Reviewer’s report

Title: Attitudes and Behavior related to Performance-Enhancing Substance Use among Elite Saudi Football Players

Version: 0 Date: 30 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Nataša Zenic

Reviewer's report:

The study deals with interesting topic in generally understudied population of Arab athletes with regard to doping and PES. Data of particular importance for development of preventive campaigns and strategies against doping in Saudi Arabia. However, manuscript is generally under-prepared and in some parts poorly written. Therefore, I strongly suggest authors to make additional efforts in improving the paper. Some comments are noted below.

I will focus only on general comments, because if authors decide to do these changes, additional review will be necessary.

General comments:
Paper is technically not well prepared. For example, there are several one-two sentence paragraphs (see for example Introduction - 6th para, text starting with "The WADA social etc.", or previous paragraph, part of Discussion, etc. It is widely accepted that 3 sentences are minimum for paragraph length.

Introduction is scattered (as well as Discussion - see later). There is no clear "connecting line" between parts of the text, and authors "jump" from one topic to another with no evident connection. I strongly suggest authors to define some logical between parts of the text, and then to rewrite the Intro completely.

Same problem is evident in Discussion. My opinion is that authors should start the Discussion with "main findings" and then use those main findings as some type of "subheadings" of the Discussion section. In its present form parts of the Discussion are actually "Results" (see 2-3rd para of the Discussion), while other parts are more suitable for Intro (6th para of the Discussion, text starting with "However, etc.").

Also, I strongly disagree with the common concept of equalization of PES and doping. The equalization of these terms is not justified. Take care on it, in some parts of the text you use these terms interchangeably.

Discussion lacks "real discussion" of results and comparison with previous studies, theoretical (at least) explanations of differences in findings between presented and results of previous studies, etc.
As I said, investigation is interesting, but paper needs additional work. 
Staying at your disposal

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal