



Measurement characteristics of athlete monitoring tools in professional Australian football

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1 **Abstract**

2

3 **Purpose:** To examine the measurement reliability and sensitivity of common athlete
4 monitoring tools in professional AF players.

5

6 **Methods:** Test-retest reliability (noise) and weekly variation (signal) data were collected from
7 42 professional Australian footballers from one club during a competition season. Perceptual
8 wellness was measured via questionnaires completed before main training sessions (48, 72 and
9 96 h post-match), with players providing a rating (1-5 Likert scale) regarding their muscle
10 soreness, sleep quality, fatigue level, stress and motivation. Eccentric hamstring strength and
11 countermovement jump performance was assessed via proprietary systems once per week.
12 Heart rate recovery (HRR) was assessed via a standard submaximal run test on a grass-covered
13 field with players wearing a heart rate monitor. The HRR was calculated by subtracting average
14 heart rate during final 30 s of exercise from average heart rate during final 10 s of rest. Typical
15 test error was reported as coefficient of variation (CV% and TE). Sensitivity was calculated by
16 dividing weekly CV by test CV to produce a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR).

17

18 **Results:** All measures displayed acceptable sensitivity. SNRs ranged from 1.3-11.1. ICCs
19 ranged from 0.30 to 0.97 for all measures.

20

21 **Conclusions:** The HRR test, CMJ test, eccentric hamstring strength test and perceptual
22 wellness all possess acceptable measurement sensitivity. SNR analysis is a novel method of
23 assessing measurement characteristics of monitoring tools for professional AF players. These
24 data can be used by coaches and scientists to identify meaningful changes in common measures
25 of fitness and fatigue.

26

27 **Key Words:** athlete monitoring, reliability, sensitivity

28 **Introduction**

29 Athlete monitoring systems are commonly used in professional team sports to provide coaches
30 and scientists with an understanding of player performance readiness and injury risk.¹⁻³
31 Information from these systems is used to plan training load to maximise adaptations whilst
32 maintaining player availability for competition.⁴ Recent research and technological advances
33 has increased the number of tools available to assess constructs of fitness and fatigue. These
34 include submaximal heart rate tests,⁵ countermovement jump tests,⁶ lower limb muscular
35 strength tests⁷ and perceptual wellness questionnaires.⁸

36
37 Due to environmental constraints and risk of injury in fatigued athletes, it is impractical for
38 professional team sport athletes to complete maximal physical capacity tests during the season
39 to determine changes in fitness and fatigue.⁹ Therefore, practitioners rely on monitoring tools
40 that are submaximal in nature and can identify changes in constructs of fitness and fatigue
41 regularly throughout training and competition to assess the performance readiness of their
42 players. To provide useful information to coaches and scientists, these tools should display
43 measurement characteristics of validity (the ability of a test to measure what it is designed to
44 measure), reliability (the consistency of results from a test) and sensitivity (the extent to which
45 a test can detect changes beyond the typical error in results).^{10,11} Reliability can be assessed via
46 test-retest analysis, where measurements are collected from the same individuals under
47 identical test conditions.¹² This produces a typical error measure, often expressed as a
48 coefficient of variation percentage (CV%) that indicates the level of error to be accounted for
49 when interpreting changes in that test.¹³ Using the CV%, the sensitivity of a test can be
50 established via signal-to-noise analysis.¹² Indeed, measurement signal is often assessed via
51 intervention studies where responsiveness (i.e. a change in performance) is measured following
52 the intervention,¹⁴ however this is not possible in professional team sport environments due to

53 time and cost constraints. Therefore, in the case of team sport athlete testing, “signal” refers to
54 individual changes in a monitoring test in response to training stimuli (provided by a valid test),
55 while “noise” is represented by the typical error in the measurement (from test-retest reliability
56 analysis). Measurement signal and noise can be combined to produce a signal-to-noise ratio
57 (SNR), providing practitioners with an index of responsiveness in a measure relative to the
58 typical error in the test. This information is important to coaches and scientists as it allows
59 confident interpretation of athlete monitoring data by identifying meaningful changes (i.e.
60 those that exceed the “noise” in the test).

