Sponsorship in Beach Volleyball: effects of event quality, spectator satisfaction and brand experience on brand equity

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine the effects of event quality, spectator satisfaction and experience on brand equity of the sponsor in a sport event. In order to carry out this study, 352 spectators that attended the Banco do Brasil (Bank of Brazil) Circuit of Beach Volleyball answered a closed questionnaire. For data analysis, it is used the structural equation modeling. The results indicated that the quality of the event generates satisfaction, which confirms increases the brand equity of the event sponsor. In addition, the spectators' experience with the sponsoring brand also confirms the positive impact on brand equity. The quality of the event, the satisfaction of the spectators with the event and their sponsor's brand experience are elements that, if well managed and explored, contribute positively to sponsors' brand equity. These strategies should be aimed both by sports managers, as a way to attract and retain sponsors, and by sponsors' brand managers, as a way to get return on investment. For this purpose, the sport managers and sponsors should undertake a planning together to offer a high-quality event enabling an environment that provides spectators' satisfaction and a positive experience with the sponsor brand. In theoretical terms, this research brought greater knowledge about the return of investments made by companies on sport sponsorship, and, the use of statistical methods in this study can be replicated, adjusted or even enhanced in future researches that investigate the theme sport events and their sponsors.

KEYWORDS: Sport Event; Sponsorship; Experience; Quality; Brand Equity.

Introduction

Interaction between sport and sponsoring companies is considered a traditional and relevant theme in sport management and marketing area^{1,2}. Among the different purposes of sport sponsorship, it is possible to highlight: recognition, recall and the brand equity on the sponsoring companies³⁻⁶.

There are in the literature, evidence on of several advantages and benefits that a company enjoys when sponsoring sport activities and their events, such as image transfer from the sponsored object to the sponsor^{7,8}, recommendation and promotion from people of the sponsor⁹, purchase intent of the sponsor's products or services^{10,11}, increase of positive attitude about the sponsoring companies¹⁰, improvement of Brand Equity^{12–14},

among others. However, there is a shortage of studies that investigate the experience that spectators of a sponsored sport events have with the brand of the sponsor.

Focusing on sport events, sport managers face the challenge of attracting and retaining sponsors, who are looking for a return on their investments. One of the ways to meet the needs and persuasion of companies interested in sport event can be the interaction of the spectator with the sponsoring brands, more specifically in the experiences that happen during the sporting event^{7–10}.

The interest in investigating the interaction and consequences of experiences that occur among spectators, sport events / organizations and sponsoring companies has been gaining increasing prominence over time¹⁰. In the other hand, the topic of experience in the context of consumer behaviour has been investigated since the 1980s. Holbrook and Hirschman¹¹ were pioneers in recognizing the importance of experience in the relation of consumption, focusing their studies on the hedonic, symbolic and aesthetic aspects, besides addressing the experience of consumption as a phenomenon directly related to fantasies, feelings and diversions. Since then, many other definitions of experience had succeeded in many studies that proposing its measurement in the most diverse contexts20, including the experience provided by a sporting events^{15–18}.

In the last 15 years, Brazil has become an interesting case for researches and studies related to sport events, experience and their sponsorships¹². Several international mega-events were held in the country, such as Pan American Games in 2007, 2014 FIFA World Cup and Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Numerous companies, including public ones, began to sponsor national sporting events^{13,14}. In addition, the mega-events held in the country increased the Brazilian fans expectation on the quality of local and national sporting events. The desire of the spectator is no longer just watching sport performance, but also have the experience of a good entertainment event with quality, as typically offered in major sporting events of global scope^{15,16}.

In this context, the aim of this article is to analyze if sporting event quality, spectator satisfaction, experience influence the brand equity of the sponsor of a sporting event. Considering the importance of the volleyball and beach volleyball in the Brazilian context, this study investigates the 2016 Banco do Brasil Beach Volleyball Circuit. It is expected that the event quality associated to a positive event experience and a spectator satisfaction influences sponsor's brand equity. If such relationships are confirmed, the opposite may also be true. A low-quality event can affect negatively the spectator's satisfactions and their brand experience, contributing negatively to sponsor's brand equity.

Literature review

Sporting event quality and spectator satisfaction

One aspect that can be considered a "legacy" of the international mega-events held in Brazil was

the possibility of part of the Brazilian population to experiment sport events with more quality, close to international standards. Some authors indicate that there are three main aspects that determine the quality of a sporting event: (a) the central product is everything that is related to the performance of the athletes and matches, (b) the peripheral elements, such as the condition of the physical structure of the event (comfort, accessibility, signaling) and interaction with athletes and other spectators are essential, and (c) good experience in the interaction with the event staffs^{7-8,10,16-17}. Among the three aspects, the second and the third should be the targets of constant improvement by the event sport managers, whatever the level of the event. The first aspect, performance of the athletes and level of the matches, cannot be controlled by the managers due their unpredictability in the sport context⁷.

