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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GYMNASTICS IN NORTHEAST BRAZIL

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Introduction: Brazil is a very large country organized in five different regions. Each one has their own cultural characteristic related to process like migrations and immigrations from different nationalities. During this last two years and a half, we have been studying Gymnastics at Northeast Brazil, a particular region of the country with economic issues (and its consequences). One of the main questions of this study was how the development of Gymnastics in Northeast Brazil is.

Theoretical background: In southeast Brazil, Gymnastics are, relatively to the country, developed with clubs/gymnasts capable to attend national and international competitions (LIMA, 2016; SCHIAVON 2009). We also know about other aspects like parental and psychological support to compete from other studies from this same region (SCHIAVON, 2009; SCHIAVON; SOARES, 2016; LOPES e. al., 2018, CARBINATTO et. al., 2017), but this is not the reality of other regions of the country. In Northeast Brazil, for example, we do not have much information or studies about Gymnastics. This specific region has nine states and is the second one of the country in area, so to go deeply in some questions about Gymnastics we decided to pick just one state, Ceará. **Objectives:** this study aims to understand how gymnastics has developed at Ceará related to their own region and to Brazil. **Methods:** As a research method we did a documentary research followed by a field research. These two parts together composed a database to understand, and more than that, to interfere positively in this society. The documents analyzed were state federation and Brazilian confederation of Gymnastics databases, local newspapers and government public documents to better understanding historical and local results, and aspects



BRAZILIAN GYMNASTICS FEDERATION

related to Gymnastics at Ceará. The period selected to the study was from 1990 to 2017. **General considerations:** We found that in Northeast Brazil three of the practices regulated by The International Federation Of Gymnastics (FIG) are in development: Rhythmic (RG) and Artistic (AG) Gymnastics and Gymnastics for All (GfA). In both Ceará and Northeast regions, RG are the most popular modality followed by AG. At Ceará, specifically, we have just one GfA group register and participating in local, national and international events: Gymnarteiros (CARVALHO et. al., 2016; 2018). The history of Gymnastics at Brazil helps us to understand the state of the development of this practice, for example, the fact that immigrants from Germany that brought AG to us lived at the south of Brazil (PUBLIO, 2002; CBG; 2018). However, what we found at Ceará, was a different movement of development, starting with internal migration from other parts of the country to this state, and this can be one of the main causes of the recently development of Gymnastics at this Ceará. Economic, cultural and training remain are the biggest problems to the development of the Gymnastics at Northeast. Even thought, Gymnastics has growing up at Ceará and in general, at Northeast Brazil, so we can see the interest of this region for more ways to developed different types of Gymnastics. Due to this data, we are starting projects to provide more educational programs at the state to solve the training issue. We also are rescuing the history of the Gymnastics at Ceará and what we found were many competitions in the 90's, so AG, for example, is a specific discipline that deserves our attention. The largest amount of data demands a specific software to analyze it, and for that, we decided to do it using Nvivo12. This last analyze is in progress and we are sure that is going to reveal many important aspects to base our actions to better understand and develop Gymnastics at Ceará.

Keywords: Gymnastics; Gymnastics in Northeast Brazil; Sport.