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Dray, K. and Howells, K. (2019) Exploring the use of e-portfolios in higher education coaching programs. *International Sport Coaching Journal*, 6 (3). pp. 359-365. ISSN 2328-9198.

Link to official URL (if available):

<https://dx.doi.org/10.1123/iscj.2018-0082>

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Exploring the Use of E-portfolios in Higher Education Coaching Programs

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Date of submission: 15th October, 2018.

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Date of Resubmission: 5th June, 2019.

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1 Abstract:

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3 The contribution of higher education to the development of the coaching workforce
4 worldwide has been most recently emphasised by the development of the ICCE's Coaching
5 Degree Standards (2016). These standards recognise the increasing value of learning
6 technologies, suggesting that the use of technology in such coaching programs should aim to
7 a) "enhance the learning experience of the student-coach" and b) "gain relevant theoretical and
8 practical knowledge to make the most of technology whilst coaching" (p.23). This article
9 presents one coach developer's experience of using e-portfolios with undergraduate students
10 on a BSc. Sport Coaching Science undergraduate program that represents an effort to address
11 both of these aims simultaneously. Drawing from a broader field of education research and
12 through the provision of examples, it is suggested that e-portfolios might afford the coach
13 learner a number of benefits including their accessibility, the role they play in developing meta-
14 cognition, and their ability to provide a space that can bring together the different communities
15 that influence the learner. Lastly, the benefits and challenges are presented through the eyes of
16 the academic tutor and the relevance for coach education contexts outside of HE are discussed.

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18 Key words: Coach Development, Coach Learning, Learning Technologies, Technology
19 Enhanced Learning

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2 Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) in coach education has, in recent years,
3 become part of the learning experience for many coaches. In their recent review, Cushion and
4 Townsend (2019) highlight that the use of TEL in coaching may provide opportunities to
5 expand our models of coach education, but also that further research and discussion around
6 these topics are warranted to fully understand the impacts on coaching learning and practice.
7 In particular, they highlight the complexities of understanding how these learning practices
8 might translate across different coach education contexts, suggesting that the discussion of
9 specific interventions would benefit from being clear about the contexts in which they are
10 implemented. One example of a TEL tool is the e-portfolio. Using technology to facilitate
11 portfolio building can increase accessibility and allows learners to document and reflect on
12 their experiences using multiple media (Lin, 2008). With this in mind, this paper attempts to
13 provide a contextualised example of how e-portfolios have been used in Higher Education
14 (HE) with undergraduate students studying Sport Coaching Science. In doing so, it aims to
15 provide a pedagogical rationale for their inclusion, the benefits and challenges for both
16 students and tutors, and lastly suggestions as to the implications this practice may have for
17 other coach education settings.

18 The HE sector has seen a recent proliferation of sport coaching related courses,
19 making them a key stakeholder in the provision of coach education. In 2009, Turner and
20 Nelson suggested in the UK alone, 245 HE sport coaching related courses were available and
21 more recently UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) suggests that for 2019
22 entry, there are 466 courses available from 136 different UK providers (UCAS, 2019). This,
23 in part, is likely to be in recognition of the ongoing professionalization of coaching more
24 broadly, but also recognises that coaches hold a key position in the implementation of
25 important policy around health, wellbeing and engaging different populations in physical

1 activity (ICCE, 2016). This key position has been particularly evident in UK primary schools
2 as the Department for Education (2014) has reported that one of the most common uses of the
3 PE and sport premium was to employ new sports coaches to deliver lessons and to help
4 upskill and train existing teachers.