61
62 Studies in professional Australian Football (AF) have shown perceptual wellness
63 questionnaires are sensitive to weekly change in training load⁸ and match load,¹⁵ suggesting
64 they are valid measures of training response in this athletic population. However, the
65 measurement characteristics of perceptual wellness questionnaires has received little research
66 attention. A study of collegiate basketballers reported a total wellness test CV% of 6.9,⁶ while
67 research in professional AF reported a Chronbach’s alpha of 0.87 as a measure of reliability on
68 a composite scale of nine wellness constructs.⁸ These findings indicate that perceived wellness
69 questionnaires possess acceptable reliability as measured by CV%,¹² however the capability of
70 these questionnaires to detect changes that exceed the typical error is unknown. Moreover, no
71 research has examined the reliability of perceived wellness using individualised z-scores.
72 Additionally, while the Nordic eccentric hamstring strength test possesses acceptable reliability
73 as a measure of hamstring force production and can discriminate between previously injured
74 and uninjured athletes,¹⁶ the sensitivity of this test in professional AF players has not been
75 established.

76

77 Submaximal heart rate tests may be administered at regular intervals to provide practitioners
78 with a non-fatiguing assessment of changes in aerobic fitness in team sport athletes.¹⁷ Previous
79 research in professional AF reported a submaximal heart rate recovery test to be a valid and
80 reliable measure of training status.¹⁷ However, the capacity of this test to detect changes
81 exceeding the typical error has not been examined in this athletic population. Additionally,
82 countermovement jump tests (CMJ) are commonly used to assess neuromuscular fatigue in
83 professional AF players.^{18,19} CMJ performance has been shown to be responsive to match load,
84 with substantial reductions in CMJ flight time following competition matches,¹⁹ while another
85 study reported decreases in CMJ performance were related to increases in low-speed movement
86 and reduced accelerations during competition matches.¹⁸ Moreover, CMJ performance has
87 been shown to demonstrate acceptable measurement reliability in team sport athletes, with CV
88 ranging from 1.1% to 7.1% across a range of jump variables.²⁰ However, no research has
89 investigated if weekly variation in CMJ performance exceeds the typical error in this test
90 among professional AF players.

91

92 Collectively, research suggests that perceptual wellness questionnaires, eccentric hamstring
93 strength tests, CMJ tests and submaximal heart rate tests possess varying levels of reliability
94 among a range of athlete cohorts. However, the extent to which changes in these tests exceed
95 their typical error remains unknown, limiting interpretability of test results for coaches and
96 scientists. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to establish the reliability and sensitivity of
97 common monitoring tests in a professional AF population. This information will allow coaches
98 and scientists of professional AF teams to confidently identify and interpret meaningful
99 changes in commonly collected monitoring data.

100

101 **Methods**

102 *Subjects*

103 Data were collected from 45 professional Australian footballers (age: 24.6 ± 4.0 y; height: 1.88
104 ± 0.07 m; weight: 86.0 ± 9.0 kg) from one club during the 2018 AFL competition season (week
105 prior to round 1 to round 23, i.e. March to August). Informed consent and institutional ethics
106 approval were obtained (UTS HREC: ETH17-1942). Reliability and weekly variation testing
107 protocols were identical for all four tests. The number of subjects varied between measurement
108 tests and is reported in Table 2 and Table 3.

109

110 *Perceptual wellness*

111 Players completed a short questionnaire on a smartphone device before the main field training
112 session (7:00 to 9:00) prior to each competition match, prompting them to provide a rating
113 from 1 to 5 (1 representing a low or poor rating and 5 representing a high or good rating) in
114 relation to their perception of muscle soreness, sleep quality, fatigue level, stress and
115 motivation. The questionnaire used in this study was customised for the observation group
116 based on a common protocol used in previous research.²¹ Test-retest reliability was conducted
117 using an identical protocol on a main training day (96 h post-match in the final week of
118 competition), approximately 30 minutes after their initial completion of the questionnaire,
119 consciously avoiding recall of their previous responses. This method of reliability assessment
120 was based on previous research in elite athletes.²² All perceptual wellness responses were
121 reported relative to players' individual mean and standard deviation as a z-score.¹⁵

