the relationship of the perceived peer- and coach-created climate to the targeted motivational outcomes in terms of the over-riding climate dimensions (i.e., task- and ego-involving features) and also underlying subdimensions or climate structures. Specifically, in terms of young athletes' self perceptions and responses, we examined their reported enjoyment of and anxiety experienced in sport and physical self worth and their coach's/PE teacher's rating of the effort they exhibit while participating on their team. In the following paragraphs we review the relevant literature on the relation of the motivational climate to the motivational outcomes that we will examine.

Research in the contexts of physical education and sport has indicated that a perceived adult task-involving climate is linked to more adaptive cognitive, affective and behavioral responses than a perceived ego-involving climate (e.g., for a review see Biddle, 2001; Duda, 2001; Ntoumanis & Biddle, 1999). Enjoyment (or "having fun"), which has been identified as a key reason for participation in youth sport (Brustad et al., 2001; Weiss & Petlichkoff, 1989), has been positively associated with perceptions of a task-involving coach motivational climate. For

1 example, Seifriz, Duda, and Chi (1992) found that perceptions of a task-involving climate were 2 positively related to enjoyment and greater interest in sport among adolescent-age male 3 basketball players. Similar links between a perceived task-involving climate and enjoyment were 4 found in investigations by Newton and Duda (1999) in sport and Kavussanu and Roberts (1996) 5 in physical activity. Furthermore, perceptions of a task-involving climate have been associated with other positive motivational outcomes, such as teachers' ratings of student effort (Ferrer-6 7 Caja & Weiss, 2000), reported performance improvement and performance satisfaction 8 (Balaguer, Duda, Atienza, & Mayo, 2002), and the belief that effort is integral to success (Seifriz 9 et al., 1992; Treasure & Roberts, 1998). 10 From a theoretical and empirical standpoint, we would expect a task-involving climate to 11 correspond to greater enjoyment. A task-involving environment is more likely to promote more 12 personally controllable criteria for subjective success and perceptions of control are fundamental 13 to self determination and intrinsic interest (Deci & Ryan, 1985, 2000). Moreover, dispositional 14 task goals and perceptions of a task-involving climate have been linked to greater intrinsic 15 motivation (see Duda, 2001; Duda & Hall, 2000, for reviews). It is also not surprising that 16 exhibited effort has been associated with a perceived task-involving climate. In such 17 environments, there is an emphasis on cooperative learning, individual improvement, and 18 accomplishment via hard work as opposed to the demonstration of normatively superior ability 19 (which can be done via achieving success with little effort). 20 Interdependence between achievement goals and perceptions of self worth has been 21 revealed in the sport psychology literature (Duda, 2001). Self-esteem or self-worth is defined as 22 "the level of global regard that one has for the self as a person..." (Harter, 1993, p.88). Physical 23 domain-specific self-worth represents the personal satisfaction and confidence regarding the

physical self (Fox & Corbin, 1989) and is an important component of overall self-worth.

Perceptions of self worth have been examined in relation to the coach-created environment 2 manifested in sport. In a study by Smoll, Smith, Barnett, and Everett (1993), boys (age 10-12 years) with low self-esteem who played for coaches trained to apply positive coaching practices (e.g., reinforce effort and success defined in terms of personal performance) exhibited significant increases in overall self-esteem. In research by Walker, Roberts, and Harnisch (1998) and 6 Reinboth and Duda (2004), young athletes who perceived the coach-created climate as more task-involving reported higher levels of self-esteem and physical self-worth. Perceptions of an ego-involving climate were associated with lower self-esteem and physical self-worth. It makes conceptual sense that a perceived task-involving climate would relate to more positive 10 perceptions of physical self-worth as, in such environments, competence judgments are selfreferenced and individuals are less likely to be worried about being evaluated (Duda & Hall, 2000). In contrast, in an ego-involving climate, a positive physical self-worth is more to be at risk because it is more likely to be contingent upon achieving normative success and superiority (Duda & Hall, 2000; Reinboth & Duda, 2004). 15 The emphasis on normative criteria for the construal of competence and subjective 16 success characterizing an ego-involving climate should set the stage for heightened anxiety responses (Duda, 2001). For example, Pensgaard and Roberts (2000) found that elite athletes' perceptions that the coach was a source of distress were negatively associated with a perceived 19 coach-created task-involving climate and positively associated with a perceived ego-involving climate. Research by Papaioannou and Kouli (1999) and Yoo (2003) revealed students who 20 perceived a stronger task-involving and a weaker ego-involving climate to report lower state and trait anxiety. In sum, the major purpose of the present study was to examine the potential additive and

interactive effects of the perceived coach- and peer- created motivational climate on cognitive

