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The impact of exercise-induced muscle damage on physical fitness qualities in elite female basketball players

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8 Abstract

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3 9 The purpose of this study was two-fold. First, to examine the impact exercise-induced muscle
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5 10 damage (EIMD) on physical fitness qualities following a basketball-specific training session.
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8 11 Secondly, to determine the reproducibility of the sport-specific performance measures in elite
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10 12 female basketball players. Ten elite female basketball players (age 25.6 ± 4.5 years; height
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12 13 1.8 ± 0.7 m; body mass 76.7 ± 8.3 kg) undertook a 90-minute training session involving
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15 14 repeated jumping, sprinting and game-simulated training. Indirect muscle damage markers
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17 15 (i.e., countermovement jump [CMJ], delayed-onset of muscle soreness [DOMS] and creatine
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19 16 kinase [CK]) and sport-specific performances (i.e., change of direction [COD] and suicide
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21 17 test [ST]) were measured prior to and 24 hours post training. These measures were also
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23 18 collected one week following training to determine the reproducibility of the basketball-
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25 19 specific performance measures. A significant reduction in lower-body power ($-3.5 \pm 3.6\%$;
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27 20 $P < 0.05$), whilst a significant increase in DOMS ($46.7 \pm 26.3\%$; $P < 0.05$) and CK ($57.6 \pm 23.1\%$;
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29 21 $P < 0.05$) was observed 24 hours post exercise. The ST was also significantly increased
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31 22 ($2.1 \pm 1.8\%$; $P < 0.05$), although no difference was observed for COD ($0.1 \pm 2.0\%$; $P > 0.05$). The
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33 23 intra-class correlation coefficient and coefficient of variation for the COD and ST were 0.81
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35 24 and 0.90, respectively, and 1.9% and 1.5%, respectively. In conclusion, appropriate recovery
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37 25 should be considered the day following basketball-specific training sessions in elite
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39 26 basketball players. Furthermore, this study showed the usability of performance measures to
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41 27 detect changes during periods of EIMD, with acceptable reproducibility and minimal
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43 28 measurement error.
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29 Introduction

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3 30 Basketball is a team sport, demanding players to be agile while performing strenuous actions
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5 31 interspersed with active and passive recoveries (36, 37). For example, match intensity can
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8 32 reach up to 95% of maximum heart rate value, with players covering over 3% of the total
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10 33 running distance above $18\text{km}\cdot\text{hr}^{-1}$ (30). Furthermore, players undergo quick transitions
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12 34 between offensive and defensive plays, with 576 transitions recorded during a full match (4).
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15 35 Accordingly, players are expected to train at a level equivalent to, or above, the physiological
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17 36 demands required during game-play. However, the typical movement patterns seen in game-
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20 37 play, such as jumping and repeated sprint efforts, are known to cause exercise-induced
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22 38 muscle damage (EIMD) due to a combination of eccentric and concentric muscle actions at a
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25 39 high intensity (13).

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28 40 EIMD is typically accompanied by marked attenuation in muscular performance, delayed-
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30 41 onset of muscle soreness (DOMS), reduced range-of-motion and impaired kinaesthetic
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32 42 awareness due to the mechanical stress imposed on the muscle fibers and disturbances of
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35 43 calcium homeostasis (1, 14, 29, 32). Collectively, basketball-specific performances may
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37 44 deteriorate during periods of EIMD, impair training quality and ultimately compromise
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40 45 chronic training adaptation or increase risk of overtraining (8). Indeed, a number of studies
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42 46 have reported symptoms of EIMD via increased indirect muscle damage markers (i.e.,
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45 47 vertical jump, DOMS and creatine kinase [CK]) for up to 48 hours following a basketball
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48 48 match in elite male (3, 35), elite female (23) and collegiate male (16) basketball players.
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51 49 Additionally, Chatzinikolaou and colleagues (2014) reported attenuated sprint, agility, and
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53 50 vertical jump performance for up to 72 hours after basketball match play in elite male
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55 51 basketball players. Conversely, Moreira et al. (2014) showed no changes in sprint and agility
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57 52 performance despite presence of EIMD 24-48 hours following a basketball match in elite
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60 53 female basketball players. These discrepancies may be due to differences in exposure to