5 Reflecting this increase, a growing body of research literature exploring experiences
6 of coach education within an HE environment has begun to emerge (e.g. Cronin & Lowes,
7 2016; Hall, Cowan, & Vickery, 2018; Jones & Turner, 2006; Knowles, Gilbourne, Borrie, &
8 Neville, 2001; Knowles, Tyler, Gilbourne, & Eubank, 2006; Morgan, Jones, Gilbourne, &
9 Llewellyn, 2013; Reddan, McNally, & Chipperfield, 2016; Roberts & Ryrie, 2014;
10 Stoszkowski & Collins, 2015; Stoszkowski, Collins, & Olsson 2015; Turner & Nelson,
11 2009). Common to much of this literature and discussion around coach education more
12 broadly, is the value of embracing more constructivist approaches, in contrast to traditional
13 educational practices that have been typically underpinned by behavioural approaches
14 (Cushion, Armour, & Jones, 2003). More specifically, this might include a shift in focus from
15 teaching behaviour and what is taught, to considerations of “what is learned, how it is
16 learned, and how the teacher can assist in this learning...” (Light & Wallian, 2008, pg 389).
17 In essence, learning to thrive in the social complexities and diverse realities of the coaching
18 process, might be best learned by engaging in pedagogies that are also multifaceted and
19 context driven. Such learning should place the coach learner in charge and appreciate the role
20 of the coaches’ own biography, acknowledging that learning is an individual and life-long
21 endeavour, influenced by the setting in which it occurs (Trudel, Gilbert, & Werthner, 2010).

22 The development of Web 2.0 technologies has offered a number of tools that can
23 support learning environments that are underpinned by constructivist principles, affording the
24 learner individual content control, whilst also creating opportunities for collaboration and the
25 co-construction of knowledge (Paily, 2013). As part of their review, Cushion and Townsend

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1 (2019) highlight a number of research studies examining how some of these technologies
2 (including blogs, video diaries and online journals) have been used in coaching learning
3 environments both inside and outside of HE. Such technologies can not only be used for
4 coach learning, but may also provide coaches with tools they can use with their athletes.
5 Indeed, the recent standards for Bachelor degrees developed by the ICCE (2016), suggest that
6 coaching programs should aim to a) “enhance the learning experience of the student-coach”
7 and b) “gain relevant theoretical and practical knowledge to make the most of technology
8 whilst coaching” (p.23).

9 Despite the growing body of examples demonstrating a) how constructivist principles
10 have been applied to HE coach education programs and b) TEL practices in coach education
11 more broadly, there is a dearth of research that specifically examines the use of particular
12 TEL Tools for coach learning. One potential example is the e-portfolio. Whilst traditional
13 hard copy portfolios have been highlighted as valuable for learning, particularly in
14 developing reflection (Klenowski, Askew, & Carnell, 2006), the development of e-portfolios
15 using technology provides a number of additional advantages. These can include increased
16 accessibility, a wider range of media to employ, and ease with which they can update, amend
17 and develop entries (Lin, 2008), warranting further exploration as to how these advantages
18 might contribute to the learning of the coach. Acknowledging suggestions that it would be
19 prudent to consider the vast body of learner centred literature in education more broadly
20 (Cushion & Townsend, 2019; Paquette, Hussain, Trudel, & Camirè, 2014), this paper draws
21 on principles and research from teacher education and other educational contexts, to provide
22 a rationale for, and outline the process of, using online portfolio building tasks with
23 undergraduate coaching students.

24 *E-portfolios for coach learning in HE: The Context*

1 Coach education contexts can vary considerably. Cushion and Townsend (2019)
2 highlight that understanding the context in which TEL practices are implemented in coach
3 education might be best informed by referencing the teaching and learning application and
4 the social context in addition to the specific application of the technology. In the case of the
5 example provided in this paper, the learners were undergraduate sport coaching science
6 students, many of which were novice coaches with limited experience of reflection both in
7 terms of coaching practice and their own learning at HE level. Additionally, it is typical that
8 students entering HE have a wide variety of skills and experiences with learning technologies
9 (Kennedy, Judd, Dalgarno, & Waycott, 2010). With this in mind, attention was paid to
10 introducing the technology of the e-portfolio software (Pebblepad), through various learning
11 and teaching strategies, including the use of face to face instruction, online guidance, and
12 individual support. Students were able to engage with the e-portfolio in a number of social
13 contexts, including: class settings; placement; and other community settings (such as
14 employment). The tutor responsible for delivering each of the example tasks below is an
15 active coach in both participation and performance environments, and is an experienced
16 deliverer of coach education within HE and other wider contexts (e.g. working with national
17 governing bodies and organisations).

