

Social Media and Body Image Dissatisfaction Among Teen Athletes: A Qualitative Study

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| E d i t o r | R e v i e w e r s |
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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The reporting of percentages (e.g., "70% spent >2 hours/day on Instagram/TikTok") could be improved by noting the sample size for each statistic to contextualize findings.

The statement "body dysmorphia cases... increasing by 240% between 2019–2023" is compelling but requires a citation or clarification on the data source (sports medicine clinics—national data or specific institutions?).

The description of "tech suit season" and "jersey fit comments" is highly illustrative but anecdotal—consider adding evidence from prior studies or a brief reference to corroborate these sport-specific stressors.

The rationale for using a phenomenological design is well-stated, but the paragraph could better justify why this was preferred over grounded theory given the emphasis on "generating new conceptual understanding."

The claim that "balanced representation across gender identities" was achieved is notable, but consider clarifying if this included non-binary participants or only male/female categories.

The link between algorithmic profiling and athletes' exposure is well-argued, but a reference to platform algorithm research (e.g., recommender system bias studies) would bolster the point.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The claim "MRI studies show heightened amygdala activation" would be strengthened by linking this directly to adolescent athletic populations rather than adolescents in general, or clarifying if the study was athlete-specific.

The critique of traditional social comparison theory and objectification theory is valuable; however, it could be enhanced by referencing any emerging integrated theoretical models beyond the Athletic Body Ideals Model to position the study more broadly within theoretical debates.

While content validity and reliability indices are reported, more detail on the pilot testing process and participant demographics for that phase would strengthen credibility.

The adaptation from the Visual Social Media Lab's framework is interesting; however, specifying which dimensions were prioritized (e.g., emotional response, perceived realism) would improve methodological transparency.

The finding that male athletes also internalize body ideals challenges prior assumptions; this point could be emphasized more as a novel contribution in the discussion section.

The sentence "align with—but also complicate—existing literature" is accurate, but the paragraph could elaborate on which findings specifically complicate existing literature, to strengthen the contribution claim.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.