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1 (physical self-worth), affective (enjoyment, trait anxiety) and behavioral (exerted effort as rated 2 by coach/PE teacher) motivation-related variables in the youth sport setting. Based on previous 3 research and theoretical tenets, it was hypothesized that perceptions of task-involving coach and 4 peer climates would be positively related to physical self-worth, enjoyment and effort, whereas, 5 perceptions of ego-involving coach and peer climates would be positively related to trait anxiety. 6 Due to the exploratory nature of this question, no hypotheses were made regarding the 7 differential salience of the perceived coach- and peer-created climates in the prediction of these 8 outcomes. Possible interactions between coach and peer climate dimensions were also tested. 9 Moreover, since the PeerMCYSQ (Vazou & Ntoumanis, in press) is a recently developed 10 assessment tool, its predictive validity and its relation to motivational indices are also tested in 11 this study. 12 Lastly, another purpose of this study was to examine gender and age differences in 13 athletes' perceptions of the coach- and peer-induced climates. It has been suggested that 14 development-dependent and gender differences exist in perceptions of adult-created motivational 15 climates (e.g., Carr, et al., 2000; White, Kavussanu, & Guest, 1998). Typically, females and younger athletes perceive stronger task-involving climate cues than their male and older 16 17 counterparts. Therefore, it was hypothesized that females and younger athletes would perceive 18 stronger task-involving and weaker ego-involving coach and peer motivational climates 19 compared to males and older athletes. 20 Method 21 **Participants** 22 The sample (N = 493) consisted of 124 females and 369 males from the Midlands region in England, with ages ranging from 12 to 17 years (M = 14.08; SD = 1.29). Data from the same 23 24 participants were collected for a different paper which examined the psychometric properties of a

- 1 new peer climate questionnaire (Vazou & Ntoumanis, 2004). The participants were involved in
- both individual and team sports, specifically rugby, soccer, basketball, hockey, netball and
- 3 swimming. The participants were recruited from school (n = 33), club (n = 7) and county (n = 1)
- 4 teams. Sport participation history ranged from 2 months to 14 years (M = 4.89, SD = 2.53). The
- 5 participants were predominately white (87.4%), but the sample also included Asian (5.3%),
- 6 Black (3%), and mixed race (3.4%) youngsters.
- 7 Measures
- 8 Peer-created Motivational Climate. The 21-item PeerMCYSQ (Vazou & Ntoumanis,
- 9 2004) was used to measure athletes' perceptions of the peer-created motivational climate on their
- team. The PeerMCYSO consists of a task-involving and an ego-involving higher order
- dimension, each of which comprise of a number of lower order factors. Participants responded to
- the stem "On this team, most athletes...", and responses were indicated on a 7-point scale
- ranging from 1 = "strongly disagree" to 7 = "strongly agree". Examples of items constituting the
- 14 task-involving climate factor are "Help each other improve" (Improvement), "Make their
- teammates feel accepted" (Relatedness Support), and "Encourage their teammates to try their
- hardest" (Effort). Examples of items constituting the ego-involving climate factor are
- 17 "Encourage each other to outplay their teammates" (Intra-team Competition/Ability) and
- 18 "Criticize their teammates when they make mistakes" (Intra-team Conflict). Evidence for the
- 19 content, and construct validity of the PeerMCYSQ, as well as its internal consistency and test-
- 20 retest reliability, have been provided by Vazou and Ntoumanis (2004). In the Vazou and
- 21 Ntoumanis (2004) work, the hypothesized hierarchical factor structure for the PeerMCYSQ was
- tested using confirmatory factor analyses (CFA) with two independent samples (n1 = 606, n2 =
- same sample with this study) of young athletes and was found to be adequate: $[\chi^2(179) = 274, p]$

