

FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND LEADERSHIP STYLE: A  
QUALITATIVE STUDY

**ABSTRACT**

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This research study explores the leadership style of seven current female high school athletic directors from the state of Washington. In-depth interviews were used to acquire insight into the leadership style of female high school athletic directors, as these women currently hold leadership positions in a male dominant career. The findings suggest the leadership style of female high school athletic directors is contingent upon the situation or task at hand. Furthermore, the findings indicate that these female athletic directors use traditionally feminine leadership styles. Moreover, the findings suggest that these women do not employ the traditional masculine leadership stereotype in the sport domain. The findings from this study may be used to (a) better understand the leadership style used by women in high school athletic administration; (b) provide administrators who hire athletic directors with a new perspective on what leadership style is effective in the sport domain; and (c) fill a gap in the literature regarding women in high school sport administration.

*Keywords:* female athletic directors, high school, leadership style, feminine, masculine