18 The rapid pace of digital and technological revolution means that learners (and
19 educators), particularly in HE are often surrounded by a mass of learning technologies at their
20 disposal (Walker, Voce, & Ahmed, 2012). Given this, the selection and use of any particular
21 learning technology should be carefully considered in relation to learning objectives and
22 broader learner outcomes. Taking into account the above context, the use of e-portfolios was
23 seen as useful for three key reasons: a) as an accessible learning space; b) as a tool that would
24 stimulate reflection and meta-cognition; and c) as a tool to provide links to the student
25 coaches' learning communities.

1 *An accessible learning space*

2 The portfolio (digital or non digital) represents a medium through which learners can
3 collate, reflect on, and present information related to their achievements or particular
4 competencies, and if appropriate, be assessed (De Rijdt, Tiquet, Dochy, & Devolder, 2006).
5 The generation of technology that has taken the traditional portfolio method online, affords
6 the student not only greater accessibility, but also a wider range of media through to which to
7 build their portfolio. For the student coach, this is seen as particularly advantageous, allowing
8 the capture of coaching sessions as well as online and digital content that might inform
9 learning. Indeed, students themselves report a number of benefits including; the storage,
10 organisation and management of documents; the support it provides to reflective processes;
11 the ability to measure growth; improved technology skills; and the potential for future
12 employment (Wetzel & Strudler, 2006)

13 *A tool to simulate reflection and meta-cognition*

14 A number of studies suggest that portfolios play a role in the development of
15 reflective skills in undergraduate students (Hatton & Smith, 1995), allowing students to
16 deliberately think about their actions with a view to improve them (Lin, 2008; Ward &
17 McCotter, 2004). The practice of reflection for learning has gained considerable traction in
18 coach education (e.g. Gilbert & Trudel, 2001; Nelson & Cushion, 2006) and more
19 specifically in HE coach education (Knowles et al., 2001; Knowles et al., 2006; Stoszkowski
20 & Collins, 2015; Stoszkowski et al., 2015). Such research alludes to the importance of
21 applying structured scaffolding to the learning of reflective skills (Knowles et al., 2001) and
22 that web technologies such as blogging might help to enhance these skills (Stoszkowski et al.,
23 2015).

1 The use of portfolios more broadly can be seen as both a product and a process
2 (Loughran & Corrigan, 1995), through which the learner can both present their understanding
3 of the content, but also engage more meaningfully in understanding the learning process.
4 According to Hillyer and Ley (1996), learners using e-portfolios engage in more self-
5 regulated learning by assuming more responsibility for their learning, understanding their
6 strengths and weaknesses and acting on these to generate their learning goals. Indeed, a
7 number of studies have supported the idea that the generation of e-portfolios encourages the
8 development of meta-cognitive skills in learners (Avraamidou, 2002; Azevedo, 2005). For
9 example, student teachers report that e-portfolio building contributes to their ability to
10 synthesise information and think about it critically, to changes in their understanding of
11 reflection and that they became increasingly aware of their teaching philosophy and how to
12 articulate it (Britten, Mullen, & Stuve, 2003; Wang, 2004). It could easily be argued that
13 these meta-cognitive skills are critical for any practitioner who is involved in developing the
14 learning of others. Being able to understand and reflect upon your own learning strategies and
15 experiences, places the teacher (or coach) in a better position to be able to understand the
16 learning experiences of those they are teaching. Put more simply, it is argued here that by
17 experiencing and reflecting on the different pedagogies experienced as a learner, the student
18 coach might be better positioned to use them in their own practice with athletes.