122

123 *Eccentric hamstring strength*

124 Eccentric hamstring strength was assessed once per week (72 hours post-match) in the
125 afternoon following the main skills training session of the week using a proprietary hamstring
126 strength testing system (Nordbord, Vald Performance, Albion, Australia). Players placed their
127 feet inside two hooks at the back of the Nordbord (superior to the lateral malleolus of each
128 ankle) and slowly moved their torso forward, with their bodyweight eliciting contraction of the
129 hamstring muscle group. Once in a near-flat prone position, players placed their hands in front
130 of themselves and gently fell toward the floor. Verbal cues were provided to prompt a 50%
131 warm up repetition (i.e. not maximal effort), followed by three maximum effort repetitions.
132 Test results were analysed by limb force in Newtons (left, right and average). This protocol
133 was based on a previous study using a customised apparatus,¹⁶ however no research has
134 established specific protocols for the system used in this study. Test-retest reliability was
135 conducted using an identical protocol in the afternoon of a typical training day, with maximal
136 tests separated by three minutes of static recovery.¹⁶

137

138 *CMJ performance*

139 CMJ performance was assessed once per week (96 hours post-match) during a strength training
140 session in the afternoon following the main skills session of the week during the competition
141 season. Players held a wooden rod (12 x 1200 mm) across their shoulders and were instructed
142 to choose a depth where they felt they could jump as high as possible. Verbal cues were
143 provided to prompt a 50% warm up repetition, followed by three maximum effort repetitions
144 from the same starting position. This protocol was based on previous research using similar
145 testing systems.^{23,24} Force and jump height were measured by a proprietary force plate system
146 (ForceDecks, Vald Performance, Albion, Australia) with a sampling rate of 1000 Hz. Test-
147 retest reliability was conducted using an identical protocol in the afternoon of a main training
148 day, with tests separated by five minutes of passive recovery.²³ Variables chosen for analysis

149 were based on previous studies in professional AF players²⁰ and collegiate athletes,²³ including
150 peak jump height, mean concentric force, reactive strength index, relative peak power and
151 relative peak force.

152

153 *Submaximal heart rate test*

154 Submaximal heart rate tests were conducted on eight occasions throughout the competition
155 season (48 hours post-match) as part of a warm up for the main skills session of the week.
156 Players were instructed to run back and forth on a grass-covered field over 80-m intervals for
157 five minutes at a submaximal speed ($12 \text{ km}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$) while wearing a heart rate monitor (Polar T31
158 Wireless Heart Rate Monitor, Polar Australia). Players were prompted by a beep at the end of
159 each running interval to ensure they maintained the correct running speed. Following the
160 exercise protocol, players were instructed to sit on the ground and remain still for 60 s. Heart
161 rate data was captured using 10 Hz Global Positioning System (GPS) units worn by each
162 individual player between their scapulae within a small pouch in their training jersey, and
163 downloaded using proprietary software (Openfield 1.20.0, Catapult Sports, Melbourne,
164 Australia) following each test. The average heart rate (beats per minute) of each player in the
165 final 30 seconds of the test period (HR_{ex}) and in the final 10 s of the 60 s recovery period
166 (HRR) were collected.¹⁷ Heart rate recovery was calculated by subtracting the average heart
167 rate (beats per minute) during the final 30 s of the heart rate test from the average heart rate
168 during the final 10 s of the 60 s rest period. Individual maximum heart rate values were derived
169 from maximal testing (2-km time trial) conducted during the preseason training period.²⁵ Test-
170 retest reliability was conducted using an identical protocol, with tests separated by a non-
171 training day (48 hours) during the preseason training period.

172

173 **Statistical analyses**

174 Data were exported from proprietary software and collated in a customised Microsoft Excel
175 spreadsheet (Microsoft, Redmond, USA). Test-retest reliability was assessed using customised
176 spreadsheets²⁶ to calculate the typical error, expressed as a coefficient of variation percentage
177 (CV%), and intraclass coefficient (ICC) for CMJ test, eccentric hamstring test and HRR test.
178 Perceived wellness reliability was calculated using the same spreadsheets to generate a TE
179 (typical error) value, as z-scores did not require log-transformation. Normality of wellness data
180 was confirmed via inspection of histograms. Typical weekly variation was assessed using the
181 same custom spreadsheets (CV%).²⁶ Weekly perceptual wellness was categorised by number
182 of hours post-match (48, 72 and 96 hours) as it was the only measure collected at multiple time
183 points within a training week. The SNRs for the four tests at each time point were calculated
184 by dividing weekly variation by the CV or TE established via test-retest reliability. Mean,
185 standard deviation and 90% confidence intervals were also calculated.¹² SNRs were assessed
186 as “poor” if <1.0, “acceptable” if 1.0-1.5, and “good” if >1.5, adapted from research in other
187 professional sports.^{22,27}

