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Peer Relationships, Social Media Use, and Sport Commitment

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Associations between Sport Friendship Quality Dimensions and Social Media Use

Julia Dawson & Dr. Olufemi A. Oluyedun



Introduction

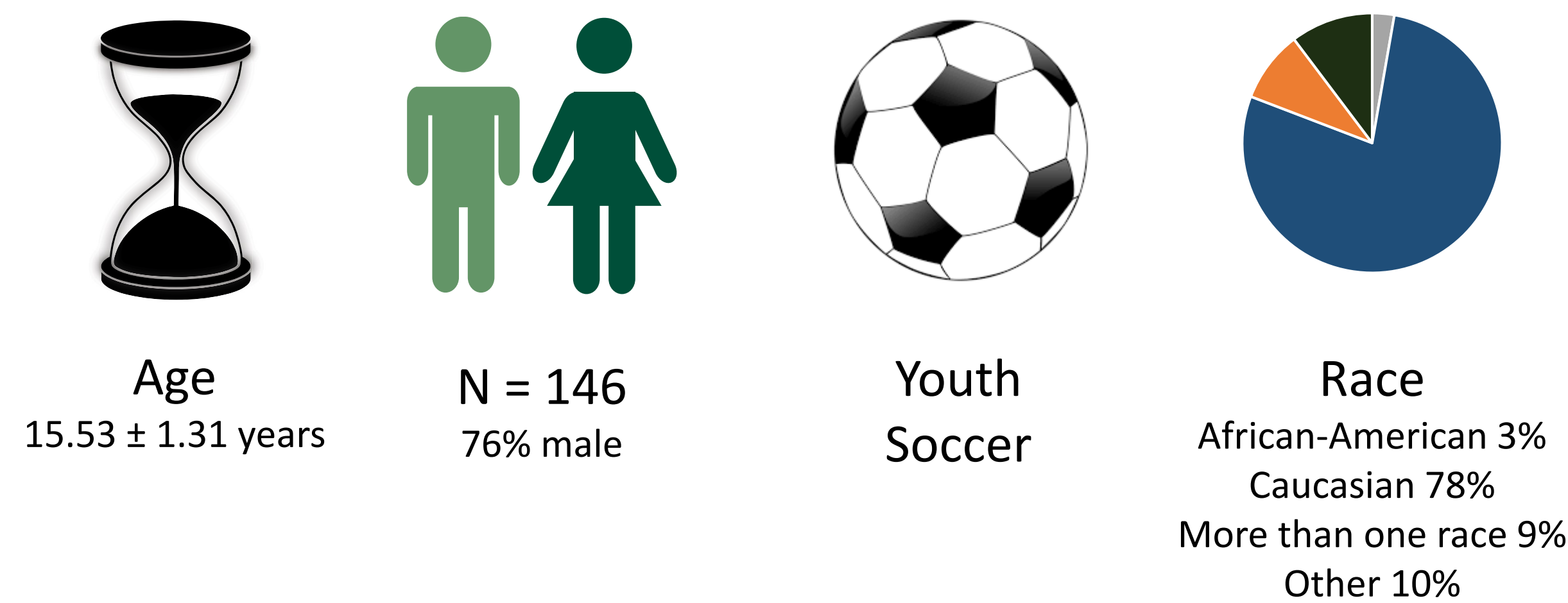
Extant work suggests peers play a vital role in shaping athletes' positive and negative experiences. Recent descriptive work has explored the importance of peers in sport by examining friendship quality and relevant motivation constructs (Weiss & Smith, 2002). Although evidence suggests quality sport friendship can foster sport participation, limited work has examined platforms that provide athletes an opportunity to socially interact outside of practice or competition contexts, such as social media.

PURPOSE

- 1) Provide a descriptive account of social media use (frequency) and satisfaction
- 2) Examine social media use and satisfaction as predictors of sport friendship quality dimensions (positive friendship quality and friendship conflict)

Method

PARTICIPANTS



MEASURES

Sport Friendship Quality Scale

Description: 22-item scale assessing participants' perceptions of positive and negative aspects of their closest teammate relationship.

Positive Friendship: "My friend and I have common interests."