19 *A tool to provide links to the student coaches' learning communities.*

20 The learning process is assumed to be an individual endeavour, but is also influenced
21 by the social context in which it occurs (Trudel, Gilbert, & Werthner, 2010). Tinto (2003)
22 suggests that “most students experience universities as isolated learners whose learning is
23 disconnected from that of others” (p.1). Conversely, literature within coach education (and
24 other learning contexts), repeatedly advocates for the value of ‘community’ to the learning
25 process (e.g. Stoszkowski & Collins, 2014). Student coaches, as in this case, are often

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1 involved in several (often disparate) communities that impact their learning, including
2 university community (e.g. peers, tutors, or other support networks), placement or other work
3 community (e.g. organisations, mentors, or colleagues) and home community (e.g. family
4 members, friends or team mates), which may or may not be localised. The diversity of these
5 coaching communities are important in driving the experiential learning that is valued so
6 highly in coach education (Cushion, Armour, & Jones, 2003) and students can utilise these
7 communities in different ways to meet their own individualised learning needs. Digital
8 learning spaces (such as online portfolio systems) where appropriate content can be shared
9 amongst the learner, mentors, tutors and peers, may provide a space through which students
10 can document and track the building of networks in these communities and provide a space
11 where students can appreciate how those communities intersect. Indeed, it is suggested that
12 the ability to build and link these communities is not only important in helping students to
13 feel more connected and have a sense of belonging, but also to student outcomes (Greenhow
14 & Burton, 2011).

15 *The e-portfolio tool: Pebblepad*

16 Pebblepad describes itself as a “portfolio and personal learning platform” (Pebble
17 Learning Ltd, 2018). The platform provides a learning space where learners can upload
18 various types of documents, media, internet links or embed code linking to other platforms
19 and is supported by a number of pre-existing templates learners can use (or create their own)
20 to document and reflect on learning activities. Although each individual’s learning space is
21 private, work that is shared allows tutors or other mentors to provide ongoing formative
22 feedback by commenting in a chat style dialogue alongside the work, a process intended to
23 promote deeper learning (Segers, Gijbels, & Thurlings, 2008). This enables learners to get
24 input that feeds forward into the next learning activity helping them to appreciate assessment
25 and feedback as a cyclical process (Headington, 2000). Importantly, this tool can be used in a

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1 number of ways that support student coaches in their learning, several of which are identified
2 below.

3 *Examples of portfolio tasks:*

4 **Video reflection and feedback;** In this task, student coaches are required to
5 document the preparation and delivery of a micro coaching session (around 10 minutes),
6 based around the incorporation of a particular concept (examples include things like specific
7 learning theories, strategies for communication or delivering effective demonstration).
8 Learners are asked to video their session and upload it into a template where they can
9 highlight specific time points in the video, making evaluative comments as to their
10 effectiveness when trying to incorporate the concept. As a portfolio, these tasks are built upon
11 as learners are able to consider more concepts within the delivery of their sessions whilst
12 tutors are able to provide ongoing feedback as learners, progress through the task. This also
13 affords the opportunity to comment on the developing reflective skills of the learner. The use
14 of videos as a reflective source are considered as particularly important for this context,
15 whereby both the tutor and the learner can share real time moments and analyse coaching
16 situations. This also allows the learner to engage in more multifaceted reflection, not just the
17 technical, but also the “pedagogical and contextual aspects” of their delivery (Calandra,
18 Brantley-Dias, Lee, & Fox, 2009, p.87). The ongoing nature of feedback for these tasks can
19 also help learners to identify their strengths and weaknesses and to be more focussed on their
20 own learning goals (Hillyer & Ley, 1996).

21 **Placement reflection;** In this task, student coaches are required to keep a series of
22 reflective journal entries in relation to their placement experiences. Students are initially
23 encouraged to use a model of reflection, in this instance Gibbs (1988). These journal entries
24 are supported by templates that highlight the stages of Gibbs’ model with directed questions

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1 to remind students of the focus of each cycle stage (e.g. What happened? What are you
2 thinking and feeling? What was good and bad about the experience? What sense can you
3 make of the situation? What else could you have done? If it arose again what would you do?)
4 These templates can be generated by tutors or students and used repeatedly. Students can
5 keep each reflection stored electronically, build these together into a portfolio and share them
6 with tutor and others when they are seeking feedback. Students are encouraged to consider
7 the development of these reflective skills over time, to link their reflections together and to
8 draw out any similar themes or ideas that repeat themselves.