188

189 **Results**

190 Test-retest reliability results for perceptual wellness, eccentric hamstring strength, CMJ and
191 heart rate recovery are shown in Table 1. Weekly variation and SNRs are shown in Tables 2
192 and 3. All monitoring measures at all time points displayed acceptable to good SNRs. ICCs
193 ranged from 0.30 to 0.97 across all other measures.

194

195 ***Table 1 near here***

196 ***Table 2 near here***

197 ***Table 3 near here***

198

199 **Discussion**

200 The aim of this study was to establish the measurement reliability and sensitivity of common
201 monitoring tests in professional AF players. Our findings show that the heart rate recovery test,
202 CMJ test, eccentric hamstring strength test and perceptual wellness test all possess acceptable
203 sensitivity and therefore can confidently be used by coaches and scientists of professional AF
204 teams to identify meaningful changes in constructs of fitness and fatigue in their players.

205

206 The present results showed that all wellness measures displayed acceptable SNRs at 48, 72 and
207 96 hours post-match, with perceived stress displaying the greatest sensitivity (SNR: 1.3 to
208 11.1). Notably, perceived stress and perceived soreness were the only two elements to display
209 SNRs of >2.0 at any time point, suggesting that these are the most responsive to training
210 stressors of the five wellness elements examined in this study. Interestingly, perceived stress
211 displayed the equal-lowest SNR at 96 hours post-match, suggesting that factors affecting player
212 stress levels were most influential at 48 and 72 hours post-match, possibly related to the
213 previous week's match. Overall, SNRs for all wellness elements were lower (i.e. a weaker
214 signal) at 96 hours post-match than at earlier time-points, with perceived soreness the only
215 element to display a SNR of >1.5 , indicating that players had stable perceptions of stress,
216 motivation, sleep quality and fatigue within 96 hours post-match. This is in agreement with
217 previous research in professional rugby league that reported perceived fatigue, general
218 wellbeing and soreness to return to pre-game values within four days post-match.²¹ Other
219 research in professional AF also reported perceived fatigue, stiffness, sleep quality, stress and
220 general wellbeing to improve as gameday approached (i.e. as hours following the previous
221 match increased).⁸ Another notable finding of the current study was that perceived sleep
222 quality, motivation and fatigue displayed relatively low SNRs at all time points (SNR: 1.3 to
223 1.4). This suggests that players perceive changes in these elements as small throughout a typical
224 training week, therefore coaches and scientists should interpret changes in sleep quality,

225 motivation and fatigue with relative caution. Perceived sleep quality, fatigue and motivation
226 also displayed the highest typical error of the five elements examined in this study, indicating
227 poor reliability. Collectively, our findings suggest that perceived stress and soreness provide
228 the most useful information regarding a player's perceived readiness to train on the basis of
229 acceptable reliability and relatively good responsiveness to training stressors.

230

231 Submaximal heart rate tests are considered valid measurements of aerobic fitness in individual
232 and team sport athletes.^{28,29} We found the typical test error in HRex and HRR to be
233 considerably higher than those reported in previous research using similar protocols,¹⁷ with
234 disparities possibly due to subtle differences in test protocols, the smaller sample of players
235 and the different manufacturer of the heart rate monitors used in the present study. Moreover,
236 the previous study performed testing on an artificial turf surface indoors in contrast to our
237 testing being conducted outdoors, the latter being less of a controlled testing environment.
238 Additionally, different temperatures on testing days in the present study (20.0 degrees Celsius
239 and 25.5 degrees Celsius, respectively) may further explain the difference in findings.
240 Nonetheless, despite the relatively high typical error reported in our study, HRex and HRR
241 displayed acceptable SNRs, indicating that the test can identify changes that exceed the typical
242 error. Notably, HRex displayed greater sensitivity than HRR (5.3 compared to 1.4), therefore
243 we suggest using heart rate during submaximal exercise in preference to heart rate during
244 recovery as a training monitoring test in professional AF. Indeed, our study demonstrates that
245 this is a non-invasive test³⁰ and hence we recommend the inclusion of a submaximal heart rate
246 recovery test in monitoring systems of professional AF players.