On the other hand, globalization influences the perception of the spectators around the world about the quality of sport events. Global events, that offer entertainment allied to quality matches, outbalance the competition and the local preference^{18,19}. Thus, Brazilian spectator has new expectations about the satisfaction on sporting events, either by the influence of the mega-events held in the country or by the impact of globalization that exist in our society.

The dimension of satisfaction can be understood as a confirmation of the expectations combined with other aspects perceived during the event²⁰. Satisfaction is the response to the sport spectacle and to the services provided during the event, which suggests high influence of event quality on the level of satisfaction²¹.

Studies show that the satisfaction in sporting events generates some consequences on spectator behavior²². In marketing researches, there are evidence that a satisfied customer causes positively influences in the brand equity of some brand involved with the event^{23,24}. In this context, this article also aims to verify the hypothesis that the brand equity of the main sponsor of one event is influenced by the event quality and the spectator satisfaction, considering the hypothesis that satisfaction as consequence of the event quality.

Experience

The beginning of the experience concept was in the mid of 1980s, when researchers dedicated to understand the importance of consumer experience related to fantasy, feelings and fun^{11,25}. Consequently, came to the focus the concept of brand experience. The "brand" experience can be understood as the result of

experiences that connects the consumer to the brand through stimuli that counteract the traditional forms of marketing promotion^{26,27}. Several studies showed the positive relationship between brand experience and brand equity as a possible return for sponsorships^{4,28-31}.

Five dimensions have been proposed by SCHMITT^{26,34} for experience: (1) Sensorial, relate to the five senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell); (2) Affective, related to the feelings of the consumers and how they are emotionally involved with a given object; (3) Intellectual, related to the challenges, problems solutions or creativity offer by some experience; (4) Behavioral, related to the body and lifestyle; and finally (5) Relational, related to the sense of belonging to a social context. Brakus et al.27 empirically tested the dimensions proposed by SCHMITT³⁴ through a scale designed to measure consumer's brand opinion based on their experiences. Although other authors have also created a scale for experience^{4,32-34}, the measure proposed by Brakus et al. 27 is the most popular in studies about "brand" experience.

In order to provide good experiences to spectators during sporting events, sport managers should carefully look after at some strategies such as building comfortable and assessable facilities, training frontline employees and entertaining the spectators^{4,2831}. As a consequence, a good experience may attract sponsors due to the possibility to associate the spectator satisfaction to their brand. Moreover, sports promote the connection between the sponsor and consumer through emotional experiences that are rarely achieved by conventional promotional actions⁷⁻¹⁰. In fact, the sport context is an opportunity for sponsor to explore the five "brand" experience dimensions and to increase their brand equity. In this way, other hypothesis of this

study is that brand experience influences the brand equity of the sponsoring company of the sport event. And, do quality event and satisfaction influence the brand experience?

Brand Equity as a return of sport sponsorship

Brand equity can be defined as the effect of the brand on the mind, ideas and decisions of the consumers³⁵. The brand equity can be promoted by two processes: (1) the conscience and image, measured by the intensity of the brand memory (recall); and (2) recognition of the brand, measured by the consumer perceptions of the brand image³⁵. When the consciousness and recognition of information are not directly related to consumption, brand image can be confused with a secondary activity, such as the sponsor in sport events. The intensity of this relationship depends on the synergy between sponsor and event sponsored^{36,37}.

Sport has become an important context for brand equity strategy³⁸. The inherent positive characteristics of the sport, such as the entertainment and the athletes performance, promote the connection between the spectator and the sponsor, provoking a possible loyalty or a good perception on the sponsoring brand³⁹⁻⁴¹. Brazilian volleyball and beach volleyball competitions are good examples of sporting events that may improve brand equity. They are internationally recognized by the participation of elite athletes and by promoting high-level matches. These characteristics have made the competitions successful case of sport sponsorship in the past 20 years. The Banco do Brasil, a mixed-economy society, has sponsored volleyball and beach volleyball teams and championships in Brazil since 1991^{14,42}.

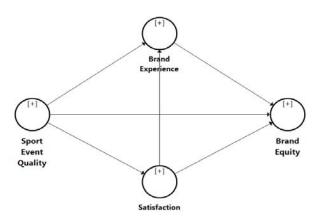
Methods

Experimental design

A structured questionnaire was used to interview spectators who attended to the 2016 Banco do Brasil Beach Volleyball Circuit (Fortaleza/Brazil). The circuit has only one main sponsor, the Banco do Brasil. Banco do Brasil (English: Bank of Brazil) is the largest bank by assets in Brazil and all of Latin America; was founded in 1808 and is the oldest active bank in Brazil⁵¹. The bank began investing in sports marketing (sponsorship) after a Research International survey

in 1989, that showed the bank's customer base ranged in age from 50 to 65 years. The sport was the easiest way out to reach the young. Banco do Brasil has had a long-running association with the Brazilianl volleyball (indoor and beach volleyball national teams)⁵². As already mentioned, the questions and hypotheses measured was the relation with sporting event quality, spectator satisfaction, experience with the brand / event and Banco do Brasil's brand equity. The proposed connections among these variables are represented in the model shown in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 1 - Relations among sport event quality, spectator satisfaction, brand equity and brand experience proposed in the research model.