9 The use of templates in this example offer some structure to reflections, identified as
10 beneficial to student coaches developing reflective skills (Knowles et al., 2001), and
11 represent the provision of a theoretically grounded framework to reflective practice as
12 suggested by Cushion and Nelson (2013). The prompting questions included in the template
13 support previous findings that structured prompts can help student coaches with the
14 development of depth in their reflections (Kuklick, Gearity, & Thompson, 2015). Although
15 caution has been expressed around the limitations of following structured models (Johns,
16 1994), as students in this instance were mostly early career coaches inexperienced with
17 reflection, Gibbs' (1988) model was selected for its simplicity and ability to provide some
18 structural questions to stimulate deeper reflection.

19 The sharing of reflections contributes to the development of the students' learning
20 communities. With granted permissions, Pebblepad allows multiple 'tutors' to comment and
21 feedback on work. In this example, this provides the opportunity for the student, the
22 placement mentor and their academic tutor to interact in support of the learning goals. This
23 helps to alleviate the increasing time pressures on all of the community members by
24 incorporating some aspects of e-mentoring proposed by coach development literature

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1 (McQuade, Davis, & Nash, 2015) but also helps to establish a multi mentoring approach to
2 support coach learning (Sawuik, Taylor, & Groom, 2017).

3 **Interview preparation;** Student coaches keep a portfolio of class related tasks that
4 they use to inform an interview process. Throughout the module, students document their
5 learning by incorporating session notes, reflections, video footage and other media into a
6 portfolio that is presented digitally and discussed in a mock interview scenario hosted by
7 partner placement mentors. Throughout this process student coaches are asked to reflect on
8 their experiences as learners and to consider how this impacts their role in facilitating
9 learning for others.

10 The ability of students to articulate their learning and experiences in relation to a job
11 role and specification is highlighted as an important part of their employability skills (Maher,
12 2005). The digital e-portfolio offers the student a space to bring a range of media together in
13 order to reflect effectively on the skills they are acquiring and how these relate to potential
14 employment opportunities. As neophyte practitioners, it is also proposed that critically
15 reflecting on these learning tasks, helps these student coaches to identify some tools they can
16 use to provide learning experiences to others, promoting their meta-cognitive skills.

17

18 *Benefits and Challenges: The coach educator perspective.*

19 In an attempt to capture the benefits and challenges of facilitating student coaches in
20 using e-portfolios, a number of reflections are offered from the coach educator perspective,
21 who in this context, is in the role of an academic tutor (and first author).

22 There were a number of perceived benefits, including the level of engagement
23 students demonstrated with the tool and the ability to provide contextualised and individual
24 feedback during, and not just after, the assessment process. Importantly, most student coaches

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1 demonstrated engagement with the tasks and informally reported being motivated to engage
2 by the ease with which they could access and develop material on their own devices. The
3 value of this ‘mobility’ is supported by research suggesting that mobile learning often takes
4 place outside of formal classroom environments and with limited guidance (Chen &
5 deNoyelles, 2013). A significant advantage to the tutor, and way of measuring this
6 engagement, is the ability to see the ongoing progress of the learner with this e-portfolio tool.
7 In practice, this resulted in being able to adapt planned learning experiences for student
8 coaches based on a clearer understanding of their grasp of the concepts. Furthermore, being
9 able to provide and engage with ongoing digital conversation linked to the work, provided an
10 opportunity to engage in a feedback loop, rather than a one way process whereby the tutor is
11 unsure of the extent to which the learner has engaged with, or understood any feedback.
12 Importantly, this could be conducted at an individual level. Carless, Suter, Yang, and Lam
13 (2011) suggest to emphasise student self-regulation in the feedback process, sustainable
14 feedback mechanisms that enhance the student’s role should be employed and that
15 technology might play a role in developing more dialogic feedback.