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eccentric loading, given that exercise intensity during a basketball match is distinct between playing level and gender (24, 33). Nonetheless, the physiological stress during a full basketball match appears sufficient to cause EIMD even in highly trained basketball players. Whilst these findings highlight the need to provide sufficient recovery following a full basketball match, it is uncertain whether a basketball-simulated training session causes EIMD. Kostopoulos and colleagues (19) showed that a 10-minute basketball-simulated training session increased CK and impaired leg strength and knee range-of-motion for up to 96 hours post exercise. However, inferring the implications of these findings specifically to basketball is difficult given that basketball-specific measures were not included (e.g., sprint and change of direction and vertical jump performance), the training session was substantially shorter than that typically prescribed for elite basketball players (5) and the participants were recreational male basketball players. Given that some symptoms of EIMD (such as CK) are distinct between genders (17) and are considerably less in highly trained athletes compared to their lesser trained counterparts (39), the acute responses of a basketball-specific training session may differ in elite female basketball players.

Another consideration when monitoring the acute effect of a basketball-specific training session is whether the performance indicators are ecologically valid and repeatable. Chatzinikolaou et al. (2014) and Moreira et al. (2014) examined agility performance during periods of EIMD in elite basketball players using a ‘T-test’, which whilst versatile and repeatable (25), is not assigned to a particular area of a basketball court and is limited to forward, lateral and backward movements. Alternatively, Pyne and colleagues (31) developed a more basketball-specific agility test, which assess the body’s ability to turn and is conducted in an area underneath the basket (a 5 x 7.6m area known as the ‘paint’). This protocol is highly applicable for basketball players given that the capability to turn the body by pivoting the foot is essential (38) and a large period of the basketball match is spent in the

79 'paint' shooting and contesting the ball (31). Another protocol specific to basketball is the
80 'suicide' (also known as the 'line drill'), which has been used to identify physiological
81 attributes of basketball players (6). However, no studies have examined the reliability of this
82 protocol nor examined the sensitivity of changes during periods of EIMD.

83 The aim of this study was two-fold; firstly, to determine whether a basketball-specific
84 training session causes EIMD in elite female basketball players on **performance tests**.
85 Secondly, to examine the reliability of these performance measures (i.e., basketball-specific
86 agility test and 'suicide' test) that have been specifically developed for basketball players.

87

88 **Methods**

89 *Experimental Approach to the Problem*

90 This study was conducted during the first two weeks of a professional basketball pre-season
91 period, with the physiological tests being conducted on three separate days. During the first
92 week, the participants undertook their first testing session for baseline measures (T_{Base})
93 involving assessments of indirect muscle damage markers, countermovement jump (CMJ),
94 body mass and basketball-specific performance tests. Immediately following the testing
95 session, a typical basketball-specific training session was conducted. The testing session was
96 repeated 24 hours (T_{24}) following the training session to measure its impact of EIMD on
97 basketball-specific performance measures. One week later, the testing session was repeated
98 (T_{7d}) to determine the reliability of the basketball-specific performance measures. Indirect
99 muscle damage markers were also collected during this testing session to determine whether
100 the athletes were being tested under the same physiological condition for reliability purposes.

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102 *Participants*

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3 103 Ten elite female basketball players (age 17-32 years; height $1.79 \pm 0.7\text{m}$; body mass $76.7 \pm$
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5 104 8.3kg) who competed in the Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) during the 2016-
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8 105 2017 season volunteered for this study. The WNBL is a professional, Australian competition
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10 106 that consists of a 16-week regular season and 3-week post-season. All players had been
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13 107 regularly participating in competitive basketball matches during the off-season. To minimize
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15 108 the impact of biological variations, each testing session was conducted at the same time of
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18 109 day, having participants wear the same shoes for every training and testing session and
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20 110 refraining from the following activities: high-intensity exercise for at least 72 hours prior to
21
22 111 T_{Base} and $T_{7\text{d}}$, caffeine and food intake for at least 2 hours prior to each testing session, taking
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25 112 supplements and medication (e.g., anti-inflammatory aids) and recovery sessions in-between
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27 113 the testing sessions. The participants were informed of the risks involved in the study and
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29
30 114 then provided written informed consent prior to taking part in the study. The current study
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32 115 was approved by the Institutional Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) and that all
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35 116 participants were informed of the benefits and risks of the investigation prior to signing an
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37 117 institutionally approved informed consent document to participate in the study. This approval
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40 118 covered elite youth athletes providing consent when operating in an adult setting and
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42 119 approved by the local HREC in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research
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44 120 Council national statement. According to an a priori sample size calculation based on
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47 121 previous studies examining indirect muscle damage markers (Doma et al., 2014; Doma et al.,
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49 122 2015), a sample size of 10 participants was sufficient to detect a significant change in
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52 123 variables (>80% of power at an alpha level of 0.05).