247

248 The eccentric hamstring strength test in the present study demonstrated lower typical error
249 (CV%: 2.9 – 4.2%) compared to previous research in recreational athletes (CV%: 5.8 – 8.5)¹⁶
250 and professional footballers (CV%: 4.3 – 6.3).⁹ In contrast with the previous study, we assessed
251 reliability using highly-trained athletes who were very familiar with testing protocols. Notably,
252 left limb force production displayed a poorer reliability (CV%: 4.2) and subsequently a lower
253 SNR than right limb (CV%: 3.3) and average force (CV%: 2.9) respectively, which may be
254 due to the specific bilateral strength imbalances of the observation group. Our finding agrees
255 with a previous study in professional footballers that reported a lower test error for force values
256 collected from players' dominant leg (CV%: 4.3) compared to non-dominant leg (CV%: 5.4).
257 This supports monitoring of individual changes in dominant and non-dominant leg hamstring
258 strength in professional football. Collectively, our findings suggest that the test used in the
259 present study is a reliable and sensitive method to assess eccentric hamstring strength in
260 professional AF players throughout a competition season.

261

262 Previous research has assessed the reliability of the CMJ test²⁰ and relationships between CMJ
263 performance and external load¹⁸ in team sport athletes, no studies have determined the
264 sensitivity of this test in professional AF players. The present study examined reliability and
265 sensitivity of five CMJ variables, with concentric mean force (SNR: 2.3) and relative peak
266 force (SNR: 2.5) displaying the greatest capability to detect changes that exceed the typical test
267 error. Interestingly, these two variables also displayed similarly low typical test error (CV%:
268 2.1 and 2.6, respectively) to those reported previously,²⁰ suggesting they may be the most
269 responsive CMJ measures for coaches and scientists of professional AF teams to monitor.
270 However, previous research in collegiate athletes reported lower inter day CVs than those
271 reported in our study, with test CV% ranging from 2.7 – 4.3% in relative peak power, relative
272 peak force and relative mean force.²³ The differences in findings may be explained by the

273 design of the present study in measuring CMJ performance within a professional AF training
274 environment in contrast to reliability research conducted in a laboratory setting on three
275 occasions during a seven-day period used in previous research.²³ We also examined the
276 reliability and sensitivity of reactive strength index (RSI), which has been suggested as a
277 superior measure to jump height and other force and power variables in assessing the stretch-
278 shortening cycle of athletes and therefore their explosiveness when jumping.^{31,32} Research in
279 professional rugby league reported players with a greater RSI demonstrated superior force,
280 power and impulse during both the concentric and eccentric phases of a CMJ in comparison to
281 their lower RSI counterparts.³² We found RSI to have relatively low typical error (CV%: 7.0%)
282 and high sensitivity (SNR: 1.9), indicating it to be a useful global measure of CMJ performance
283 in professional AF players.

284

285 While the results of this study provide information on the reliability and sensitivity of common
286 measures for monitoring professional AF players, caution should be taken when generalising
287 these findings. The current study did not relate these monitoring data against outcome measures
288 (i.e. injury or performance), therefore further work is required to establish their efficacy as
289 monitoring tools. Additionally, while the wellness measures examined in this study are
290 commonly used and based on previous research, they have not been developed using accepted
291 psychometric validation approaches, therefore it is recommended that changes exceeding the
292 typical error in the measures reported in this study be interpreted alongside other monitoring
293 data. Further, a possible confounding factor on our results was the collection of test-retest data
294 obtained for eccentric hamstring strength and countermovement jump performance following
295 a field training session. While conducting these tests on a non-training day is preferable, our
296 methods reflect a typical training environment in professional AF football where eccentric

297 testing is not conducted prior to main skills training sessions, providing strong ecological
298 validity for our results.

