****Stage 2 Research Project****

****Can netball be a SACE Research Project?****

**Okay Samantha, tell me about your ideas for a Research Project.**

**Well as you know, I love my netball, been playin’ for the Mannum Roos now for 6 or 7 years. I love Goal Attack but sometimes have to play shooter.**

**Okay sounds good, but what do you reckon you’re going to focus on?**

**Well I thought I’d start by just explaining there’s seven people on a team, where all the positions are, and where they’re allowed to go on a court, and explain some of the rules like stepping and those sorts of things and then I thought I’d just, you know, have some shots of me.**

**Okay, woah, woah, ease up turbo! We’ve got a problem. That’s not a Research Project.**

**Well, why not?**

**You said you’d been playing for six or seven years…**

**Yeah?**

**So how long have you known that there’s seven players on a court and where the goal shooter’s allowed to go?**

**Oh Duh! Since I started playing.**

**Yes, but that’s the problem, you’re just doing a project on stuff you already know. You’re not actually doing any research. You’re not doing any new learning, developing any new skills.**

**But you said we could choose anything we wanted.**

**Yeah, not exactly…**

**Yes you did!**

**No, I didn’t.**

**Yes you did!**

**No I didn’t.**

**Did!**

**Didn’t.**

**Did!**

**Didn’t.**

**Silly old fart!**

**Hey, who are you calling old?**

**Okay, then what did you say?**

**Well I said that you could research anything that you want.**

**So, can I do netball or not?**

**Yes you can, but not the way you’re describing it.**

**Now I’m really confused.**

**Okay, let me give you an example. I’ve noticed that lots of netballers seem to get serious knee injuries and earlier you mentioned that stepping rule. Do you think that because netballers have to stop so suddenly that could be one of the reasons for the serious knee injuries?**

**I guess so?**

**Ah-ha, so now we’ve got a Research Project. Do you think netballers get more knee injuries than people in other sports?**

**I don’t know.**

**Do you know what they actually do when they reconstruct a knee and why does it take 12 months to come back from knee surgery?**

**Ah!.. Nuh.**

**Are there some teams that have less knee injuries than others? If there are, is there something they do differently? Longer warm up? Different stretches? Different shoes?**

**Okay, now you’re freaking me out.**

**Let’s say that you did find that there’s double the number of knee injuries, say in netball to other sports. Maybe, I don’t know, 60% of them were due to players having to stop so quickly because of the stepping rule. Maybe you found that there are three of the National League netball teams that have had no knee injuries for the last two years and that all three of them do this one special warm up technique. Maybe you could present your findings to Netball Australia and ask them to change their stepping rule to make it safer for players.**

**Okay.**

**Maybe you could video the stretching technique that these teams with less knee injuries seem to be using and post it on YouTube so anyone can access it.**

**And that’s a Research Project?**

**Sure is!**

**So I can do netball?**

**Yes, you can.**

**Just not a project on what I already know.**

**That’s it!**

**Okay, now I’m set, what about Jill and Karen? They want to do netball too. Can we all work together?**

**You can all do netball but each one of you needs to focus on a different aspect. You can’t all just do the same thing. So yes you can help each other too, but again you need to be able to show the bits that you’ve done, the bits that you’ve learnt. Not just a group effort.**

**Okay. So what could Jill and Karen do?**

**Doesn’t Jill play for Mypo?**

**Yeah and that really sucks ‘cos they win just about every age group, every year.**

**Okay, so maybe she can find some characteristics that make her club really successful. Then she might want to have a look at other successful clubs and see if they’ve got the same characteristics and then look at the clubs that aren’t so successful. Maybe they could write a manual for clubs that aren’t successful on how to become more successful.**

**Karen, isn’t she the one that loves netball but absolutely detests football?**

**Yeah!**

**Okay, maybe she could compare the two, looking at maybe, I don’t know, media coverage. How much media coverage does netball get? TV, newspapers, radio compared to football and is that fair? I know netball has been on the TV lately on One HD I reckon it is. Where they’ve been showing a lot of the National League games. How is it rating? Be worth finding that out. Be worth contacting the editors of all of these different sports programs and finding out what their policy is around showing female sport.**

**Yeah, I reckon she’d enjoy that although just imagine how painful she’s going to be if she’s got research data to back up her arguments. Thanks Mr. Hicks, you’re the best.**

**Yeah, I think so too.**