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58 125 *Basketball-specific training session*

126 The team head coach designed and conducted a high intensity training session (85 minutes)
127 typically implemented for elite, female, basketball players. As part of the training session, a
128 progressive warm-up was undertaken for 15 minutes consisting of dynamic stretches (i.e.,
129 jogging around the court, leg swings in frontal and sagittal planes, body weight walking
130 lunges, high knees, butt kicks and progressive full-court sprints) followed by shooting from
131 the free throw line and three point line (5-10 shots). For the next 30 minutes, participants
132 undertook structured maximal effort sprint-based activities including dribbling, passing and
133 shooting. For example, participants sprinted full court in pairs whilst passing the ball to each
134 other and ending in a shot at the other end of the court. After 5 minutes of recovery, the
135 participants then undertook an intense, full-court, scrimmage session replicating match play
136 that consisted of three, 6-8 minute periods separated by ~5 minutes of rest. To determine the
137 physiological stress induced by the basketball-specific training session, a blood samples were
138 collected prior to and immediately post via finger prick to analyze lactate (Lactate Pro 2,
139 Arkray, Japan, Tokyo).

140

141 *Indirect muscle damage markers*

142 The countermovement jump (CMJ) was conducted to gain insight of the player's
143 neuromuscular properties during periods of EIMD. Three maximal jump attempts were
144 recorded with 15-30 seconds of rest between each attempt (Yard Stick, Swift Performance,
145 Queensland, Australia), and the greatest jump height subsequently reported. To ensure
146 stability across conditions, the participants were instructed to use their arms to gain
147 momentum, maintain proper posture and body alignment throughout the movement with a
148 self-selected depth, avoid excessive swaying and ensuring that their heels were in contact

149 with the floor during the eccentric movement prior to take-off (2). Based on these jump
1 height measures, lower extremity power was calculated using the following equation (12):

$$151 \quad \text{Power (W)} = \sqrt{4.9} \times \text{body mass (kg)} \times \sqrt{\text{jump(m)}} \times 9.81$$

152 From the CMJ test, jump height and lower body power output measures were reported. The
153 participant's level of delayed onset of muscle soreness (DOMS) was determined using a
154 visual analogue scale with 1 defined as "no soreness" and 10 as "very, very sore" (11). The
155 general DOMS (G-DOMS) score was ascertained by asking participants how sore their
156 muscles were overall whilst DOMS of their lower extremity (L-DOMS) was assessed through
157 questioning after they completed a body weight squat until their knees were flexed to
158 approximately 90°. Creatine kinase (CK) levels were measured from a 30-µL fingertip,
159 capillary blood sample using a colorimetric assay procedure (Reflotron, Boehringer
160 Mannheim, Germany). The CK measures were reported from one serum blood sample which
161 was immediately pipetted to a test strip. The previously reported intra-assay coefficient of
162 variation for this assay procedure using the same equipment was 7.2% (10).

164 *Basketball-specific performance tests*

165 Performance assessments previously developed for basketball players were examined in the
166 current study and included a change-of-direction (COD) test and a line drill or suicide test
167 (ST) (31). For the COD test, the participants ran in a zigzag fashion around the cones within a
168 5 x 7.6m area of the basketball court at maximal effort (Figure 1). Timing gates (Swift
169 performance, Queensland, Australia) were positioned at the starting/finishing line to record
170 test duration. The participants completed the COD test three times at a sub-maximal effort
171 with gradual increases in intensity for each bout for familiarization purposes. Following the
172 familiarization bouts, time of test completion was recorded for three maximal attempts with

173 two minutes of rest between each attempt and the best time reported. The COD test was
174 developed as a basketball specific test that was performed in the restricted area of the
175 basketball court underneath the basket (31). Basketball players were familiar with this type of
176 movement and location due to the game rules that imposed a timing restriction within this
177 area and the game activities typically undertaken in this area (e.g. receive, shoot and contest
178 the ball on missed shots). For ST (31), participants sprinted back and forth between the
179 baseline, and the closest free-throw line, half court, furthest free-throw line and full court
180 line, respectively. Similar to the agility test, timing gates were positioned at the start/finish
181 line to record test duration and the participants performed the test once at sub-maximal effort
182 for familiarization. As participants were very familiar with this test, due to their prior training
183 experience, participants completed only one trial of ST with maximal effort.

