

# Teaching strategy for correcting naive conception in an overhand volleyball pass skill among seventh grade PE student



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## Abstract

In this study, the possibility to change naive conception on a volleyball overhand pass skill and its impact on improving performance were examined. To achieve this aim, a peer teaching model was introduced in the unit. Peer teaching involves students teaching each other based on the class content set by the teacher.

The participants were 43 seventh grade students who took part in a 10-hour PE volleyball unit. Each participant completed the Naive Conception Questionnaire to rate the degree of importance of various movements (DIM) in the overhand pass and to identify technical problems in skill performance (TPI). The questionnaire was administered pre- and post-unit, and the students' own performance was also filmed at those times. Furthermore, the control group for this study was the baseline class (n=38), which included data collected previously. The performance of the students allowed for a comparison of the DIM and TPI between the control group and the intervention class.

The results showed that:

- DIM scores increased significantly in the post-unit with the intervention classes. DIM No.4 [Bringing the ball down to the forehead] scores increased significantly in the post-unit as students were not able to execute this skill prior. TPI scores also increased significantly in the post-unit on the intervention classes. Students' performance increased significantly in the post-unit, but P [Interaction - elbows & knees] and P [Bringing the ball down] yielded no change with a success rate of about 50%.
  - The DIM scores increased in the baseline and intervention classes. Additionally, it was noted that the TPI and performance scores increased significantly with the intervention class when compared with the baseline class.
- These results suggest that peer teaching is an effective strategy for improving both cognition and performance of a volleyball overhand pass skill.

## Introduction

In recent years, attention has been given to students' information processing in physical activity contexts (Lee, 1997; Lee & Solomon, 1992, 2005), and evidence suggests that performance is positively correlated with participants' knowledge (Rink, 2002, 2003; Siedentop & Tannehill, 2000). The factor believed to play a role in students' physical activity performance is *naive conception* (Dodds, Griffin, & Placek, 2001; Griffin et al., 2001). Naive conception refers to the system of knowledge that people possess through previous experience and activities, such as daily walking and running. It is formed prior to learning, and it affects students' information processing abilities (Clement, 1982; Fisher, 1985). Specifically, the relationship between naive conception and performance of an overhand volleyball pass skill was addressed among junior high school students in a PE volleyball unit. The overhand pass is a difficult skill for novices, who typically hit the ball with both hands (Endo & Shinomura, 1994), and the probable reason for this common mistake is the influence of a naive conception of the skill.

## Purpose

In this study, the possibility to change naive conception on a volleyball overhand pass skill and its impact on improving performance were examined. To achieve this aim, a peer teaching model (Meztler, 2000) was introduced in the unit. Peer teaching involves students teaching each other based on the class content set by the teacher.

## Methods

The participants were 43 seventh grade students who took part in a 10-hour PE volleyball unit. Furthermore, the control group for this study was the baseline class (n=38), which included data collected previously.

Table 1 Participants of the each class

Groups	Intervention class	Baseline class
School / grade	Seven grade student K junior high school in Ibaraki Pref. (Japan)	Seven grade student K junior high school in Ibaraki Pref. (Japan)
Time / season	November to December, 2008	January to February, 2007
Participants	male	23
	female	20
	total	43
Number of hours	10 hours	10 hours
teacher	Teacher A He had thought for 10 years in junior high school, and long time cadet, and his major is track and fields.	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	Class greeting, verification that all students are able to participate, explanation of lesson content, warm-up, Overhand pass passing practice drills									
10	Overhand passing game (Use of Overhand pass in attack) (without Intervention : Baseline Class/2007)				Overhand passing game Team Practice and strategy discussion				NCQ administration	
20	Team Building (A peer teaching model : Intervention Class/2008)								Assessment	
30	3 on 3 catch / overhand pass / attack game (League I) *One bounce arrowed		3 on 3 Game (League II) *No bounce arrowed		3 on 3 Game (League III) *No bounce arrowed					
40										
50	Reflection on the lesson, confirmation of date / time of next class.									

