Reviewer's report

Title: Pacing strategy in male elite and age group 100 km ultra-marathoners

Version: 1 Date: 30 August 2014

Reviewer: JONATHAN ESTEVE-LANAO

Reviewer's report:

This is a brief, applied design that will have special interest in the pacing field, supporting some flaws on ultraendurance events. I agree with the whole design, structure and manuscript length, with several minor comments to be solved. Congratulations.

- Minor Essential Revisions:

Page #10 to #11. Discussion about why front runners show even or negative pacing from T3 to the finish line sounds too close to opinion the way you say it. You could mention this argument as the 2nd, since the slope conditions initially can better support that. When considering psychological reasons, please try to sustain this motivation-based concept with literature. A possibility is to linking it to the concepts of positive affect and persistence striving discussed elsewhere (read the following references, at least #1):


You can also read a recent paper attached which is ahead-of-print and discusses about that at some point (Esteve-Lanao et al In press)

The rest of the discussion is well defended and expected. Knowing full well that this might be impossible, we wonder on the potential effect of racing experience both athletic events and particularly in marathon and ultra-marathon events. If this could be possible to be obtained at any race edition, it would be really interesting as a subset analysis or even as a particular comment to be included in the discussion. If it would not be possible, I understand.

Page #20. Typing mistake with the Title of Figure 6. There says ‘5’ twice.

Congratulations for this interesting paper. I encourage you to solve these queries and send it back soon. We will appreciate.

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.