299

300 **Conclusion**

301 The present study examined the reliability and sensitivity of commonly used monitoring tools
302 in professional AF. Our findings provide a framework for assessing sensitivity of monitoring
303 tests and can inform practitioners on meaningful changes in results of these tests. While we
304 classified tests with a SNR of 1.0 – 1.5 as acceptable, those that display a SNR of >1.5 will
305 provide practitioners with more useful information when assessing changes in constructs of
306 fitness and fatigue.

307

308 **Practical applications**

- 309 • Perceived wellness questionnaires, eccentric hamstring strength tests,
310 countermovement jump tests and submaximal heart rate recovery tests demonstrate
311 acceptable to good sensitivity.
- 312 • Monitoring perceived sleep quality, motivation and fatigue via wellness questionnaires
313 provides little insight into the fitness and fatigue status of professional AF players.
- 314 • SNR analysis is a novel method of assessing the capacity of a measure to detect changes
315 that exceed typical test error when monitoring professional AF players.

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Table 1: Test-retest reliability of heart rate recovery, perceptual wellness, countermovement jump and eccentric hamstring strength tests.

| <i>Monitoring measure</i> | Mean | SD | Subjects | CV/TE (90% CI) | ICC |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-------|----------|-------------------|------|
| <i>Heart Rate</i> | | | | | |
| HReX (bpm) | 88.8 | 5.3 | 16 | 1.2% (0.9, 1.7) | 0.95 |
| HRR (bpm) | 28.7 | 7.0 | 16 | 5.0% (3.9, 7.3) | 0.60 |
| <i>Perceptual Wellness</i> | | | | | |
| Perceived stress (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.1 | 14 | 0.07 (0.06, 0.11) | 0.45 |
| Perceived soreness (z-score) | 0.2 | 0.5 | 14 | 0.29 (0.22, 0.43) | 0.77 |
| Perceived motivation (z-score) | -0.1 | 1.0 | 14 | 0.60 (0.46, 0.89) | 0.72 |
| Perceived sleep quality (z-score) | -0.1 | 1.1 | 14 | 0.71 (0.54, 1.05) | 0.64 |
| Perceived fatigue (z-score) | 0.2 | 0.8 | 14 | 0.65 (0.50, 0.97) | 0.30 |
| <i>Countermovement Jump</i> | | | | | |
| Peak jump height (cm) | 38.2 | 5.2 | 18 | 3.9% (3.1, 5.5) | 0.93 |
| Mean concentric force (N) | 1792.9 | 195.4 | 18 | 2.1% (1.7, 3.0) | 0.97 |
| Reactive strength index (m/s) | 0.56 | 0.11 | 18 | 7.0% (5.4, 9.9) | 0.90 |
| Relative peak power (W/kg) | 54.1 | 5.4 | 18 | 3.5% (2.8, 5.0) | 0.89 |
| Relative peak force (N/kg) | 25.3 | 2.1 | 18 | 2.6% (2.0, 3.6) | 0.92 |
| <i>Eccentric Hamstring Strength</i> | | | | | |
| Left limb hamstring strength (N) | 391.4 | 63.4 | 18 | 4.2% (3.3, 5.9) | 0.89 |
| Right limb hamstring strength (N) | 401.1 | 67.5 | 18 | 3.3% (2.6, 4.7) | 0.87 |
| Average limb hamstring strength (N) | 396.4 | 63.9 | 18 | 2.9% (2.2, 4.0) | 0.92 |

HReX: exercise heart rate; HRR: heart rate recovery; bpm: heart beats per minute; cm: centimeters; N: Newtons; W/kg: watts per kilogram of body weight; N/kg: Newtons per kilogram of body weight; m/s: metres per second; SD: standard deviation; CV: coefficient variation percentage; CI: confidence interval; ICC: intraclass coefficient.