Instruments

To measure Sport Event Quality, part of the scale of Yoshida and James¹⁰ was used. This choice was based on the elements inherent to the sport approached by the instrument, such as performance of the players and physical and social environment of the competition. The authors propose a model based on 7 dimensions: game atmosphere; crowd experience; opponent characteristics, player performance; frontline employees; facility access; and seat space.

To measure Satisfaction, MADRIGAL⁴³ scale was used. The choice of this scale was due to the fact that it is frequently used by other studies that aim to analyze satisfaction in the sport. This scale is composed of 3 variables.

(Brand) Experience was measured by the scale of Brakus et al.²⁷ adapted by Nysveen et al.⁴⁴. As mentioned in the literature review, the scale of Brakus et al.²⁷ had been used by several studies and is composed of 12 variables which were tested and validated.

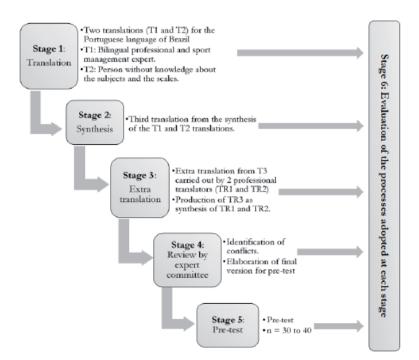
For Brand Equity measurement, part of the scale from Yoo and Donthu⁴⁵ was adopted. The authors proposed a scale composed by 4 variables, which has

been used in other studies involving sport^{31,46-49}.

Originally, all scales are from English language, and the Satisfaction and Brand Equity scales already have the validated version in Portuguese and Brazilian culture by Fagundes⁵⁹ and Vargas Neto and Luce⁶⁰, respectively. With respect to the other scales, it was necessary to translate them into the Portuguese language and adapt them to the Brazilian culture⁶¹. In this way, the procedures suggested by Beaton et al.⁶¹ which consist of 6 stages described below and summarized in FIGURE 2.

From the judges' evaluation for semantic, idiomatic, cultural and conceptual equivalence as part of Stage 4, the suggestions and comments received was evaluated by the authors and a first version of the scales in Portuguese. This first version was conducted with undergraduate students of Physical Education, with the objective of performing the evaluation of the writing and understanding of each items of the questionnaire (also called face validation – Stage 5: Pre-test). Small adaptations were made and the final version (with all dimensions and variables) are presented in APPENDIX A (the Portuguese version).

FIGURE 2 - Graphical Representation of the stages in the scale's adaptation.



Adapted from: Beaton et al 61

However, the final questionnaire contained 51 variables, presented as statements to be classified on a scale of 5-point Likert. In the Sport Event Quality¹⁰, the dimension "opponent characteristics" was not included in the final questionnaire given the participation of only Brazilian teams in the championship. Some variables of the dimension "game atmosphere" related to the permanent stadium architecture were also excluded due to the itinerant structure of the arena. TABLE 1 shows the summary of the dimensions, scales and number of variables used.

Data Analysis

The procedure of Structural Equation Modeling, based on variance (VB-SEM), was chosen for data analysis. All the statistical analyses were performed in the SmartPLS software, version 3.2.4. The VB-SEM is a technique widely used in applied social sciences, mainly because it allows the measurement of latent variables and relationships established between them^{50,51}. Through VB-SEM, it is possible to examine how the patterns of relations predicted in theory can be confirmed by empirical data⁵². VB-SEM also maximizes the explained variance of

the proposed models by estimating partial least squares adjustments^{53,54}. The use of VB-SEM analysis technique is indicated when: a) sample present no normal distribution, b) small sample, c) presence of models in development^{51,53}.

In a VB-SEM, first the correlations between dimensions and their variables are calculated, so that correlations between the scales are then made54. After checking the coefficients of correlation and the significance of the results, as part of the model evaluation, the explained variance was analyzed through the coefficient of determination (R²)⁵⁵. There is no exact rule of acceptance of the R² value, so its interpretation can be made in order to verify whether the accuracy of the model is strong, medium or weak⁵⁵.

In VB-SEM technique, the arrows define the causal relationships between the components of a model. The component to which the arrow is pointing is a consequence of the one where the arrow originates⁵⁵. The relationship between the scales can be reflexive or formative. In this study, it is assumed that the model is reflexive since the model presents a consequence chaining⁵⁶. The distinction between a reflexive and formative model is important, because it defines how data should be analyzed. Reflective models should be evaluated with respect to their reliability and validity⁵⁵.

