Reviewer's report

Title: Analysis of open-water ultra-distance swimming performances in the FINA World Cup races in 5km, 10km and 25 km from 2000 to 2012

Version: 2 Date: 13 January 2014

Reviewer: ANGELA HIBBS

Reviewer's report:

This article is well written and provides a useful insight into the under researched sport of long distance swimming. The gender differences in elite sport is an important area of research which has a huge impact for sports and the individuals taking part.

I feel that this article highlights the need for this area to grow and for more research to take place to understand this aspect of human performance and human limitations of performance in more detail.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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