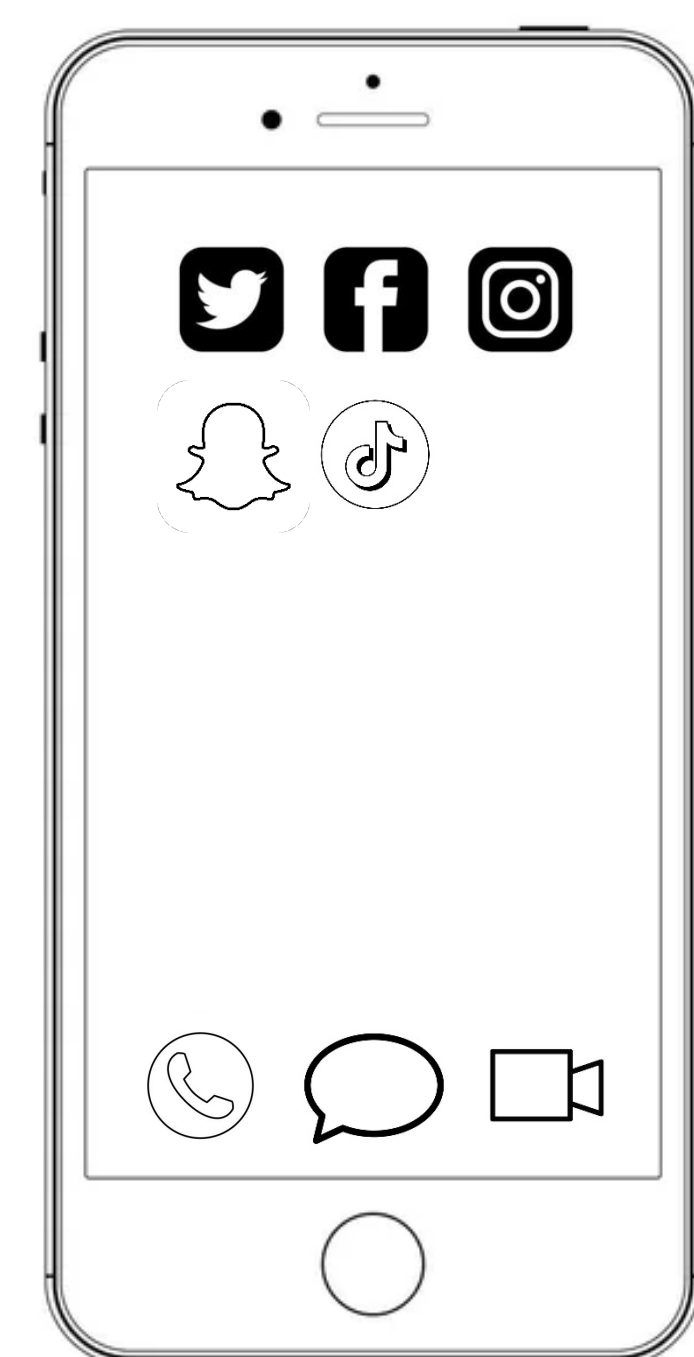
Friendship Conflict: "My friend and I have arguments."