Cronbach's Alpha and Composed Reliability are used to measure the internal consistency. The acceptable limits for both indices are between 0.70 and 0.9555. Convergent validity through external load values, where the minimum acceptable index is 0.70855, and Average Variance Extracted (AVE) (greater than 0.50) are used to measure the validity. The discriminant validity through the Fornell-Larcker index was also used. It is a more conservative measure which consists of checking whether the square root of the AVE of a scale is greater than the correlation with another scale⁵⁵.

Participants and Procedures

Based on the proposed instruments and the data type, it was possible to define the sample size necessary for the viability of this research. There is still no consensus in the literature about the rules to be followed for setting the minimum sample size to the feasibility of a VB-SEM^{51,55}. In this study, we choose to use the software G * Power 3.1 version, as indicated by HAIR et al.⁵¹. The required parameters for input on software were the "Power of the Test" (Power = $1-\beta_{error}$ prob. II) and the "Effect Size" (f²), whose recommended values are 0.15 and 0.80, respectively⁵⁵. The sample

size is calculated based on the dependent variable that is related to the greatest number of independent variables⁵⁴. In the proposed model, each dependent variable is related to only one independent variable. The minimum sample size for this study was 55.

Due to the small sample size estimated, we decided to collect as much data as possible, totaling 352 participants. These spectators attended the matches held during the 2016 Banco do Brasil Beach Volleyball Circuit, in the city of Fortaleza (Brazil). The participants were 181 (52%) were males and 167 (48%) females, and 125 (39%) were between 18 and 24 years old, 73 (23%) between 25 and 29, 45 (14%) between 30 and 34, 53 (17%) between 35 and 44, 17 (5%) between 45 and 54 years and finally, 8 (2%) between 55 and 64 years old.

Spectators were approached, randomly, during the intervals of the matches. A team of researchers (who were previously trained on the purpose of the research, how to respond and how to apply the questionnaire) informed the purpose of the study and those who agreed answered the questionnaire. To thank and encourage the participation in the study, we raffled a shirt of the volleyball national team for all the participants and gave them coconut water during the matches.

Results

Structural Equation Modeling

In order to determine whether the correlation coefficient is significant it was used bootstrapping technic with $p<0.05^{54}$. The only relation that is not significant is between Satisfaction and Experience once p-value is greater than 0.05 and Test t is lower than 1.96. The reasons are discussed in next section. Results are shown in TABLE 2.

In order to analyze the proportion of the variance in the Experience that is predictable from the model, it was calculated that the coefficient of determination (R^2) which is 0.46. That means that 46.4% Brand Equity's variance can be explained by Sport Event Quality associated to mediation function of Satisfaction and Experience.

All the results and coefficients obtained from analysis are synthetized in FIGURE 2.

Internal Consistence

TABLE 3 shows Cronbach's Alpha and Composed

Reliability as internal consistence measures. All the measures are between the acceptable limits (≥0.70 and ≤0.95) and demonstrate that the scales are appropriated to measure what they are proposed to. With these numbers, no dimension or item was excluded from the model.

Validity

APPENDIX B shows Convergent Validity. As the minimum acceptable limit is 0.70851, the variable Game Atmosphere 5 (GA5) is the only variable under it (0.6815). However, there is no difference in the Game Atmosphere validity when GA5 is excluded from the model (convergent validity changed from 0.8912 to 0.8868). As a consequence, GA5 is kept in the model. AVE index was also used to demonstrate convergent validity. The values should be over 0.5 as a way to guarantee the constructs explain more than 50% of their indicators variance. Results are shown in TABLE 4.

TABLE 1 - Dimension and scales used in the questionnaire.

Scale	Dimension	Autor	Item Quantity
	Frontline employees		
	Facility access		
Sport Event Quality	Seat space	Yoshida and James ¹⁰	29
oport Zvent Quanty	Player Performance	100maa ama jameo	
	Crowd Experience		
	Game atmosphere		
Satisfaction			3
	Sensory		
	Affective	Brakus et al. ²⁷	12
"Brand" Experience	Intellectual	Diakus et ai.	12
	Behavioral		
	Relational	Nysveen et al.44	3
Overall Brand Equity		Yoo and Donthu ⁴⁵	4
	Total		51

TABLE 2 - Relation between the variables brand experience, brand equity, sport event quality and satisfaction.

Relation	Coefficient	Error (σ)	Test t ($ Coef.* \sigma $)	p-value
Experience → Overall Brand Equity	0.5484	0.0543	10.1055	0.0000
Sport Event Quality \rightarrow Overall Brand Equity	0.1135	0.0565	2.0086	0.0447
Sport Event Quality \rightarrow Experience	0.3994	0.0690	5.7871	0.0000
Sport Event Quality \rightarrow Satisfaction	0.6576	0.0447	14.7079	0.0000
Satisfaction → Overall Brand Equity	0.1328	0.0599	2.2159	0.0268
Satisfaction → Experience	0.1106	0.0625	1.7697	0.0769

*Significant in green and not significant in red.