16 Given the individualised nature of learning, inevitably the level of engagement from
17 learners varied, particularly when not driven by assessment. When encouraged to engage in
18 ongoing documentation of learning, some students did not embrace this concept, preferring to
19 complete work close to the assessment deadline, negating the utilisation of feedforward
20 information. Although digital technology is credited by students as keeping them on track in
21 relation to assessment deadlines (Henderson, Selwyn, & Aston, 2017), there are students who
22 do not make use of this. Furthermore, student coaches often felt challenged by the freedom
23 being offered in some assessment tasks to choose suitable material. Indeed, Gordon (2014)
24 identifies that one of the challenges of flexible technology is that for some students it can
25 cause confusion around deciding what to select and how to carry out the assignments. Lastly,

1 some students felt challenged by the technology itself. With this in mind, it is important to
2 note that despite the range of technology that now proliferates everyday tasks, the related
3 assumption that the generation of students now entering higher education can all be classed as
4 'digital natives' (Prensky, 2001), being well versed in, and frequent users of technology, has
5 been questioned in more recent evidence based work (Kennedy et al., 2010). Students
6 typically demonstrate less engagement with newer and emerging web 2.0 technologies such
7 as blogs, wikis or podcasts, than more social media related technologies (Oliver & Goerke
8 2007; Kennedy, Judd, Churchward, Gray, & Krause 2008, Kennedy et al., 2010; Jones,
9 Ramanau, Cross, & Healing, 2010). Although, it might be true that the current generation of
10 students are more familiar with technology use in their downtime, the translation of this
11 technology use to educational practices, is not perhaps as unproblematic as previously
12 assumed (Bennet, Maton, & Kervin, 2008). Emergent from this experience is the high
13 variation of individuals to embrace and effectively use these technologies to support their
14 learning. Indeed, evidence suggests this generation of students to be less homogenous in their
15 technology use than assumed, showing considerable variation in their patterns of use.
16 (Kennedy et al., 2008)

17 *Opportunities for other contexts*

18 The e-portfolio is one tool at the coach developer's disposal that may help coaches to
19 both document and self-regulate their learning and a number of examples have been offered
20 here that can have application in other coach education settings. The documentation of
21 coaching videos, reflective templates and session plans can occur in any coach education
22 environment where the coach is actively engaged with practice. It is proposed that a number
23 of benefits may transfer across to different contexts. For example, the potential to make coach
24 education materials more accessible, to promote reflection on pedagogic practices, and to
25 draw together the various communities that may have influence on a coach's development.

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1 Although these communities may differ in scope to a student coach in HE, recent research
2 speaks to the potential value of multiple mentors for coach learners (Sawiuk, Taylor, &
3 Groom, 2017), and e-portfolios that allow sharing amongst these mentors may prove
4 advantageous. Moreover, the ongoing development of tools to create e-portfolios means that
5 software is often user friendly which may stimulate engagement and promote the ongoing
6 and individualised feedback that is most useful for learning (Carless et al., 2011). Lastly,
7 formal coach education courses have attracted criticism for lacking the contextualisation
8 required by individual coaches and are often conducted over a limited time period, further
9 limiting the reflective learning that might be achieved by subsequent ongoing coaching
10 practice (Mallet, Trudel, Lyle, & Rynne, 2009). The use of technology in the development of
11 coaching e-portfolios over a period of time, might be used to combat some of these issues.

12

13 *Conclusion*

14 The need to develop more learner centred approaches to coach development and
15 education has been emphasised by recent literature exploring the variety of learning and
16 teaching methods for coaches both within, and beyond, HE settings. The challenge of coach
17 education programs more broadly is to develop coaches who will continually develop
18 effective strategies to be successful in their chosen coaching context(s) and learning
19 communities. The preparation for continual life-long learning is key to this approach (Maher,
20 2005). The development of coaches who consistently seek to develop their learning and
21 question their practice is argued to be pertinent to this endeavour (Trudel & Gilbert, 2006).
22 Furthermore, the ability to question, critique, and ‘problematicise’ coaching practice and
23 prevailing coaching discourse has been identified as important in the development of
24 coaching as a discipline (Denison, Mills, & Konoval, 2017; Stoszkowski & Collins, 2014).