Social Media Scale

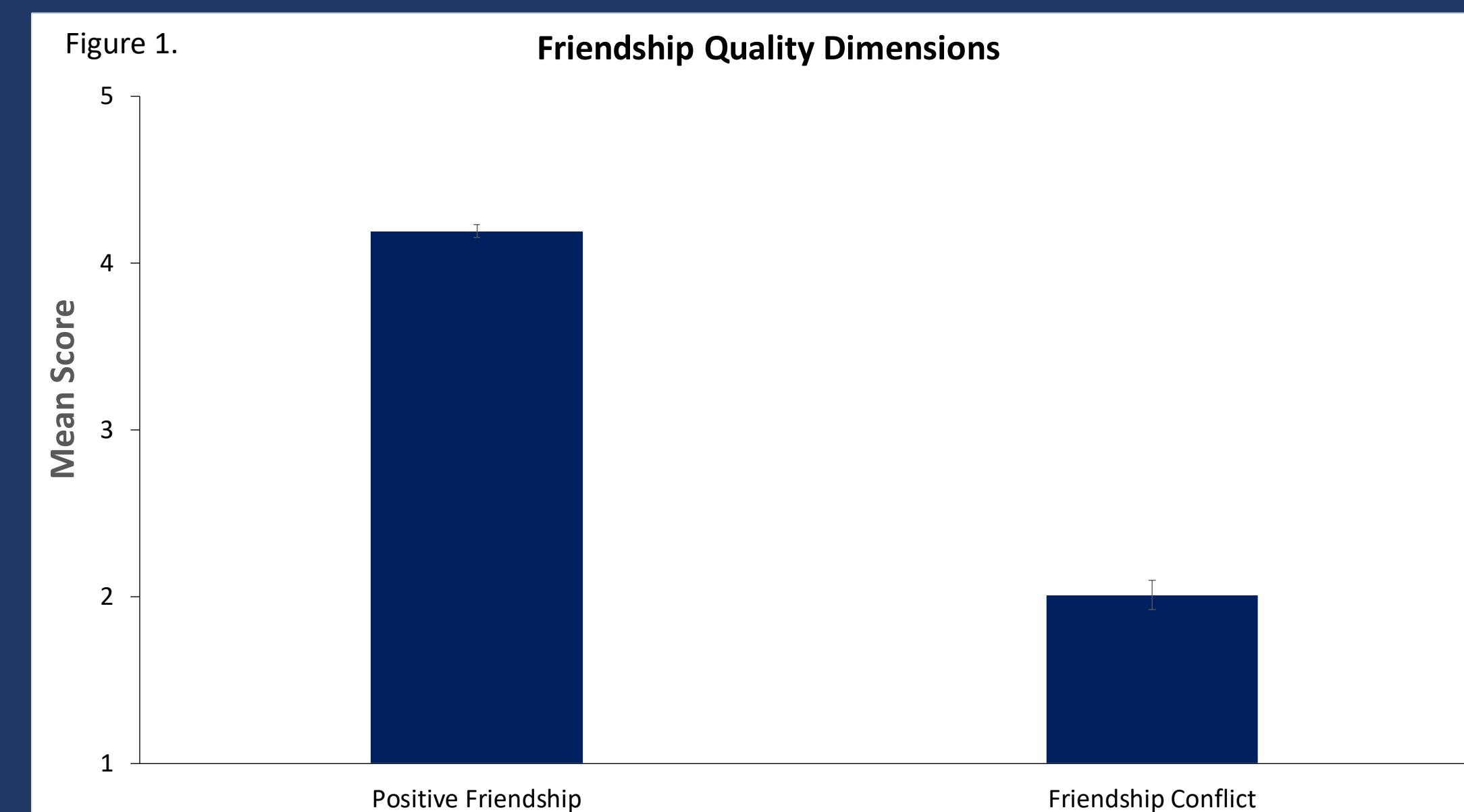
Description: 16-item scale assessing frequency and satisfaction of social media platforms used to communicate with teammates. 8 items for frequency and satisfaction, respectively.

Frequency: "How often do you communicate with your teammates through the following forms of online communication?"