- 1 < .001, Robust NNFI = .94, CFI = .95, SRMR = .036, RMSEA = .048]. Furthermore, the
- 2 hierarchical structure was confirmed at the individual and team level with multilevel
- 3 confirmatory factor analysis with the current sample: $[\chi^2(358) = 428, p < .01, NNFI = 1.00, CFI$
- 4 = 1.00, SRMR = .032, RMSEA = .017]. Vazou and Ntoumanis (in press) also examined the
- 5 temporal stability of the PeerMCYSQ using intra-class correlations for each of the five peer
- 6 climate factors over a four-week period. Acceptable levels of stability were revealed for all
- 7 factors.
- 8 *Coach-created Motivational Climate.* The 33-item Perceived Motivational Climate in
- 9 Sport Questionnaire-2 (PMCSQ-2; Newton, Duda & Yin, 2000) was used to measure athletes'
- 10 perceptions of the coach-emphasized motivational climate operating on their team. The PMCSQ-
- 2 consists of two higher order task-involving and ego-involving factors, each of which comprise
- of three lower order sub-dimensions (Task-involving: Effort/Improvement, Cooperative
- 13 Learning, Important Role; Ego-involving: Unequal Recognition, Punishment for Mistakes, Intra-
- team Rivalry). In order to clearly differentiate between peer and coach climates, the stem for
- each PMCSQ-2 item was modified to "On this team, the coach...". Furthermore, some of the
- items were slightly reworded in order to make it more explicit that the questions referred to the
- influence of the coach (e.g., the item from the Cooperative Learning subscale "players help each
- other learn" was modified to read "emphasizes that athletes should help each other learn").
- 19 Examples of items constituting the remaining task-involving climate sub-scales are "wants
- athletes to try new skills" (Effort/Improvement) and "believes that each player contributes to the
- 21 team in some important way" (Important Role). Examples of items comprising the ego-involving
- climate sub-scales are "gives most of his or her attention to the 'stars'" (Unequal Recognition),
- 23 "gets mad when a player makes a mistake" (Punishment for Mistakes) and "praises athletes only

- 2 scale ranging from 1 = "strongly disagree" to 5 = "strongly agree". In the present study involving
- 3 youth sport athletes, the hypothesized hierarchical factor structure for the PMCSQ-2 was tested
- 4 using CFA and was found to be adequate: $[\chi^2(480) = 736.51, p < .001, \text{Robust NNFI} = .93,$
- 5 Robust CFI = .94, SRMR = .052].
- 6 Enjoyment. Participants' level of enjoyment of their sport was measured with the 5-item
- 7 Interest-Enjoyment subscale of the Intrinsic Motivation Inventory (McAuley, Duncan &
- 8 Tammen, 1989). Responses were provided on a 7-point scale ranging from 1 = "strongly
- 9 disagree" to 7 = "strongly agree". An example of an item contained in this subscale is "I enjoy
- my sport very much".
- 11 Trait anxiety. The 21-item Sport Anxiety Scale (Smith, Smoll, & Schutz, 1990) was used
- 12 to measure the multi-dimensional sport trait anxiety of the participants. The scale includes three
- subscales: Somatic Anxiety (e.g., "My body feels tense"), Worries or Cognitive Anxiety (e.g., "I
- am concerned about performing poorly"), and Concentration Disruption (e.g., "During
- 15 competition, I find myself thinking about unrelated things"). Responses were provided on a 4-
- point scale anchored from 1 = "not at all" to 4 = "very much so". A total score for sport trait
- anxiety was calculated by averaging the mean scores of each subscale.
- 18 Physical Self-Worth. The 6-item Physical Self-Worth scale of the Children Physical Self-
- 19 Perception Profile (Whitehead, 1995) was used to assess the participants' perceived physical
- self-worth. This measure employs a structured alternative format whereby young athletes are
- 21 first asked to indicate which of two statements best describes them (e.g., "Some kids are proud of
- themselves physically but Other kids don't have much to be proud of physically"), and then to

decide whether the chosen statement is "sort of" or "really true" for them. Scoring ranges from 1 1 2 (low) to 4 (high physical self-worth). 3 Effort Rating. Coaches and PE teachers coaching the school teams were asked to rate 4 each of their athlete's exhibited effort on the team using an adapted version of the Teacher 5 Rating of Academic Achievement Motivation Questionnaire (TRAAM; Stinnett, Oeheler-6 Stinnett, & Stout, 1991). The effort subscale consisted of four items referring to athletes' 7 persistence and maintenance of effort when confronted with difficult tasks (e.g., "on the team, 8 the athlete puts effort to improve in every training session"). The coach/PE teacher rated each 9 athlete on each item using a 5-point scale ranging from 1 = "Strongly disagree" to 5 = "Strongly 10 agree". 11 Procedure 12 The study had the approval of the Ethics Subcommittee of a British university. Coach, 13 parental and athlete consent forms were obtained before the completion of the questionnaires. 14 The questionnaires were administered by the first researcher and two research assistants before a 15 training session and took approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The athletes were 16 encouraged to answer honestly and ask questions if they were confused and were reassured that 17 their responses would be kept confidential. 18 Results 19 Internal Reliability and Descriptive Statistics 20 The internal reliability as well as the descriptive statistics (means, standard deviations and range) 21 for each measure are presented in Table 1. Internal reliability, using Cronbach's alpha 22 coefficient, was acceptable (α >.70) for all measures with the exception of the Intra-team Rivalry 23 subscale of the PMCSQ-2, the Intra-team Competition/Ability subscale of the PeerMCYSQ, and