 $FIGURE\ 2\ - Relation\ between\ the\ variables\ brand\ experience,\ brand\ equity,\ sport\ event\ quality\ and\ satisfaction.$

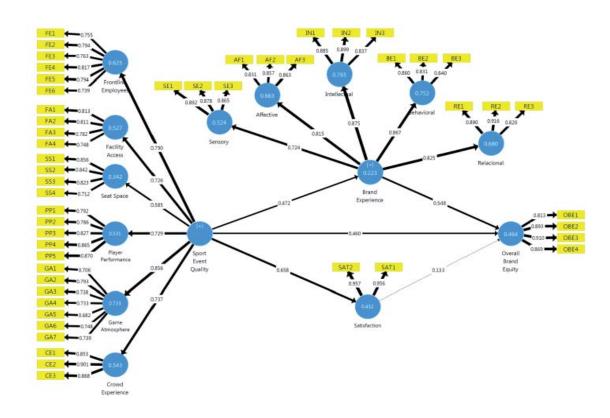


TABLE $\,3$ - Internal consistence of the dimensions of the questionnaires.

Dimensions	Cronbach's Alpha	Composed Reliability	Number of itens
Sport Event Quality	0.9340	0.9403	2nd order construct
Frontline Employees	0.8689	0.9016	6
Facility Access	0.7980	0.8684	4
Seat Space	0.8238	0.8837	4
Player Performance	0.8857	0.9164	5
Game Atmosphere	0.8574	0.8912	7
Crowd Experience	0.8458	0.9068	3
Satisfaction	0.9079	0.9560	2
"Brand" Experience	0.9283	0.9377	2nd order construct
Sensory	0.8523	0.9103	3
Affective	0.8086	0.8866	3
Intellectual	0.8452	0.9064	3
Behavioral	0.7989	0.8813	3
Relational	0.8485	0.9081	3
Overall Brand Equity	0.8943	0.9268	4

TABLE 4 - Average variance extracted (AVE) for each dimension.

Dimensions	AVE
Game Atmosphere	0.5398
Overall Brand Equity	0.7603
Intellectual	0.7636
Behavioral	0.7123
Seat Comfort	0.6562
Player Performance	0.6872
Affective	0.7228
"Brand" Experience	0.6766
Frontline Employee	0.6046
Sport Event Quality	0.5501
Relational	0.7675
Satisfaction	0.9157
Sensory	0.7718
Facility Access	0.6228
Crowd Experience	0.7644

For Discriminant Validity it was used Fornell-Larcker criteria which is based on how much a construct is unique and represents phenomenal that no other construct explains and it is calculated by the AVE root square compared to the correlation between the construct and the others⁵⁵. APPENDIX C shows the results.

Discussion

The results of this study confirm that the quality of a sporting event influences the brand equity of the sponsoring brand. This result corroborates previous findings that sponsoring companies should pay attention to the process of structuring and planning events even if they are local or national levels. To maximize the return on investments, it should be considered the elements related to the quality of the event. The great attractiveness of a sport competition is the uncertainty of the match outcome. However, this aspect is not capable of planning and control. In this way, sport events managers should focus on other quality elements (peripheral and interaction with event employees).

Peripheral elements can and should be planned and managed in order to increase the quality of the event, especially to be offer an entertainment experience to the spectator. The concept of entertainment relates to cultural, sporting activities, recreation, leisure and sport spectacles that provide fun and exciting experiences, creating pleasant sensations and perceptions in the public⁵⁷.

As shown in FIGURE 2, one of the aspects that presented the greatest influence on the quality of the event was the game atmosphere (R²=0.733). This dimension is related to elements that make a friendly and engaging environment. To increase the game atmosphere, it is important to promote the spectator participation and crowd integration to the event. Sport managers and sponsors should plan strategies where the sport event provides reactions from the spectators, such as shouts of encouragement, applause and sighs to make the audience part of the show.

The exposure of a brand in a quality event and the possibility of enhancing its brand equity are some benefits that managers of sport events can present and argue to attract sponsors. However, it is important to highlight that quality can be achieved only when responsibilities are shared between the sport event organization and the sponsor company. This symbiotic relationship can promote satisfaction and a good experience with the sponsoring brand in the spectator.

From these factors, it is intuitive to think that, once excellence in quality has been achieved, the positive impact on brand equity will be achieved. However, sponsor managers should consider other factors in the formation of the brand value. In the proposed model the event satisfaction and "brand" experience are also related to the brand equity. From the results, it is possible to confirm that quality is related to the spectator satisfaction. Since satisfaction can be understood as the confirmation of expectations 20, it can be considered that a satisfied spectator tends to evaluate more positively the sponsor's brand.