184 ***Figure 1 around here***

186 *Statistical analyses*

187 The measure of central tendency and dispersion was reported as mean±standard deviation. A
188 one-way repeated measures analysis of variance (ANOVA) with Bonferroni's pairwise
189 comparisons was used to identify differences in variables between testing sessions (i.e., T_{Base}
190 vs. T₂₄ ; T_{Base} vs. T_{7d}). Effect sizes (Cohen's *d*) were calculated to determine the magnitude of
191 differences between measures with their associated 95% confidence intervals (CI). The
192 interpretation of ES was as follows: ≥0.8 as large, 0.79-0.5 as moderate and <0.5 as small
193 (Cohen, 1988). The repeatability and degree of measurement error of the physical
194 performance measures were examined using intra-class correlation coefficients (ICC; 2-way
195 analysis of variance) and intra-individual CV with associated 95% CI, respectively.
196 Following confirmation of homoscedasticity, the systematic bias and 95% limits of

197 agreement (LOA) were also calculated to explore the random error of the physical
198 performance measures. The worthwhile differences for the physical performance measures
199 were also computed based on a nomogram using the estimation of the measurement
200 repeatability error in accordance with the CV (26). Worthwhile differences for the current
201 sample size ($n = 10$) was determined using the linear regression equation: $y = 1.5182x +$
202 0.2382 (9). All analyses were conducted using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences
203 (SPSS, version 24).

205 Results

206 Training-induced stress

207 The lactate values were significantly increased ($t_{(9)} = -3.903$, $p = 0.004$; ES = 3.24 [2.11-
208 4.36]) from prior to (1.7 ± 0.7 mmol·L⁻¹) to immediately post (7.2 ± 4.3 mmol·L⁻¹) the training
209 session. Significant differences between testing sessions were identified for CK ($F_{(2, 18)}$
210 $= 17.07$, $p < 0.01$), G-DOMS ($F_{(2, 18)} = 12.85$, $p < 0.01$), L-DOMS ($F_{(2, 18)} = 14.93$, $p < 0.01$),
211 power output ($F_{(2, 18)} = 4.69$, $p = 0.023$) and ST ($F_{(2, 18)} = 8.31$, $p < 0.01$). Post hoc analyses
212 showed that power output was significantly lower ($P = 0.038$) while G-DOMS ($P < 0.01$), L-
213 DOMS ($P = 0.011$), CK ($P < 0.01$) and ST performance ($P = 0.017$) were significantly greater
214 ($P < 0.05$) at T₂₄ compared to T_{Base} with all comparisons exhibiting moderate to large ES
215 (Table 1). Jump height was similar across all testing sessions ($F_{(2, 18)} = 2.90$, $p = 0.08$) with a
216 moderate ES noted between T₂₄ and T_{Base} values (Table 1). There was no significant
217 difference ($F_{(2, 18)} = 0.067$, $p = 0.935$) in COD performance between T_{Base} and T₂₄ with a
218 small ES (Table 1).

219 ***Table 1 around here***

221 Reliability

222 When measures were compared between T_{Base} and T_{7d}, no significant differences were found
223 for the physical performance measures (power output (P = 0.264), jump height (P = 0.412),
224 COD (P = 1.000) and ST (P = 0.089)) and indirect muscle damage markers (CK (P = 1.000),
225 G-DOMS (P = 1.000), L-DOMS (P = 0.159) with small to moderate ES (Table 2). The
226 repeatability of the physical performance measures based on ICC, mean difference (%),
227 systematic bias, LOA, CV and WD ranged from 0.81-0.95, 0.4%-3.5% 0.03-0.6, 0.4-3.8, 1.5-
228 4.1% and 2.7-6.6%, respectively (Table 2). The Bland Altman plots for jump height, lower
229 body power, COD test and ST test are shown in Figure 2.