the enjoyment subscale of the IMI whose reliability coefficients were marginally acceptable (α 1 2 =.67; α = .69; α = .69, respectively). The mean scores show that the athletes perceived that the 3 motivational climates emphasized by both the coach/PE teacher and the peers were more task-4 than ego-involving. Moreover, athletes reported moderate to high levels of physical self-worth, 5 and coaches/PE teachers rated their athletes' effort as high. Furthermore, the athletes reported 6 that they enjoyed their sport a lot and experienced moderate levels of sport trait anxiety. 7 Pearson's correlations were employed to determine the relationships between the 8 variables of interest (see Table 2). The correlations between the peer and coach motivational 9 climates were small to moderate. The task-involving climates were positively correlated with 10 each other and were negatively correlated with the ego-involving climates. Moreover, physical 11 self-worth, enjoyment and effort were positively correlated with each other and with peer task-12 involving climate and were negatively correlated with trait anxiety. Further, enjoyment and effort 13 were positively related with coach task-involving climate, and were negatively associated with 14 coach and peer ego-involving climates. Trait anxiety was positively related to coach and egoinvolving climates and negatively linked to perceived coach and peer task-involving climate. A 15 16 conceptually similar pattern of relationships was found when the individual climate subscales were used¹. 17 18 Hierarchical Multiple Regression Analyses 19 In order to determine whether the coach motivational climate, the peer motivational climate, or 20 both were significant predictors of physical self-worth, enjoyment, anxiety and effort, a series of 21 hierarchical multiple regression analyses were conducted. In all analyses, gender and age were entered in step 1 to control for their effects³. The coach climate scales were entered in step 2 and 22

the peer climate measures in step 3. We entered first the coach-created motivational climate

Possible interactions between the coach and peer-created climates in predicting the dependent variables were examined using a procedure outlined by Aiken and West (1991). More specifically, each independent variable (coach task- and ego-involving climates as well as peer task- and ego-involving climates) was centered. In separate regression analyses, each dependent

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- 2 possible combinations of 2-way interactions (step 2), and the four possible 3-way interactions
- 3 (step 3). The results showed that in all regression analyses steps 2 and 3 were non-significant.
- 4 Another set of hierarchical regression analyses was conducted in order to determine
- 5 which of the coach and peer motivational climate subscales predicted the dependent variables.
- 6 Congruent with the results pertaining to the higher order factors, enjoyment was predicted by the
- 7 improvement and effort facets of peer task-involving climate (β = .19, p < .01 and β = .15, p <
- 8 .01 respectively) as well as the important role dimension of the coach task-involving climate (β =
- 9 .18, p < .01). The coach ego-involving climate dimension of punishment for mistakes ($\beta = .20$, p
- 10 < .01) was the only significant predictor of trait anxiety. Effort was not predicted by any sub-</p>
- scales of the coach and peer task-involving motivational climates, but was negatively predicted
- by intra-team conflict, a facet of peer ego-involving climate ($\beta = -.15$, p < .01). Physical self-
- worth was not significantly predicted by any sub-scale of either peer or coach motivational
- 14 climate².
- 15 Gender and Age Differences
- 16 A two-way MANOVA was conducted to examine gender and age differences in the perceptions
- of the motivational climates created by the coach and the peers. In order to examine potential age
- differences, athletes were divided into two groups. The first group included athletes with ages 12
- and 13 years (M = 12.83, SD = .41) and the second group included ages ranging from 14 to 17
- years (M = 15.01, SD = .87). This age division has been used by other researchers in the past
- 21 (e.g., Carr, et al., 1999). Significant multivariate main effects emerged for gender (Pillai's Trace
- $= .05, F(4, 482) = 6.63, p < .001, partial <math>\eta^2 = .05$), but not for age (Pillai's Trace = .01, F(4,
- 482) = 0.85, p > .05, partial $\eta^2 = .01$). A significant age x gender interaction effect (Pillai's Trace