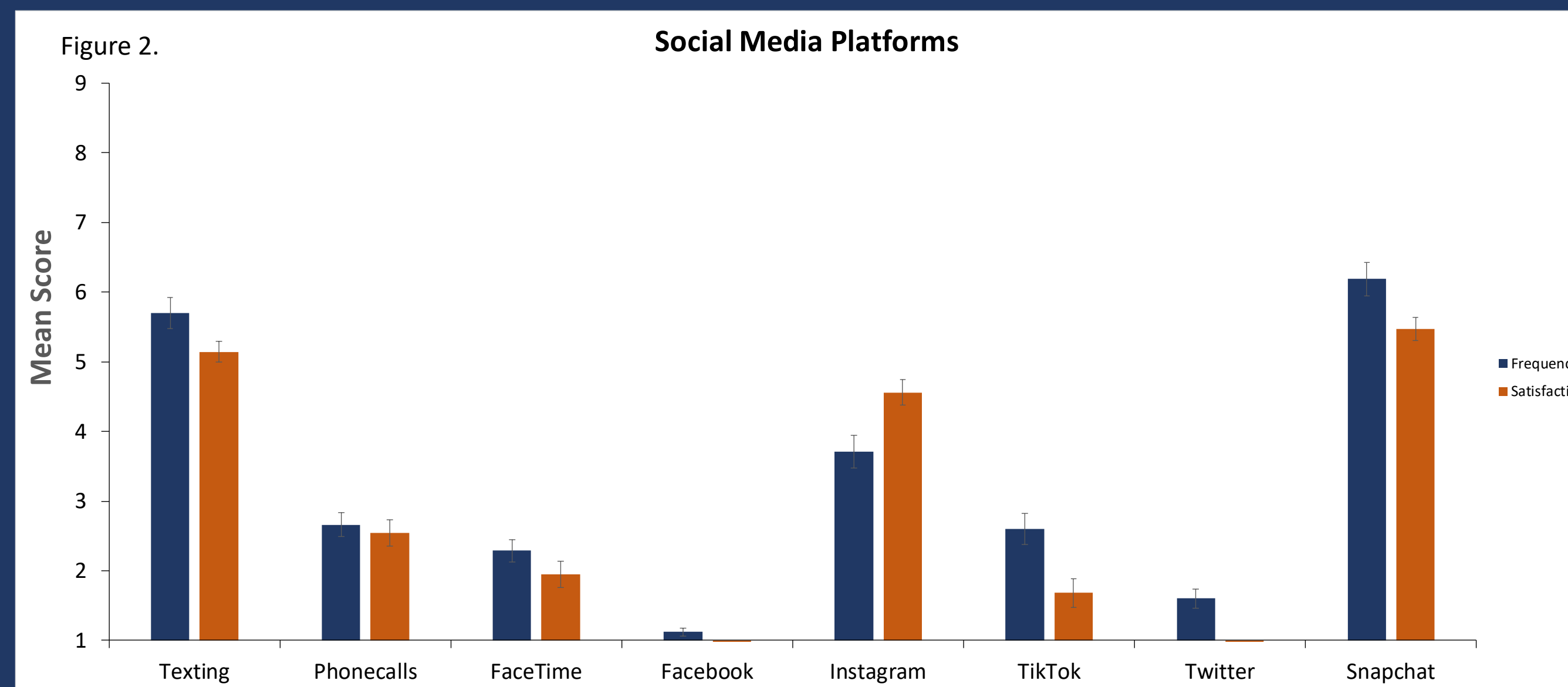
Satisfaction: "How satisfied are you in communicating with your teammates using the following platforms?"



Results



On average, positive friendship was rated higher than friendship conflict. Our findings replicate previous research using the Sport Friendship Quality Scale.



The platforms most frequently used to interact with teammates included Texting, Instagram, and Snapchat. Similarly, satisfaction for the use of Texting, Instagram, and Snapchat with teammates were rated higher compared to the other platforms.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics, Bivariate Correlations, and Reliability Values (N = 146)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Positive Friendship	.89							
2. Conflict	-.09	.88						
3. Texting Frequency	.17*	.08	-					
4. Instagram Frequency	.11	.18*	.29**	-				
5. Snapchat Frequency	.18*	.21*	.35**	.32**	-			
6. Texting Satisfaction	.11	.10	.47**	-.06	.22**	-		
7. Instagram Satisfaction	.04	.13	-.07	.28**	.23**	.27**	-	
8. Snapchat Satisfaction	.07	.09	.20*	.19*	.55**	.46**	.50**	-
Mean	4.19	2.01	5.70	3.71	6.19	5.14	4.56	5.47
Standard Deviation	.52	1.11	2.65	2.70	2.88	1.85	2.22	2.02
Range	1-5	1-5	1-9	1-9	1-9	1-7	1-7	1-7

Notes. *p < .05; **p < .01. Reliability values are presented along the main diagonal.

Multivariate Analyses

Table 2. Canonical Correlation (N = 146)

Variables	Loadings
Predictor set	
Texting Frequency	.627
Texting Satisfaction	.311
Instagram Frequency	.382
Instagram Satisfaction	.157
Snapchat Frequency	.869
Snapchat Satisfaction	.201
Criterion set	
Positive Friendship	.694
Friendship Conflict	.676

Note: An absolute value of .30 was used as the criterion value (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2013)

Discussion

FRIENDSHIP AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- A significant multivariate relationship emerged that indicated a moderate association ($R_c = .34$) between the two sets of variables.
- Findings suggest that higher Texting frequency, Texting satisfaction, Instagram frequency, and Snapchat frequency predict higher positive friendship and friendship conflict. Both positive friendship and friendship conflict contributed significantly to the multivariate relationship.

LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- The social media scale used in this study was adapted from communication literature (Hampton, et al., 2018); emphasis on frequency and satisfaction.
- Future work may benefit from measures that capture the nature of interactions between athletes via social media platforms.
- A broader group of peer relationship variables may provide a more nuanced perspective of how social media plays a role in youths sporting experiences.

Acknowledgements



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