230 ***Table 2 around here***

231 ***Figure 2 around here***

232
233 **Discussion**

234 The current study examined the impact of EIMD on basketball-specific performance
235 measures and the reliability of these measures. The training session, which consisted of
236 multiple sprints and jumping exercises, caused EIMD 24 hours post with impairment in
237 jumping ability (i.e., power) and repeated-sprint performance (i.e., ST) although COD
238 performance was not affected. When comparing measures between T_{Base} and T_{7d}, no
239 differences were found for CMJ, power, COD and ST with good to excellent reliability.

240 The acute responses of basketball-specific training showed that CK, G-DOMS and L-DOMS
241 were significantly increased with a concomitant reduction in jump height and power output at
242 T₂₄, suggesting that muscle fiber damage occurred as a result of the training session. These
243 findings were expected, given that basketball-simulated training involves heavy eccentric

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244 loading via deceleration during sprints and jumping actions which causes EIMD (19). The
245 magnitude of changes in CK (i.e., ~2-fold increase) and DOMS (~3-fold increase) and CMJ
246 (i.e., ~6% reduction) in the current study are in line with previous findings 24 hours
247 following a basketball match in elite female (23) basketball players. Similar findings have
248 also been reported 24 hours following a basketball match in elite male (3, 16, 35) basketball
249 players. However, comparisons in these measures should be considered with caution given
250 that gender differences in CK and muscle function have been shown previously (17, 21).
251 Based on the similarity in training background of participants and the degree of indirect
252 muscle damage markers reported from our findings and that by Moreira et al. (2014), it is
253 reasonable to assume that the physiological stress induced by the basketball-specific training
254 session in the current study replicated a basketball match.

255 Interestingly, Kostopoulos and colleagues (2004) reported a four-fold greater CK level and
256 DOMS 24 hours following a 10-min basketball-simulated training session. However, the
257 participants in their study were recreational athletes that were not regularly exposed to
258 basketball-specific activities. This protection against muscle fiber damage following multiple
259 bouts of exercise with eccentric-loading is known as the repeated bout effect (27) and
260 highlights the importance of accounting for training background and previous training
261 experience when monitoring athletes following high intensity training sessions (11). It is also
262 important to note that the training intensity and volume were not controlled or documented in
263 the current study with the scrimmage during the latter half of the training session potentially
264 resulting in inter-individual variation in training volume. However, the training session was
265 structured to ensure that all participants undertook the same type and number of exercises
266 during the first 30 minutes prior to the scrimmage irrespective of playing position. This
267 approach of incorporating conditioning exercises followed by a scrimmage allows for better

268 monitoring of training volume and is distinct to previous studies that have examined the

269 impact of EIMD following basketball matches only (3, 23).

270 Whilst indirect muscle damage markers were significantly altered 24 hours following the

271 basketball-specific training session, no changes were found in COD performance. These

272 results are similar to that reported by Moreira et al (2014), where agility/COD performance

273 was unaltered 24 hours following a basketball match in elite female basketball players despite

274 changes in indirect muscle damage markers (i.e., CK, DOMS and CMJ). Interestingly,

275 Chatzinikolaou and colleagues (2014) reported attenuation in agility/COD performance with

276 a concomitant increase in indirect muscle damage markers 24 hours post a basketball match.

277 The discrepancies in these findings may be attributed to the differences in the match playing

278 time of each participant. For example, the participants in the study by Moreira et al (2014)

279 were allowed substitutions during the 40-minute basketball match with an average playing

280 time of 18 minutes. Whilst participants in the current study were not given substitution

281 allowance during their scrimmage, the duration and the number of sets played were

282 substantially less compared to a typical game. Conversely, Chatzinikolaou and colleagues

283 (2014) had each participant play through the entire 40-minute basketball match. Accordingly,

284 the greater level of playing time, and therefore eccentric-loading exposure, may have induced

285 agility/COD performance changes amongst participants in the study by Chatzinikolaou et al.

286 (2014).

287 In contrast to COD performance, the current study showed that the ST performance was

288 impaired. Given that this is the first study to report on changes in ST performance in response

289 to EIMD, comparing these findings to previous studies was difficult at present.