= .23, F(4, 482) = 2.86, p < .05, partial $\eta^2 = .02$) was also revealed. No cut-off values exist for 1 partial η^2 but as far as η^2 is concerned, a value of 0.03 and below is considered a small effect 2 3 size, a value of 0.06 and above is considered a moderate effect size and a value above 0.14 is 4 considered a large effect size (Cohen, 1988). Thus, most effect sizes are probably small or 5 moderate. Follow-up univariate analyses showed that the significant gender x age interaction emerged with regard to the peer ego-involving climate factor [F(1, 485) = 7.37, p < .01]. The 6 7 interaction showed that younger males and females did not differ significantly on the peer ego-8 involving climate, whereas older males reported significantly higher perceptions of peer ego-9 involving climate compared to females. With regard to gender, follow-up univariate analyses 10 showed that there were significant differences on both coach and peer task- and ego-involving 11 factors. However, the results pertaining to the latter factor are not very meaningful and should be 12 interpreted with caution because of the significant gender x age interaction. Perceptions of ego-13 involving coach and peer climates were higher among males, whereas females perceived greater 14 task-involving coach and peer climates to be in operation. The means for both gender and age 15 groups on perceptions of the coach and peer climates are presented in Table 4. 16 Moreover, a 2-way MANOVA was conducted to examine age and gender differences on the lower order factors of coach and peer climates. A significant multivariate main effect 17 emerged for gender (Pillai's Trace = .10, F(11, 474) = 4.60, p < .001, partial $\eta^2 = .10$) and age 18 (Pillai's Trace = .07; F(11, 474) = 3.24; p < .001, partial $\eta^2 = .07$), as well as a significant age x 19 gender interaction (Pillai's Trace = .05; F(11, 474) = 2.16; p < .05, partial $\eta^2 = .05$). The 20 interaction emerged with regard to the Intra-team Competition/Ability (peer ego-involving 21 22 climate) factor, with younger females and older males reporting higher perceptions of intra-team 23 Competition/Ability compared to younger males and older females, respectively. With regard to

1 gender, follow-up univariate analyses showed that there were significant differences on all sub-2 scales of coach climate and on most sub-scales of peer climate (with the exception of the 3 Improvement and Intra-team Competition/Ability sub-scales). With relation to age, a significant 4 main effect emerged. Follow-up univariate analyses indicated that younger athletes (12-13 years) 5 scored significantly higher on Relatedness Support (peer climate), Intra-team 6 Competition/Ability (peer climate), and Improvement/Effort (coach climate), whereas older 7 athletes (14-17 years) scored significantly higher on Intra-team Conflict (peer climate) and 8 Punishment of Mistakes (coach climate). All effect sizes were moderate to high². 9 Discussion According to achievement goal theory (Ames, 1992; Duda & Hall, 2001), perceptions of 10 11 different motivational climates created by significant others are associated with a number of 12 cognitive, affective and behavioral patterns. The main purpose of the study was to examine the 13 ability of the peer-induced motivational climate, along with the coach-induced motivational 14 climate, to predict important cognitive, affective and behavioral outcomes in youth sport. 15 Congruent with previous research, results indicated that athletes who perceived higher levels of a 16 task-involving coach or peer climate reported higher levels of physical self-worth, enjoyment 17 and effort, whereas perceptions of ego-involving motivational cues were associated with higher 18 levels of competitive trait anxiety (e.g., for a review see Biddle, 2001; Duda, 2001; Ntoumanis & 19 Biddle, 1999). More specifically, an overall peer task-involving climate was the only significant 20 21 predictor of physical self-worth. However, an analysis of individual subscales showed that none 22 of the peer climate factors made a significant independent prediction. Harter (1988) has argued

that social support from one's peer group is associated with higher self-worth. Physical self-

worth represents one's satisfaction and confidence with the physical self (Fox & Corbin, 1989)

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(2002) found that high quality peer interactions, such as companionship, pleasant play and