1 Recent pedagogical discussion in coach education literature has focussed on the value
2 of employing constructivist approaches in coach education and detailed a range of innovative
3 pedagogies that might be used to better prepare coaches for their everyday practice, including
4 problem-based learning, action research and ethnodrama (Morgan, Jones, Gilbourne, &
5 Llewellyn, 2012). Moreover, technology may serve to enhance some of this practice,
6 including as suggested here, the use of the e-portfolio that serves as an online learning
7 environment where coaches can construct knowledge and skills themselves (Baeten, Dochy,
8 & Struyven, 2008). Indeed, the example provided in this paper suggests a number of ways
9 this technology might contribute to student and coach learning. For example, affording
10 learners the opportunity to engage in a feedback dialogue (which is supported by the
11 technology used here) rather than employing feedback as a one-way transmission of
12 information, has been highlighted as a practice that can promote students to better self-
13 regulate their learning (Carless et al., 2011). In addition, the use of technology in this
14 example that allowed tutors to view student progress on tasks was key in the design of
15 ongoing learning experiences, resulting in the adaptation to sessions in order to reinforce
16 areas in which students were perceived to need greater support. Importantly, students
17 themselves were able to note their own progress by engaging directly with others in their
18 learning communities and began to build appreciation for how they could create similar
19 experiences for learners in their own charge. Students also identified that they valued the
20 extent to which they could engage with the portfolio using their own mobile devices.
21 Although the link between specific devices and learning is yet to be fully established (Chen
22 & deNoyelles, 2013), given students in this case were motivated to use them to record and
23 document their experiences outside of classroom settings, this shows some promise for the
24 coaching context, given coaching occurs in a wide range of environments.

1 E-portfolios may provide a number of useful solutions to the challenges identified in
2 developing well equipped future coaches (e.g. making learning and support more accessible
3 and promoting meta-cognitive skills) however, as with most technology, the process is not
4 without challenges. In the HE context the ongoing collection of, and reflection on, learning
5 materials can be a challenge for students who are assessment driven, and coach developers in
6 other settings might be cognisant that this may not be specific to the HE environment.
7 Similarly, the upskilling and support of coaches to allow proficient use of technologies is
8 pertinent across many other contexts, and is likely to involve significant investment. Perhaps
9 more importantly, to be effective as a learning tool, coach educators should be able to reflect
10 on the pedagogical rationale for using any technology, including e-portfolios. The use of
11 technology is unlikely to develop learning, unless it is grounded in an understanding of why it
12 is being used (Cushion & Townsend, 2019). Indeed, to be effective in either setting, it is
13 proposed that the purpose of the e-portfolio and the constructivist principles on which they
14 are based should be emphasised as part of ongoing discussion with learners (Klenowski et al.,
15 2006). Gatlin and Jacob (2002) suggest that if learners do not understand its purpose, the e-
16 portfolio would be reduced to a static collection of material, and dynamic reflections on
17 teaching and learning would not be possible. Indeed, research in coach education that
18 explores the integration of constructivist principles into large scale coach education
19 programs, highlights the challenges and resistance that arise when all of the parties involved
20 are not fully subscribed to these pedagogies (Hussain, Trudel, Patrick, & Rossi, 2012;
21 Paquette et al., 2014).

22 Lastly, whilst this paper provides a contextualised example of e-portfolio use for
23 developing coaches, there is a burgeoning need for a greater evidence base for the use of
24 technology enhanced learning in coach education, including the use of e-portfolios (Cushion
25 & Townsend, 2019). Such research would be fruitful in demonstrating the efficacy of such

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1 tools to promote coach learning and more fully understand the implications of this learning
2 for developing coaching practice.

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