






Examining the Relationship Between Mental Toughness and Anxiety Levels of Professional Volleyball Players

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R e v i e w e r s

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The text would benefit from distinguishing between state anxiety and trait anxiety. Clarify whether the study examines competition-specific anxiety or general anxiety tendencies in athletes.

While the importance of mental toughness is emphasized, the paragraph lacks theoretical grounding. Consider integrating theoretical frameworks such as Bandura's self-efficacy theory or Clough's 4Cs model of mental toughness.

It would strengthen the methodology if the recruitment process was described in more detail: Were these players recruited from specific clubs? Was convenience sampling used?

Although skewness and kurtosis were checked, no mention is made of graphical methods (e.g., histograms, Q-Q plots) or statistical tests (e.g., Shapiro-Wilk). Consider elaborating on this to improve transparency.

This value is very close to the upper bound of acceptability. Please justify your decision to assume normality more explicitly, possibly citing alternative sources if using ± 3.5 as a threshold.

The difference in total anxiety score ($p = 0.08$) is described as "significant" in the abstract, yet the p-value exceeds 0.05. Ensure consistency between the abstract and results interpretation.

In the abstract, league differences are reported as significant. However, no significant p-values are shown in Table 6. Please reconcile these contradictions to maintain scientific accuracy.

The "Difference" column in the table is empty for Mental Toughness Inventory, but the narrative describes specific post-hoc findings. Please either include those post-hoc groupings in the table or remove the detailed post-hoc narrative if unsupported.

The paper would benefit from deeper analysis of the regional differences found. Consider integrating theories of sociocultural or environmental stress that may explain why cities like Elâzığ show higher anxiety levels.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The research question or hypotheses are not explicitly stated. Please provide clearly articulated hypotheses or research aims to guide the reader through your analytical approach.

The term "relational screening model" is vague. Specify the design more precisely (e.g., cross-sectional, correlational, or causal-comparative) to help readers better understand the analytical scope.

Please provide internal consistency coefficients (Cronbach's alpha) obtained from your own dataset in addition to those reported in the literature. This is essential for confirming the reliability of scales in your specific sample.

The Tukey test indicates differences between 1-2 and 2-3 years. However, the narrative inconsistently describes these groups. Please verify post-hoc comparisons and clarify in the text.

This claim is not supported by direct in-text citations in this paragraph. Include specific author-date citations (e.g., {Gould, 2002 #1}) to ground your statements in the literature.

This finding is described as paradoxical, yet no explanation is provided beyond speculation. Consider elaborating on possible sociocultural or experiential factors that may underlie this result.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.