conflict resolution, predicted higher tennis enjoyment. Our analysis of the individual climate subscales showed that the improvement and effort facets of the peer task-involving climate as well as the important role dimension of the coach task-involving climate were significant predictors of enjoyment. Therefore, it seems that environments which emphasize individual criteria for success and involve all athletes can increase the latter's intrinsic interest (Ames, 1992). The results also revealed that a coach ego-involving motivational climate was the only significant predictor of athletes' competitive trait anxiety in sport. This is not surprising since the coach has the highest authority on the team and therefore, his/her decisions and behaviors are more likely to induce anxiety in young athletes. A further analysis examining all peer climate subscales showed that a greater tendency to experience anxiety across different sport situations was reported when athletes perceived that their coach penalized them for making mistakes. The link between coach ego climate and athletes' trait anxiety is consistent with previous research in sport and PE settings (Kavussanu & Roberts, 1996; Papaioannou & Kouli, 1999; Seifriz et al., 1992; Yoo, 2003). Anxiety is likely to be experienced when the focus (personal or situational) is on the adequacy of one's ability and on gaining public recognition (Ames, 1992; Nicholls 1989). Hence, in an environment where athletes are evaluated in public and are punished for making mistakes, they are more likely to experience anxiety. The present results also show that coach ratings of athletes' effort were significantly predicted by a perceived coach task-involving higher order motivational climate factor. Furthermore, an analysis of the individual climate subscales showed that the effort ratings were also predicted (negatively) by intra-team conflict, which is a lower order factor of peer egoinvolving climate. Our findings are consistent with achievement goal theory (e.g., Ames, 1992)

and previous related research (e.g., Kavussanu & Roberts, 1996). That is, the young athletes put

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forth effort when they perceived that their coaches or PE teachers promoted learning and evaluated success using self-referenced criteria. It is not readily apparent why peer climate did not predict athletes' effort; further research should replicate this study using self-reports or peer ratings of effort. The negative prediction of effort by intra-team conflict, which is a lower order factor of the perceived peer ego-involving climate, shows that unsupportive behaviors by peers (e.g., making fun of their teammates when they make mistakes) are likely to reduce athletes' behavioral investment in their sport.

Possible interaction effects were examined between perceptions of coach and peer motivational climates predicting the same set of motivational indices. This analysis aimed to learn more about the nature of the relationship between the two climate factors, that is, whether besides additive effects, the two factors also have interactive effects. However, no significant interaction effects were found. A possible explanation for this could be that in the current study there was no within-team incompatibility between coach and peer motivational climates, which were both perceived as relatively high task-involving. That is, within each team both coach and peer climates were rated as being more task-involving than ego-involving. Possible interactions might have had emerged if, for example, on the same team athletes perceived the climate as high coach task-involving and high peer ego-involving. This could possible happen on a team where the athletes do not support each other and promote intra-team comparison and competition, whereas the coach tries to promote cooperative learning and emphasizes task-involving criteria for competence evaluation.

All in all, the findings of this study provide evidence for the relevance of peer-created motivational climate in youth sport, along with the coach-created motivational climate. More specifically, the peer-induced motivational climate was the only significant predictor of physical self-worth, and a stronger predictor of enjoyment than the coach-induced motivational climate.

In contrast, the coach-induced motivational climate was the only significant predictor of traitanxiety and coach ratings of athletes' effort. These results indicate that assessing only the coach motivational climate is not sufficient when examining young athletes' motivation, because peers are also important sources of motivational influence. The existing literature on perceived motivational climates in sport has focused almost exclusively on the influence of adults ignoring the potential impact of peers. As a consequence, these studies might have missed out social situational factors influencing the experiences and motivational responses of young athletes. Moreover, our results showed that peer and coach climates are two correlated (r=.49 and .45 for)the task-involving and ego-involving higher order factors) but independent constructs. Considering the very limited work that has been conducted in this area so far, future longitudinal research is essential in order to examine the relative independence of and the interplay over time between the coach and peer climates. Both the coach and the peer motivational climate measures employed in this study have a hierarchical structure with a task- and an ego-involving higher order factors. That is, both questionnaires have similar conceptual foundations by assessing perceptions of the same two major climate dimensions. However, the lower order dimensions of the PeerMCYSQ and the PMCSQ-2 are not identical. Besides some common factors used by both questionnaires (i.e., effort, improvement, intra-team competition/ability), the PeerMCYSQ also taps aspects of social affiliation, (i.e., relatedness support and intra-team conflict), while the PMCSQ-2 considers aspects of authority such as punishment for mistakes. Obviously, these differences can lead to interpretational difficulties when assessing the relative influence of the two climates. Duda and Whitehead (1998) have suggested that a common core of items should be developed to measure the relative influence of significant others in order to avoid such interpretational difficulties.

However, one could argue that it is also important to tap aspects of the motivational climate that

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4 been needed), but rather to look at their additive and interactive effects.

