Reviewer's report

**Title:** Match play performance characteristics that predict post-match creatine kinase responses in professional rugby union players

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 12 June 2014

**Reviewer:** Julien Steven Baker

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Match play performance characteristics that predict post-match creatine kinase responses in professional rugby union players

The authors have produced an interesting paper that is novel. The paper relates to the incidence of muscle damage using blood markers and relating the finding to the level and intensity of sprint performance. Coaches and performers should benefit from the findings. The findings have implications for recovery and performance that relate to many different types of exercise performance. I only have minor comments;

1. The authors need to outline in the study if all samples were taken at the same time of day.
2. The authors also need to outline the reliability of the GPS system used

**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:**

None