The degree of complexity of the proposed model increases when considering, besides quality and satisfaction, spectator's experience with the sponsor's brand during the event. As explored in literature review, the "brand" experience can be understood as any point of contact between the brand and the target audience. Taking the 2016 Banco do Brasil Beach Volleyball Circuit as an example, the first contact with the sponsor ant the spectators can occur even before the beginning of the sport event. The local population of the host city (Fortaleza) was invited by the sponsor to attend the event through billboards, postings on social networks, calls on local radio and television stations. In this way, the interaction between the spectators and the brand is not restricted only to the day of the event.

Pre-event interaction also becomes important in the process of creating expectations. If the expectations are not met, the spectator satisfaction with the event can be compromised. Thus, it is essential to maintain coherence between what is promised and what is delivery as an experience.

Specifically on the experience, it should be highlighted the sensations provoked by the brand, such as visual and other sensory senses²⁷. In the event analyzed, the colors of the arena reflected the Banco do Brasil brand (main sponsor), as well as the brand logo was exposure in several elements of event (balls, shirt of the players and referees, nets, etc). The animation was done with mascots and DJ, as well as the distribution of gifts to the spectators (t-shirts, visors and sound accessories). By wearing t-shirts and other accessories with the color and

logos of the sponsor, the spectator has the feeling of belonging to the event and consequently the "team" of the sponsor company.

The "brand" experience coefficient (0.548) showed the highest value of brand equity. Corroborating the findings of other authors each point of contact between the sponsor and the spectator serves as a subsidy for the formation of a good spectator experience, and consequently for a greater brand equity of the main sponsor of the event. In addition, sponsor brands should plan strategies and actions for each one of the dimensions of the brand experience during the event, ensuring that they are positive experiences.

It is important to mention that the brand equity and brand experience scale were elaborated to regular organizations (not sports events or sports organizations). But, after the results, it can be concluded that both scaling could be well used in a sport event (in this case a beach volleyball event) and consequently in other studies. Also, it is essential to consider that, in the analyzed object of this study, the sponsoring brand is an important Brazilian bank. In this way, the spectators contact with the sponsoring brand during the games was probably not the first of their lives, which suggests that the value attributed to the brand is probably the result of all the experiences that they have lived previously. In this way, the understanding of the brand equity is multifactorial, but the sponsor in a sport event can contribute to the formation of a positive evaluation of the sport sponsorship companies. Similarly, such investment can be a strategy for the change of the brand equity of companies that have a negative perception by the consumers.

On the other hand, it was not possible to affirm that there is relationship between satisfaction and experience (coefficient of 0.1106, p-value of 0.0769). The justification of this finding may cause some misunderstanding in the fact that satisfaction and experience act on different objects, in the event and in the sponsor brand, respectively. This result, in fact, is a good indicator to attract sponsors, because it shows that the satisfaction of the spectator is not essential for a good experience with the brand. Even if the team or athlete loses the match, it does not change the experience that the spectator has with the sponsor's brand.

In conclusion, on the practical terms, the results of this study show the needs of sport event managers and sponsoring companies acting together. They should focus on the planning and implementation of aspects related to the quality of the event, satisfaction

and good experiences for the spectators. The benefits are mutual, for the sport event managers, the agreements with the sponsors can be longer-lasting. For the sponsoring companies, good brand equity can be achieved.

In theoretical terms, this research brought greater knowledge about the return of investments made by companies on sport sponsorship. The good relationships among brand equity and sport event are the resulting from the good spectator satisfaction and experiences form the sponsorship promotion action and from the sport event. Also, the use of statistical methods in this study can be replicated, adjusted or even enhanced in future researches that investigate the theme sport events and their sponsors. On the

other hand, given the specificity of this research, it has become complex to compare the results with other studies. One more time, it is essential studies with this theme, mainly in Brazil, to build a consistent theoretical field that involves sport management, sport marketing and sport sponsorship, as defended and verified by others authors^{70–73}.

As limitations, it should be mentioned that the value that a spectator and other consumers attribute to a brand is the result of many factors and everyday situations, beyond the sponsor of a sport event. The quality of the event, satisfaction and "brand" experience can intensify or detract the brand equity, that is, just another factor in the opinion of the spectator.

APPENDIX A - Questionnaire items.

Author	Dimension	Qualidade do Evento Esportivo
		Você acredita que os funcionários neste estádio são amigáveis.
		A atitude dos funcionários neste estádio demonstra vontado em ajudar o público presente.
		A atitude dos funcionários neste estádio mostra que eles entendem suas necessidades.
	Funcionários do Evento	Você pode contar com os funcionários do estádio agindo para atender suas necessidades.
		Os funcionários neste estádio atendem rapidamente suas necessidades.
		Os funcionários do estádio entendem que você confia no conhecimento profissional deles.
Yoshida and James (18)		Os funcionários do estádio são capazes de responder rapidamente às suas perguntas.
,		A sinalização dessa arena te ajuda a saber para onde você está indo.
	Acesso ao Espaço do evento	A sinalização dessa arena indica de forma clara onde as coisas estão localizadas.
		A disposição da arena facilita a localização de seu assento.
		A disposição da arena facilita a localização dos sanitários.
		Há muito espaço para acomodar os joelhos nos assentos.
		Há muito espaço para acomodar os cotovelos nos assentos.
	Assentos	A disposição dos assentos proporciona muito espaço.
		Essa arena oferece assentos confortáveis.
		As vias de circulação são largas o suficiente para lidar com as multidões.
		Este estádio oferece espaço suficiente para lidar com as multidões.