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Another purpose of this study was to examine age and gender differences in the perceptions of coach and peer motivational climates. Consistent with previous work on adultcreated motivational climates (e.g., Kavussanu & Roberts, 1996; White et al., 1998), young female athletes perceived both the coach and the peer motivational climates operating on their teams to be more task-involving and less ego-involving than their males counterparts did. However, as far as the peer ego-involving climate is concerned, the results were qualified by a significant gender x age interaction. This interaction indicated that gender differences on the perceptions of ego-involving climate should be examined in relation to the age of the athletes. That is, among older athletes (14-17 years old), males reported higher perceptions of peer egoinvolving climate than females. However, among younger athletes (12-13 years old) both males and females perceived the peer ego-involving climate in a similar way. Age differences in the perceptions of the coach and peer motivational climates were also examined in this study. No significant differences were revealed with regard to the higher order factors, however, differences were identified on the sub-dimensions of the coach and peer motivational climates. The results showed that the older athletes perceived more ego-involving motivational cues, whereas the younger ones had mixed perceptions of the dominant situational motivational cues. These findings are congruent with the achievement goal theory (Nicholls, 1989; Duda & Hall, 2001) which contends that during adolescence athletes experience greater cognitive maturation and are able to perceive in the environment more ego-involving cues.

One might question the significance of our findings in view of the small to moderate effect sizes found in the MANOVA's. However, the main purpose of our study was to examine the predictive validity of the peer and coach motivational climates and not to look at gender and age differences in the perceptions of those climates. In fact, the regression effect sizes (*R* square values), were sizeable by social science standards (Cohen, 1988).

Future research might consider looking at the motivational consequences of being on a team where the prevailing coach and peer motivational climates are contradictory (e.g., the coach might emphasize individual improvement but the peers might promote inter-individual comparison). On a newly formed team it is probable that the coach climate is the dominant one. However, with the passage of time, peer influence starts to develop which can convey motivational cues which are compatible or incompatible to the coach ones. For example, due to media influences, peers might glorify the demonstration of normative ability, and this might influence children to develop a strong ego-involving peer climate, despite the efforts of the coach to promote task-involving cues. Parents are also significant others who can influence the motivation of young athletes (e.g., White et al., 1998). Therefore, future research should examine the interplay between the climates created by the three significant social agents (parents, coach, and peers) with respect to important motivational indices in youth sport.

Moreover, future work might examine whether variations in the perceptions of the peer-created climate exist within and between teams, as well as the factors that can account for these variations at both the individual and group level (e.g., age, gender, dispositional achievement goals, team size). The motivational climate has a hierarchical structure (e.g., athletes are nested within teams, or students are nested within PE classes, classes within schools, etc.; see Papaioannou, Marsh, & Theodorakis, 2004) and thus, it is logical to assume that athletes are more similar to other athletes on the same team (i.e., share more similar perceptions of the

- 1 climate) than they are to athletes on other teams. Treating athletes as if they are independent of
- 2 their team possibly ignores the interdependency inherent in the data and can introduce potentially
- 3 important biases into the statistical analysis (Heck, 2001). Hence, a multilevel approach that
- 4 examines both within- and between-team variations in perceptions of the peer climate should be
- 5 adopted by future research studies.

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1 Footnotes ¹ The correlations between the individual climate subscales are available from the first author 2 3 upon request. ² The MANOVA's pertaining to the age and gender differences on the lower order factors of 4 5 coach and peer climates, as well as the regressions examining the predictive ability of each coach and peer motivational climate subscale, are available from the first author upon request. 6 7 ³ At the request of a reviewer, we conducted another set of regression analyses to test the 8 age/gender by climate interactions on the dependent variables under investigation. In each 9 regression analysis, the dependent variable was regressed on age, gender and all possible coach 10 and peer climate factors (step 1) as well as on all possible age/gender by climate interactions 11 (step 2). None of the interactions emerged as significant.

Table 1
Internal Consistencies and Descriptive Statistics for Each Measure

Measure	α	М	SD	Scale Range
Peer Task-Involving Climate	.78	5.37	0.85	1-7
Peer Ego- Climate	.76	3.87	1.04	1-7
Improvement ¹	.70	5.19	1.07	1-7
Relatedness Support ¹	.73	5.24	1.16	1-7
Effort ¹	.70	5.64	0.85	1-7
Intra-Team Conflict ²	.73	3.18	1.32	1-7
Intra-Team Competition/Ability ²	.69	4.59	1.10	1-7
Coach Task Climate	.84	4.01	0.58	1-5
Coach Ego Climate	.75	2.45	0.72	1-5
Effort/Improvement ¹	.77	4.12	0.55	1-5
Cooperative Learning ¹	.70	4.02	0.66	1-5
Important Role ¹	.83	3.90	0.78	1-5
Intra-team Rivalry ²	.67	2.69	0.89	1-5
Unequal Recognition ²	.86	2.55	0.89	1-5
Punishment for Mistakes ²	.77	2.20	0.78	1-5
Physical self-worth	.72	2.76	0.53	1-4
Enjoyment	.69	5.66	0.99	1-7
Effort	.72	3.92	0.53	1-5
Trait-anxiety	.76	2.06	0.55	1-4

