


Concepts and Patterns of Destination Leadership and Their Application in Sports Tourism: A Scoping Review

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The source of this statistic (Cheng, Zhang, & Li, 2023) is not fully contextualized. Clarify whether the growth rate refers globally or regionally, as it has direct implications for sports tourism leadership.

While inclusion/exclusion criteria are provided, there is no explanation of inter-rater reliability or agreement among authors during article screening. Please clarify how consensus was ensured.

This is a critical limitation. Please suggest methodological approaches (e.g., Delphi study, expert ranking) for future research to prioritize these capabilities.

The “Excitement Generation” capability is intriguing but underexplained. Consider elaborating with examples from tourism practice to make this dimension more concrete.

The conclusion reiterates capabilities but does not link them to practical implications. Suggest specific applications in sports tourism contexts (e.g., mega-event management, regional sports branding).

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the new document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

This sentence introduces destination leadership but does not define it explicitly. A working definition at this early stage would help orient the reader before discussing models.

This strong claim would benefit from a critical discussion of counterexamples where hosting events has failed to generate sustained tourism benefits.

The research gap is stated but remains broad. Please narrow this down by clarifying why prior attempts failed to converge on a definition—methodological, contextual, or theoretical reasons?.

The description of the search strategy is clear, but the study would benefit from including the exact time frame of the literature search (e.g., 2000–2024).

This admission highlights a major gap. It would strengthen the paper to explicitly propose a conceptual framework for sports tourism leadership as a contribution of this review.

This is an important statement but reads as general tourism theory. Tie it directly to the findings of your scoping review for stronger alignment.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the new document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.