Continue

Continue

APPENDIX A - Questionnaire items.

Author	Dimension	Qualidade do Evento Esportivo
		Jogadores de sua equipe realizam boas jogadas.
		Os jogadores de sua equipe têm habilidades superiores.
	Desempenho dos Jogadores	Sua equipe dá 100% em todo jogo.
	2 compenso dos jogadores	Seu time joga com garra o tempo todo.
		Os jogadores de sua equipe sempre tentam dar o seu melhor.
		Neste estádio, você acredita que há um bom clima.
		O ambiente deste estádio é o que você quer em um jogo.
		Você gosta da emoção provocada pelo desempenho dos jogadores.
		Você curte o entusiasmo associado ao desempenho dos jogadores.
V 1:1 11 (10)	Astral dos jogos	Os eventos da(o) (nome da equipe) são um dos melhores que você já vivenciou.
Yoshida and James (18)		O (nome da equipe) vende uma variedade impressionante de objetos retrô.
		Os itens distribuídos à torcida do (nome da equipe) são de boa qualidade.
		Este estádio está decorado com base em um tema atraente.
		Estar rodeado por milhares de fãs em um jogo é uma grande experiência para você.
		Você está animado por estar com outros fás que estão torcendo, gritando, cantando para o mesmo time que você.
	Experiência na Torcida	A energia que você sente da multidão nos jogos te deixa muito animado.
		Ter a possibilidade de interagir com os jogadores nos jogos é importante para você.
		O (nome da equipe) entende que o clima é importante para você.
		Eu estou satisfeito com a minha decisão de vir à esses jogos.
Madrigal (53)	Satisfação	Eu acho que fiz a coisa certa ao decidir vir à esses jogos.
		Eu não estou feliz por ter vindo à esses jogos.
		Essa marca causa um forte impacto no meu sentido visual ou nos meus demais sentidos (audição, tato, paladar, olfato).
	Sensorial	Eu acho essa marca interessante de maneira sensorial (visão, audição, tato, paladar, olfato).
Brakus et. al. (35)		Essa marca não mexe com os meus sentidos.
		Essa marca induz emoções e sentimentos.
	Afetivo	Não tenho fortes emoções por essa marca.
		Essa marca é uma marca emocional.

Continue

Continue

APPENDIX A - Questionnaire items.

Author	Dimension	Qualidade do Evento Esportivo
		Eu me envolvo em ações e comportamentos quando estou em contato com essa marca.
	Intelectual	Essa marca resulta em experiências corporais.
		Essa marca não é voltada para ações.
Brakus et. al. (35)		Eu me envolvo em muitos pensamentos quando me deparo com essa marca.
	Comportamental	Essa marca não me faz refletir.
		Essa marca estimula a minha curiosidade e minha capacidade de resolver problemas.
		Como consumidor da "marca", sinto que sou parte de uma comunidade.
Nysveen, Pedersen and Skard (54)	Relacional	Sinto que sou parte da família "marca".
		Quando uso "marca" não me sinto abandonado.
		Vale a pena comprar a marca, mesmo quando é igual às outras.
		Mesmo que outra marca tenha as mesmas características, eu prefiro comprar a marca.
Yoo and Donthu (13)	Brand Equity	Mesmo que haja outra marca tão boa quanto, eu prefiro comprar a marca.
		Se outra marca não é diferente de nenhuma maneira, parece mais inteligente comprar a marca.

APPENDIX B - Convergent validity.

	Game Atmosphere	Overall Brand Equity	Intellectual	Behavioral	Seat Comfort	Player Performance	Affective	Frontline Employee	Relational	Satisfaction	Sensory	Facility Access	Crowd Experience
Astral1	0.7060												
Astral2	0.7930												
Astral3	0.7375												
Astral4	0.7332												
Astral5	0.6815												
Astral6	0.7475												
Astral7	0.7391												
BrandEquity1		0.8134											
BrandEquity2		0.8925											
BrandEquity3		0.9098											
BrandEquity4		0.8691											
Cognitiva1			0.8848										
Cognitiva2			0.8986										
Cognitiva3			0.8368										
Comportamental1				0.8605									
Comportamental2				0.8315									
Comportamental3				0.8396									
Confort1					0.8559								
Confort2					0.8416								
Confort3					0.8226								
Confort4					0.7124								

Continue

APPENDIX B - Convergent validity.