³ Note: 1 = Facet of a task-involving climate; 2 =Facet of an ego-involving climate; N= 493

1 Table 2

2 Pearson's Correlations Between All Variables

Factor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Peer Task-Involving Climate							
2. Peer Ego-Involving Climate	41**						
3. Coach Task-Involving Climate	.49**	27**					
4. Coach Ego-Involving Climate	20**	.45**	43**				
5. Physical self-worth	.18**	03	.09	01			
6. Enjoyment	.39**	16**	.31**	14**	.13**		
7. Trait-anxiety	03	.15**	06	.21**	23**	13**	
8. Effort	.16**	13**	.19**	12**	.22**	.21**	14**

4 *Note*: ** *p* < .01

3

1 Table 3 (continues on next page)

2 Predicting Physical Self-Worth, Enjoyment, Anxiety and Effort from Coach and Peer Motivational Climates

Step	o Variable	β	R^2	R^2 change	F change	F
	Physical se	lf-worth				
1	Gender	26***	.04	.04	9.75***	9.05***
	Age	.03				
2	Coach Task climate	.04	.05 (.08)	.02 (.00)	3.91* (.29)	6.76*** (10.68***)
	Coach Ego climate	00				
3	Peer Task climate	.20***	.09 (.09)	.03 (.05)	7.65*** (11.43***)	7.23*** (7.23***)
	Peer Ego climate	.01				
	Enjoyme	nt				
1	Gender	13**	.00	.00	0.07	.07
	Age	.05				
2	Coach Task climate	.17**	.10 (.16)	.10 (.02)	26.35*** (6.60***)	13.72*** (22.50***)
	Coach Ego climate	02				
3	Peer Task climate	.32***	.18 (.18)	.08 (.16)	23.33*** (44.52***)	17.65*** (17.65***)
	Peer Ego climate	01				

Anxiety

1	Gender	.21***	.02	.02	3.97*	3.97**
	Age	02				
2	Coach Task climate	.01	.08 (.05)	.07 (.04)	17.67*** (10.98***)	10.96*** (5.99***)
	Coach Ego climate	.24***				
3	Peer Task climate	.01	.09 (.09)	.01 (.03)	1.50 (7.90***)	7.82*** (7.82***)
	Peer Ego climate	.09				
	Effort					
1	Gender	16**	.01	.01	1.75	1.80
	Age	.11*				
2	Coach Task climate	.14*	.06 (.05)	.05 (.02)	11.58*** (5.00*)	6.71*** (5.79***)
	Coach Ego climate	05				
3	Peer Task climate	.08	.07 (.07)	.01 (.04)	3.25* (9.77***)	5.60*** (5.60***)
	Peer Ego climate	08				

Note: * p < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001; Gender: 0 = males, 1 = females; Age: 0 = 12-13,

^{2 1 = 14-17;} Values in brackets show the results of regression analyses in which peer motivational climate was entered in Step 2 and coach

³ motivational climate in Step 3.

Table 4
Gender and Age Differences in Perceptions of Coach and Peer Motivational Climates

Variable	Males		Females			
	(n = 369)		(n = 124)			
	M	SD	M	SD	F	Partial η^2
Peer Task Climate	5.28	0.84	5.62	0.86	9.06**	.02
Peer Ego Climate	3.99	1.03	3.52	0.99	4.50*	.01
Coach Task Climate	3.95	0.59	4.21	0.52	12.88***	.03
Coach Ego Climate	2.56	0.69	2.13	0.69	19.94***	.04
	Younger		Older			
	(n = 211)		(n = 279)			
Peer Task Climate	5.38	0.76	5.35	0.92	1.34	.00
Peer Ego Climate	3.79	0.96	3.93	1.10	0.01	.00
Coach Task Climate	4.05	0.57	3.99	0.60	2.92	.01
Coach Ego Climate	2.50	0.68	2.41	0.75	0.72	.00
Peer Ego Climate-males	3.79	0.94	4.24	1.08		
Peer Ego Climate-females	3.88	1.17	3.47	0.96	7.37**	.02

^{3 4} *Note:* * *p* < .05, *

Note: * *p* < .05, ** *p* < .01, *** *p* < .001