Comments to reviewer’s

Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript. You input is greatly appreciated. I have addressed the comments below by order of the review. Changes within the manuscript have been highlighted. We hope that we have addressed your comments adequately.

Reviewer #6

General comments:

We appreciate all your comments – The authors will make sure that all figures are incorporated into the subsequent submissions of the manuscript. We agree that the sample size was small, and to your point this was a very elite population, all participants had represented their country in recent international competitions.

Abstract

Line 2-3 – we have added spinal cord injuries (SCI) have an altered blood flow distribution, a decreased sweat response impeding thermoregulation during exercise, leading to an increased core temperature (Tcore).

Line 14: ES has been defined as Effect size. (exercise on day 1 (minute 30) (effect size (ES)=0.73)

Introduction

Thank you for the comments – we have changed the section headline placement

Para 1 line 5 – we have deleted a space

Methodology

* Table 1 has been incorporated at the end of the participants section.
* All participant descriptive are included in Table 1 – athlete 12 athlete were randomly divided into one of two groups – both groups practiced on both days. Al of the athletes were athletes with tetraplegia.
* Yes, the reviewer is correct there are all distinct stages. Administered by the United states Wheelchair rugby coaches and Staff – We have also incorporated the 10 min structured warm up that took place on each day prior to the game simulation.
* For clarity the following sentence off your suggestion has been incorporated – we agree that this has improved the clarity of the group assignment - Individuals that were part of the IS on day one were part of the PLB on day 2
* Yes, we have incorporated a clarifying statement within the treatment section
* Game play was different between days, as data collection was secondary to practice time for the coaching staff and players. There was a 10 min discrepancy between days, however rest periods were consistent. These practice sessions were for a final selection of the Pan American championships team. Therefore, the coaching and practice was more important that the data collection, so the research team collected data under true field abased circumstances.

Results:

* All appropriate figures have been embedded within the text of the manuscript.

Reviewer # \*

Introduction:

* Thanks for your comment -- we have added a little more information about the neurological consequences of SCI – the sentence has been cleaned up and simplified to -- A suppression of sudomotor and vasomotor responses below the level of lesion results in a decrease in sweat response. Therefore, athletes with SCI may experience greater increases in core temperature when compared to their AB counterparts (9,14).

Methods.

* Thank you for your comments. – The PLB group was received and isocaloric and volume matched, room temperature beverage administered exactly the same why as the ice slurry.-- The PLB group received an isocaloric 6% CHO-electrolyte (Gatorade, PepsiCo, USA) containing beverage at room temperature (20°C-25°C) at a matched volume and administration.
* Thank you for your comment, the authors don’t think that investigating the cofounding variables of age and time since injury to add to the paper, all these athletes were highly trained comparative individuals making this a very homogeneous group. If the reviewer feel like this is a major point of contention the authors will certainly run the necessary statistics to account for the confounding variables.

The Authors of this paper thank the reviewers very much for their time and constructive feedback to the paper. We appreciate all input and look forward to continuing to work with the reviewers

Thanks again