290 Chatzinikolaou et al. (2014) and Pliuga et al. (2015) reported significant increases in 10-

291 meter sprint times 24 hours following a basketball match in elite male basketball players,

292 suggesting that sprint-ability is impaired as a result of EIMD in such athletes, although

293 repeated-sprint ability cannot be inferred from their findings. Other studies have shown
294 impaired repeated-sprint ability in competitive male soccer players (18, 22), although these
295 results are not directly comparable to the current findings due to differences in the repeated-
296 sprint protocol, athlete-type and gender. Nonetheless, the attenuation in ST performance in
297 the current study provides insight on the impact that EIMD has on repeated sprint
298 performance in basketball players. However, given that every effort was made to equate
299 training volume during the first half of the training session, more research is necessary to
300 confirm whether EIMD is caused by exercise intensity, training volume or by both training
301 variables. In addition, given that performance measures were collected in a highly controlled
302 environment, as opposed to match-situations with unpredictable constraints, further research
303 is needed to confirm whether basketball-specific training sessions cause attenuation in
304 performance during game-play and whether EIMD remains elevated beyond 24 hours
305 following a basketball-specific training session.

306 The high level of reliability and minimal measurement error for the CMJ and lower body
307 power output measures reported in the current study are in line with previous studies amongst
308 elite basketball players (7, 20). For the COD test, results showed an ICC of 0.81 and a CV of
309 1.9%, indicating good reliability with minimal measurement error. Furthermore, the
310 systematic bias of the COD test was minor (0.03s) with the LOA being 0.42s and 95% of all
311 between-trial differences within 0.21s of the bias. Recent studies have also shown good
312 reliability measures in COD performance based on ICC calculations in elite senior male (34)
313 and junior male (40) basketball players. Given the similar reliability measures in the current
314 study and that reported by others (34, 40), it appears that the COD performance of both elite
315 female and male basketball players are highly stable across testing conditions.

316 For the ST test, no significant differences were observed between T_{Base} and T_{7d} . Furthermore,
317 the ICC and CV were 0.90 and 1.5%, respectively, demonstrating excellent reliability. In

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318 addition, the systematic bias of this test was minimal (-0.6s) with the LOA being 1.27s and
319 95% of all between-trial differences within 0.6s of the bias. Studies have previously reported
320 good to excellent reliability using ICC calculations for physical assessments involving
321 multiple repeated sprints in basketball players (28, 40). However, the repeated sprint
322 protocols have typically consisted of identical sprint distances, passive recoveries in-between
323 each sprint and sprint durations of only 4-6s (28, 40). Contrarily, the ST is a continuous
324 protocol for ~30s without recovery and the distance of each sprint increases following each
325 directional change. Subsequently, the ST places more demand on the anaerobic glycolytic
326 system as opposed to the anaerobic system utilized during the shorter sprint performance
327 protocols (15). Whilst short repeated sprints are important performance indicators in
328 basketball (Kostopoulos et al., 2004), situations of having to repeatedly sprint back and forth
329 across the full length of the court without recovery (i.e., ST performance) is common during
330 a basketball game (Scanlan et al., 2014). Thus, the current findings provide insight on the
331 usability of ST to determine performances within basketball-specific constraints and
332 physiological demands.

334 **Practical applications**

335 EIMD was associated with attenuation in vertical jump ability and repeated sprint
336 performance although COD performance was unaffected. Accordingly, trainings sessions
337 consisting of basketball-specific conditioning exercises and scrimmage should be considered
338 with caution if incorporated 24 hours prior to an important basketball match or training
339 session involving repeated high intensity exercises. For the reliability measures, CMJ, power
340 output, COD test and ST were repeatable indicating the usability of these protocols for

341 monitoring fatigue and/or improvement as a result of training adaptation in elite female

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342 basketball players.

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344 **Figure captions**

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346 **Figure 1.** The schematic of dimensions for the change-of-direction test

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348 **Figure 2.** Bland and Altman plots of the differences between baseline and the testing session

349 one week later for jump height (JH; a), lower body power output (Power; b), chance of

350 direction test (COD; c) and suicide test (ST; d)

