Reviewer’s report

Title: Changes in sex difference in swimming speed in finalists at World Championships and Olympic Games from 1992 to 2013

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Reviewer: Chi Ching Gary C.C. Chow

Reviewer’s report:

Comments to the Author:

The topic is interesting and valuable to indicate the indoor swimming development in last two decades in terms of swimming speed in the Olympic Games and the FINA World Championship. It is important to swimming researchers or practitioners to know the changes.

Minor Essential Revisions

# In the whole article, World Championships should be written as “the FINA World Championships” (I wonder if I am not the fans of swimming, what kind of World Championships is) Olympic Games should be written as “the Olympic Games”

# Page 6, line 15: …the ,,Zurich 12h Swim “ between… should be the “Zurich 12h Swim” between…(Typo error)

# Page 9, line 20: “AIG” should be “Akaike’s Information Criteria (AIG)” (Full name is preferred)

# Page 12, line 7: “sex differenc” should be “sex difference” (Typo error)

# Page 13, line 12: “…female and male world champions… should be “…female and male Olympic Champions” (Table 19 and 20 shows the data related to Olympic Champions.)

# Page 19, 11: “Most of these these physical…” should be “Most of these physical…” (Typo Error)

# Page 27, Table 3: Not quite sure why there is “(s = 0.02) in the item of “200m individual medley”

Discretionary Revisions

# Page 13, Suggest to give an additional table like table 13 to show the change in sex difference over time for the finalists, but just for the Olympic Games. It helps to understand the sentence from line 3 to line 6.

# Page 14 – 15, “Increase in swimming speeds over the years”:
Authors designed to indicate the increase in swimming speeds over the years
through the comparison between the studies related to open-water swimmers analysis (Vogt et al., 2013 and Zingg, et al., 2014) and the recent findings. Because of the difference between indoor swimming disciplines and open-water swimming, such as swimming environment, starting and turning techniques, the argument in this session is not easy to be accepted.

# Compared with the study of Wolfrum, et al. (2014), this article analyzed more swimming disciplines and included the Olympic Games into their analysis. It is expected to know if there are any additional findings, such as difference or similarity between the swimming speed in the Olympic Games and the FINA World Championship. Recently, the discussion is similar as the study of Wolfrum, et al. (2014), it is alright to have different data but have similar view on discussion. However, it may be good if further issues were discussed compared with previous studies.


Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.