Table 2: Weekly variation and signal-to-noise ratio of heart rate recovery, countermovement jump and eccentric hamstring strength tests.

| <i>Monitoring measure</i> | Mean | SD | Subjects | CV (90% CI) | SNR | SNR Rating |
|---|--------|-------|----------|-------------------|-----|------------|
| <i>Heart Rate (n = 176)</i> | | | | | | |
| HRe _x (bpm) | 81.6 | 6.2 | 41 | 7.4 (6.5, 8.9) | 5.3 | Good |
| HRR (bpm) | 35.4 | 10.6 | 41 | 23.9 (16.2, 28.6) | 1.4 | Acceptable |
| <i>Countermovement Jump (n = 206)</i> | | | | | | |
| Peak jump height (cm) | 38.0 | 4.4 | 35 | 5.9 (5.4, 6.6) | 1.5 | Acceptable |
| Mean concentric force (N) | 1806.4 | 225.8 | 35 | 4.9 (4.5, 5.5) | 2.3 | Good |
| Reactive strength index (m/s) | 0.50 | 0.10 | 35 | 13.5 (12.2, 15.2) | 1.9 | Good |
| Relative peak power (W/kg) | 53.7 | 5.1 | 35 | 5.4 (4.9, 6.1) | 1.5 | Good |
| Relative peak force (N/kg) | 25.3 | 2.5 | 35 | 6.4 (5.8, 7.2) | 2.5 | Good |
| <i>Eccentric Hamstring Strength (n = 543)</i> | | | | | | |
| Left limb hamstring strength (N) | 378.2 | 78.1 | 39 | 8.4 (7.9, 8.9) | 2.0 | Good |
| Right limb hamstring strength (N) | 387.1 | 74.6 | 39 | 7.9 (7.4, 8.4) | 2.4 | Good |
| Average limb hamstring strength (N) | 382.6 | 74.0 | 39 | 7.0 (6.6, 7.4) | 2.4 | Good |

SNR: signal-to-noise ratio; HRe_x: exercise heart rate; HRR: heart rate recovery; bpm: heart beats per minute; cm: centimeters; N: Newtons; W/kg: watts per kilogram of body weight; N/kg: Newtons per kilogram of body weight; m/s: metres per second; SD: standard deviation; CV: coefficient variation percentage; CI: confidence interval.

Table 3: Weekly variation and signal-to-noise ratio of perceptual wellness measures at 48, 72 and 96 hours post-match.

| <i>Monitoring measure</i> | Mean | SD | Subjects | TE (90% CI) | SNR | SNR Rating |
|--------------------------------------|------|-----|----------|-------------------|------|------------|
| <i>48 hours post-match (n = 576)</i> | | | | | | |
| Perceived stress (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.7 | 42 | 0.78 (0.73, 0.83) | 11.1 | Good |
| Perceived soreness (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.9 | 42 | 0.94 (0.88, 1.03) | 3.2 | Good |
| Perceived motivation (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.8 | 42 | 0.78 (0.73, 0.83) | 1.3 | Acceptable |
| Perceived sleep quality (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.9 | 42 | 0.92 (0.87, 0.97) | 1.3 | Acceptable |
| Perceived fatigue (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.9 | 42 | 0.91 (0.87, 0.97) | 1.4 | Acceptable |
| <i>72 hours post-match (n = 511)</i> | | | | | | |
| Perceived stress (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.7 | 42 | 0.72 (0.68, 0.78) | 10.2 | Good |
| Perceived soreness (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.9 | 42 | 0.91 (0.86, 0.98) | 3.1 | Good |
| Perceived motivation (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.9 | 42 | 0.85 (0.80, 0.91) | 1.4 | Acceptable |
| Perceived sleep quality (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.9 | 42 | 0.92 (0.87, 0.98) | 1.3 | Acceptable |
| Perceived fatigue (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.9 | 42 | 0.92 (0.87, 0.98) | 1.4 | Acceptable |
| <i>96 hours post-match (n = 431)</i> | | | | | | |
| Perceived stress (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.1 | 42 | 0.09 (0.09, 0.10) | 1.3 | Acceptable |
| Perceived soreness (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.8 | 42 | 0.86 (0.81, 0.93) | 2.9 | Good |
| Perceived motivation (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.7 | 42 | 0.76 (0.71, 0.93) | 1.3 | Acceptable |
| Perceived sleep quality (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.9 | 42 | 0.89 (0.83, 0.95) | 1.3 | Acceptable |
| Perceived fatigue (z-score) | 0.0 | 0.9 | 42 | 0.95 (0.89, 1.02) | 1.5 | Good |

SNR: signal-to-noise ratio; SD: standard deviation; TE: typical error; CI: confidence interval.