Figure 1 Content of the volleyball unit

Each participant completed the Naive Conception Questionnaire (Ogiwara et al., 2008) to rate the degree of importance of various movements (DIM) in the overhand pass and to identify technical problems in skill performance (TPI). The questionnaire was administered pre- and post-unit, and the students' own performance was also filmed at those times. The performance of the students allowed for a comparison of the DIM, TPI between the baseline class and the intervention class.

Data was analyzed through t-test, chi-squared tests and two way ANOVA by SPSS Ver. 11. 0J. statistical analysis. Skill performance was analyzed by having the students carry out an overhand pass drill. Inter observer agreement by two judges was calculated to assure objectivity of the data. Inter observer agreement was 84.1%.

## Procedure of peer teaching model



## Result and Discussion

### 1. result of intervention class

Table 2 Result of DIM evaluation in NCQ at pre-post unit

No.	DIM items	Pre-unit	SD	Post-unit	SD	t
1	Forming the hands like a triangle	4.45	0.80	4.43	0.80	0.14
2	Getting under the ball	4.29	1.00	4.64	0.79	-1.89
3	Contacting the ball at the forehead	4.10	0.98	4.31	0.87	-1.07*
4	Bringing the ball down to the forehead	3.71	1.07	4.52	0.80	-4.08***
5	Cushioning the ball with the wrists	3.86	1.12	4.17	0.88	-1.41*
6	Cushioning the ball with the fingers	3.74	1.04	3.83	1.03	-0.43
7	Extending the fingers	2.88	1.09	2.95	1.31	-0.26
8	Bending the elbows	4.02	0.98	4.36	0.88	-1.69
9	Bending the knees	3.79	1.05	4.48	0.83	-3.35***
10	Interaction - elbows & knees	3.88	1.09	4.43	0.99	-2.27*
11	Position of the feet	3.81	1.02	3.36	0.93	2.02
12	Contacting the ball in front of the body	3.33	1.30	3.33	1.32	0.00
	Mean	3.83	0.55	4.07	0.61	-2.56*

n=43

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001

Table 3 Result of TPI in NCQ at pre-post unit

TPI	Pre-unit	Post-unit	t
mean	4.23	5.84	6.49***

n=43

\*\*\*p<.001

Students has become to recognize the technology of an overhand passing correctly.

- DIM No.4 [Bringing the ball down to the forehead] scores increased significantly in the post-unit as students were not able to execute this skill prior.



Table 4 Result of performance in NCQ at pre-post unit

Performance category	Pre-unit	Post-unit	χ <sup>2</sup>
P [Hands]	61.9%	77.8%	16.40***
P [Ball contact]	54.2%	75.7%	27.68***
P [Elbows]	82.7%	91.5%	9.61***
P [Knees]	49.2%	86.3%	86.39***
P [Interaction elbows & knees]	25.4%	53.2%	43.70***
P [Bringing the ball down]	35.0%	54.2%	20.27***

n=43

\*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001

- TPI scores also increased significantly in the post-unit on the intervention classes.
- Students' performance increased significantly in the post-unit, but P [Interaction - elbows & knees] and P [Bringing the ball down] yielded no change with a success rate of about 50%.

### 2. Comparison between intervention and baseline class

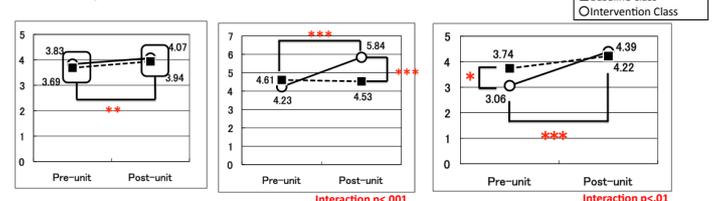


Figure 2 Result of the DIM evaluation

Figure 3 Result of the TPI score

Figure 4 Result of the performance score

- The DIM scores increased in the baseline and intervention classes.
- Additionally, it was noted that the TPI and performance scores increased significantly with the intervention class when compared with the baseline class.

## Conclusion

These results suggest that peer teaching is an effective strategy for improving both cognition and performance of a volleyball overhand pass skill.

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