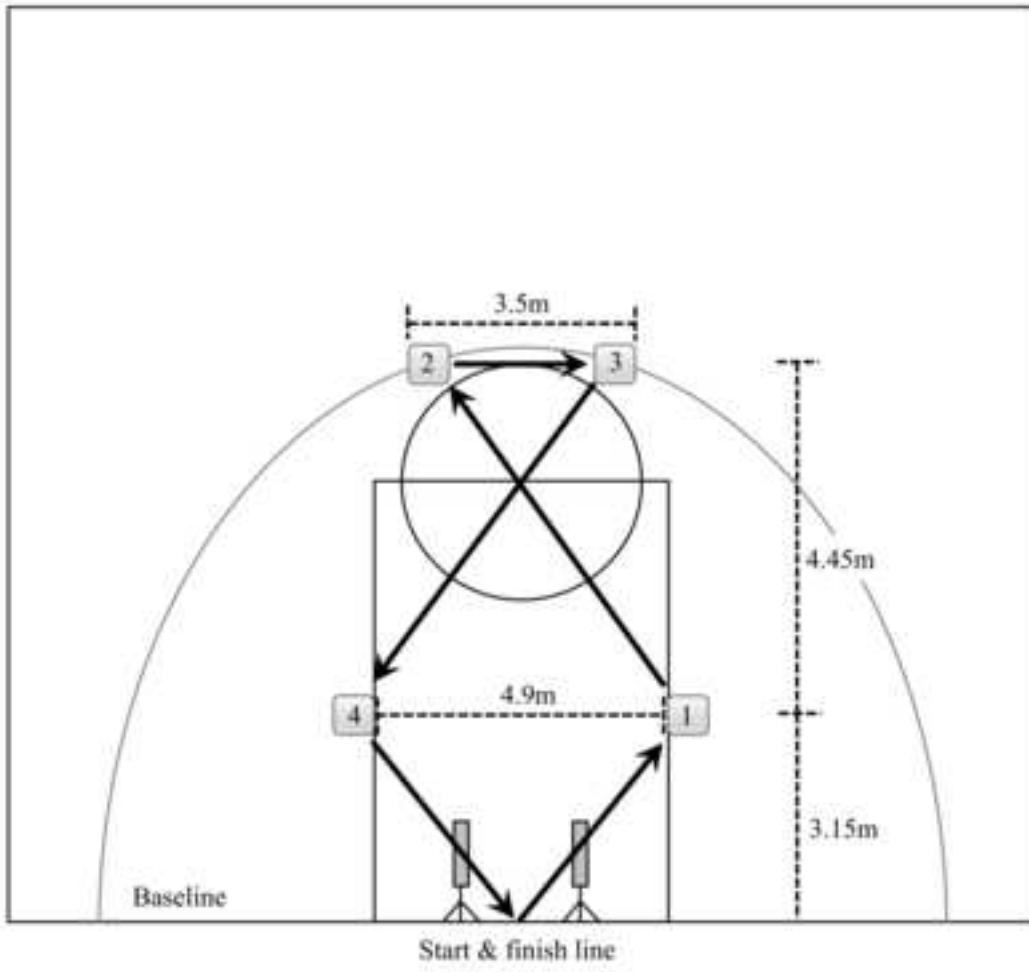
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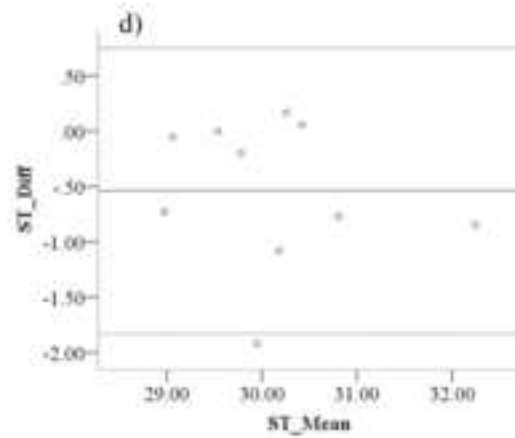
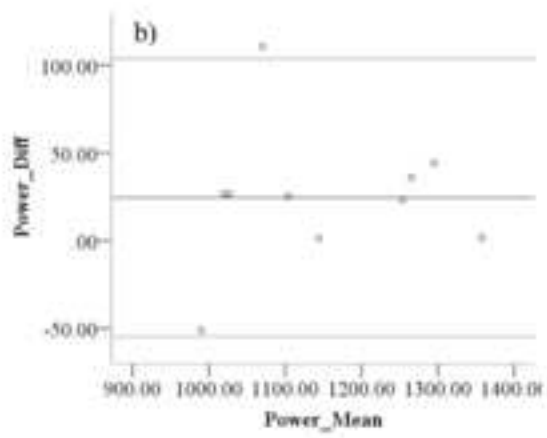
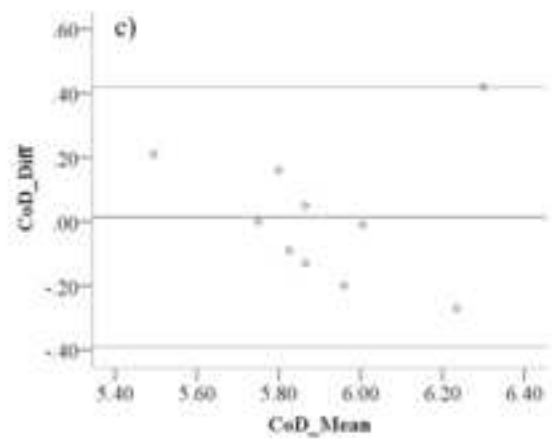
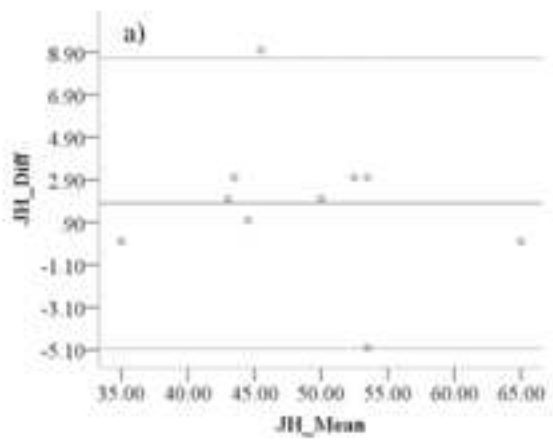