Facility Access Satisfaction 0.9562 0.9576 0.9157 Relational 0.8900 0.8197 Frontline Employee 0.7936 0.7634 0.8169 0.7940 0.7553 0.7393 0.8570 0.8627 Affective 0.7864 0.8268 0.8655 0.8702 Seat Comfort Intellectual Behavioral Overall Brand Equity Game Atmosphere Emocional2 Emocional3 Relacional2 Relacional3 Emocional1 Relacional1 Sensorial1 Desemp5 Funcil Funci6 Funci2 Funci3 Funci5 Satisfl Funci4

ontinue

APPENDIX B - Convergent validity.

	Game Atmosphere Brand Equity	Intellectual	Behavioral	Intellectual Behavioral Seat Comfort Performance	Player Performance	Affective	Frontline Employee	Relational	Relational Satisfaction Sensory	Sensory	Facility Access	Crowd Experience
nsorial2										0.8780		
nsorial3										0.8650		
nal 1											0.8133	
nal2											0.8113	
nal3											0.7821	
nal4											0.7484	
orcl												0.8534
orc2												0.9011
orc3												0.8676

APPENDIX C - Fornell-Lacker Discriminant Validity.

	Game At- mosphere	Overall Brand Equity	Intellectual	Behavioral	Seat Comfort	Player Performance	Affective	Band Experience	Frontline employee	Sport Event Quality	Relational	Satisfaction	Sensory	Facility Access	Crowd Experience
Game Atmosphere	0.7347														
Overall Brand Equity	0.4056	0.872													
Intellectual	0.3369	0.557	0.8738												
Behavioral	0.3193	0.5658	0.7136	0.844											
Seat Comfort	0.3727	0.2222	0.1788	0.1762	0.8101										
Player Performance	0.5922	0.3022	0.1977	0.159	0.2413	0.829									
Affective	0.3214	0.4805	0.6541	0.6275	0.2134	0.1719	0.8502								
Band Experience	0.4303	0.6515	0.8745	0.867	0.2158	0.2519	0.8144	0.8226							
Frontline employee	0.53	0.3599	0.3189	0.2865	0.4465	0.4519	0.3283	0.3797	0.7775						
Sport Event Quality	0.8563	0.4597	0.3811	0.3511	0.5851	0.7287	0.3794	0.4722	0.7905	0.7417					
Relational	0.3821	0.6223	0.6414	0.6838	0.188	0.2306	0.5856	0.8246	0.3083	0.4116	0.8761				
Satisfaction	0.6528	0.4121	0.2716	0.2842	0.3097	0.4334	0.2599	0.3733	0.4409	9.6576	0.3358	0.9569			
Sensory	0.4151	0.4383	0.5559	0.5271	0.1285	0.2819	0.4926	0.7241	0.3221	0.422	0.4463	0.3914	0.8785		
Facility Access	0.4681	0.3123	0.3029	0.2823	0.5106	0.3777	0.3251	0.3657	0.5992	0.7256	0.31	0.3619	0.2849	0.7892	
Crowd Experience	0.6806	0.4203	0.345	0.3294	0.2982	0.4757	0.3325	0.4337	0.4204	0.7369	0.394	0.6808	0.3838	0.4234	0.8743

Resumo

Patrocínio no Voleibol de Praia: efeitos da qualidade do evento, satisfação do espectador e experiência na brand equity

O objetivo deste estudo foi examinar os efeitos da qualidade do evento, satisfação e experiência do espectador na brand equity do patrocinador de um evento esportivo. Para atingir seu objetivo, 352 espectadores que estiveram presentes no Circuito Banco do Brasil de Voleibol de Praia responderam um questionário padronizados sobre os temas citados. Para a análise de dados, foi usado a modelagem de equações estruturais. Os resultados indicaram que a qualidade do evento gera satisfação, o que confirma o aumento de brand equity para o patrocinador do evento. Além disso, a experiência dos espectadores com a marca do patrocinador também confirma um impacto positivo no brand equity. A qualidade do evento, a satisfação do espectador com o evento e os patrocinadores e as experiencias proporcionadas, são elementos que, se bem geridos e explorados, podem ser caminhos para atrair e reter patrocinadores, e para os gestores, uma forma de justificar os investimentos feitos por empresas em eventos esportivos. Neste propósito, os gestores do esporte e patrocinadores devem planejar em conjunto para oferecer aos espectadores, qualidade, ambiente agradável que proporcionará satisfação e uma experiencias positiva respectivamente e consequentemente uma opinião positiva no brand equity da marca patrocinadora. Em termos teóricos, esta pesquisa proporciona maior conhecimento sobre o retorno dos investimentos feitos pelas empresas através de patrocínios esportivos, além dos métodos estatísticos utilizados neste estudo que podem ser replicados, ajustados ou até mesmo aprimorados em pesquisas futuras que investiguem temas relacionados com os eventos esportivos e seus patrocinadores.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Evento Esportivo; Patrocínio; Experiência; Qualidade; Brand Equity.

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