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# Athlete Experiences of Transitioning from Amateur to Professional Sports: A Grounded Theory Approach

Yoko. Wong 10, Haixin. Qiu 20, Sarah. Turner 3\*0

- <sup>1</sup> Faculty of Humanities, Department of Psychology, Nanyang Technological University, Nanyang, Singapore
- <sup>2</sup> Department of Medicine, Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Huntington, West Virginia, USA
- <sup>3</sup> Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, Canada
- \* Corresponding author email address: sarahturner@wayne.edu

Editor	Reviewers
Hadi Nobari	Reviewer 1: Zahra Yousefi 👨
Professor, Transilvania University of Braşov, Brasov, Romania. petrojonck@hotmail.com	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Khorasgan Branch, Islamic Azad
	University, Isfahan, Iran.
	Email: yousefi1393@khuisf.ac.ir
	Reviewer 2: Mehdi Rostami <sup>©</sup>
	Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond
	Hill, Ontario, Canada.
	Email: dr.mrostami@kmanresce.ca

#### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1 Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

Current Text: "As athletes move into the professional arena they encounter increased physical demands heightened competition and greater scrutiny from the media and public."

Comment: The sentence would benefit from commas to enhance readability: "As athletes move into the professional arena, they encounter increased physical demands, heightened competition, and greater scrutiny from the media and public."

Current Text: "The psychological impact of these changes can be profound as athletes grapple with identity crises and performance anxiety."

Comment: Reference specific studies that discuss the psychological impacts of transitioning to professional sports to strengthen the literature context.

Current Text: "The study identified four main themes: transition challenges support systems personal growth and external influences."

Comment: Ensure that each theme is clearly delineated in the text. Consider using subheadings or bullet points to separate each theme distinctly.



Current Text: "Athletes reported significant psychological adjustments including identity crises and performance anxiety."

Comment: Provide more quotes from participants to illustrate the psychological adjustments and give a deeper insight into their personal experiences.

Current Text: "Financial instability was a prevalent issue among transitioning athletes."

Comment: Quantify the financial struggles where possible, such as the percentage of athletes who mentioned financial instability, to provide a clearer picture of the extent of this issue.

Current Text: "These findings align with Aston et al. (2022) who noted that identity crises and performance anxiety are common among athletes transitioning to professional sports."

Comment: Include a brief summary of Aston et al. (2022) to contextualize the comparison, highlighting how their findings specifically relate to the current study's results.

Current Text: "The findings of this study underscore the need for comprehensive support systems that address the multifaceted challenges of transitioning from amateur to professional sports."

Comment: Summarize the key findings in more detail to reinforce the main points discussed in the paper.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

#### 1.2 Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Current Text: "Participants were selected using purposive sampling to ensure diverse representation across sports disciplines."

Comment: Provide more detail on how purposive sampling was implemented. For example, specify criteria used to ensure diversity and representation across different sports disciplines.

Current Text: "The interview guide included open-ended questions designed to elicit detailed narratives about the participants' transition experiences challenges faced support systems and personal reflections on their journeys."

Comment: Include a few sample questions from the interview guide to give readers a clearer idea of the topics covered during the interviews.

Current Text: "Providing mental health resources financial assistance and social support can help mitigate the stress and difficulties associated with this transition."

Comment: Offer specific recommendations for practitioners, such as types of mental health resources or financial assistance programs that could be most beneficial for transitioning athletes.

Current Text: "The data analysis followed the principles of grounded theory involving a systematic process of coding categorization and theory development."

Comment: Elaborate on the specific coding process used. For example, describe how initial codes were generated and how they were grouped into broader categories.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

### 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted. Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.