Table 1. Measures of jump height, lower body power (Power), general (G-DOMS) and lower body (L-DOMS) muscle soreness, creatine kinase (CK), change-of-direction (COD) and suicide test (ST) prior to the first (T_{Base}), second (T_{24}) and third (T_{7d}) training sessions.

	T_{Base}	T_{24}	T_{7d}	ES (95%CI)	
				T_{Base} vs. T_{24}	T_{Base} vs. T_{7d}
Jump height (m)	0.50 ± 0.08	0.47 ± 0.07	0.48 ± 0.09	0.58 [0.27-0.89]	0.39 [0.02-0.77]
Power (W)	1164 ± 134.3	$1122.2 \pm 113.5^*$	1140.4 ± 130.9	0.43 [0.25-0.61]	0.26 [0.02-0.50]
G-DOMS	2.7 ± 1.1	$5.6 \pm 1.5^*$	3.1 ± 1.2	1.65 [0.64-2.67]	0.11 [-1.42-1.20]
L-DOMS	2.1 ± 1.0	$4.2 \pm 1.6^*$	2.9 ± 1.1	1.31 [0.34-2.28]	0.68 [-0.50-1.85]
CK ($U \cdot L^{-1}$)	145.9 ± 103.7	$318.5 \pm 102.3^*$	147.2 ± 67.6	1.04 [0.50-1.55]	0.07 [-0.68-0.82]
COD (s)	5.92 ± 0.25	5.9 ± 0.2	5.9 ± 0.3	0.02 [-0.44-0.39]	0.14 [-0.77-0.50]
ST (s)	29.9 ± 0.9	$30.5 \pm 1.2^*$	30.4 ± 1.1	0.84 [0.28-1.39]	0.78 [-0.03-1.58]

* $P < 0.05$ vs T_{Base} ; ES – effect size; CI – confidence interval.

Table 2. Measures of mean differences (Diff), intra-class correlation coefficient (ICC), average bias (Bias), 95% limits of agreement (LOA), intra-individual coefficient of variation (CV) and worthwhile difference (WD) for countermovement jump (CMJ), lower body power (Power), change-of-direction (COD) test and suicide test (ST)

	CMJ (cm)	Power (W)	COD (s)	ST (s)
Diff (%)	3.5	1.9	0.4	2.0
ICC	0.95 (0.79-0.99)	0.97 (0.88-0.99)	0.81 (0.14-0.96)	0.90 (0.54-0.98)
Bias	0.43	5.72	0.03	-0.6
LOA	3.8	44.54	0.42	1.27
CV (%)	4.1 (0.8-7.4)	2.2 (0.5-2.9)	1.9 (0.7-3.1)	1.5% (0.3-2.6)
WD (%)	6.5	3.6	3.2	2.5