



FIFA11 + Part 2 - Effect on dynamic balance in young volleyball athletes

FIFA11+ Parte 2 - Efeito no equilíbrio dinâmico em jovens atletas de voleibol

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ABSTRACT

The effects of FIFA11 + Part 2 program with dynamic balance (DB) on young volleyball athletes are investigated. Experimental cross-over, with a sample of 8 athletes (16.4 ± 0.7 years, 1.87 ± 0.07 m), randomly divided into two groups, with 10 sessions. The two groups were submitted to intervention and control at different times, respecting the 13-day washout period. Y-Balance Test (YBT) was employed prior and posterior to each time. Results of FIFA11 + Part 2 effect on YBT, through the difference in anterior distance media and composite score, failed to show statistical effects on DB between interventions ($p = 0.128$; $p = 0.740$; $p = 0.492$, respectively), momentum ($p = 0.612$; $p = 0.697$; $p = 0.237$, respectively) and intervention x momentum ($p = 0.778$; $p = 0.433$; $p = 0.590$, respectively). No improvement in DB was detected in young volleyball athletes after applying FIFA11 + Part 2 Program.

Keywords: Balance postural. Physical therapy Specialty. Volleyball.

RESUMO

Investigar os efeitos do programa FIFA11+ Parte 2 no equilíbrio dinâmico (ED) em jovens atletas de voleibol. *Cross-over* experimental, com amostra constituída por oito atletas ($16,4 \pm 0,7$ anos, $1,87 \pm 0,07$ m) divididos de maneira aleatória em dois grupos, submetidos a dez intervenções. Ambos os grupos foram considerados intervenção e controle em momentos distintos, respeitando o período de *washout* de 13 dias. Antes e após cada um destes momentos os jovens atletas realizaram o *Y-Balance Test* (YBT). Os resultados do efeito do FIFA11+ Parte 2 no YBT, a partir da variação de médias da distância anterior e escore composto, não mostraram diferenças estatísticas no ED entre intervenção ($p=0,128$; $p=0,740$; $p=0,492$, respectivamente), momento ($p=0,612$; $p=0,697$; $p=0,237$, respectivamente) e intervenção x momento ($p=0,778$; $p=0,433$; $p=0,590$, respectivamente). Não foi identificado aprimoramento no ED em jovens atletas de voleibol após a realização do programa FIFA11+ Parte 2.

Palavras-chave: Equilíbrio postural. Fisioterapia. Voleibol.

Received in June 24, 2020
Accepted on February 15, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Volleyball is one of most practiced sports worldwide^{1,2}. Within the competition context, players have an average of three to four lesions for every thousand play hours. The number is halved in training³. Although volleyball has always been considered a safe sport when other modalities are compared, due to lack of physical contact, its technical base demands a complex combination in the athlete's speed, resistance, force and coordination, with maximum effort on the neuro-muscular-skeleton frame^{3,4}.

Changes in static and dynamic equilibrium may predispose athletes to lesions since inadequate motor and posture control overload joints and muscle chains⁵⁻⁸. Further, an immature body structure in children and adolescents, with a set of possible neuro-muscular dysfunctions, coupled to repetitions of motor gestures, features a potential health issue for young people in general^{1,3}. Preventive methods that capacitates Dynamic Balance (DB) may reveal a decrease in the index of injuries and should be incorporated in the team routine.

Prevention integral strategies are usually employed in sports, especially during athletes' warm-up period^{9,10}. The exercise protocol FIFA11+ has been developed since 2006 by the Medical Assessment and Research Centre, linked to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)⁹. Warm-up program, based on scientific evidence, was initially idealized for football professional players,

although quickly disseminated to other types of sports¹¹⁻¹³.

FIFA11+ comprises a set of 15 exercises, divided into three parts, undertaken during the warm-up period, during approximately 20 minutes. Running activities with changes in direction, accelerations and de-accelerations, forward and lateral displacements with jumps are analyzed in Parts 1 and 3, whilst Part 2 deals with strength, plyometrics and balance, divided into three levels of complexity and physical demands^{9,14-16}. The program diminishes repercussions of intrinsic factors in athletes, improve such capacities as stability of the trunk, static and dynamic balance, muscle strength, and decreases the number of lesions^{11,17}.

Current analysis investigates the effect of the program of FIFA11+ Part 2 exercises in DB of the lower limbs (LLs).

METHODOLOGY

Current study may be characterized as an experimental cross-over experimental, with a convenience sample of a single voluntary team¹⁸, initially comprising 11 athletes, aged between 15 and 17 years, members of a juvenile volleyball team of a private school in the Vale dos Sinos region, Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil, with a year practice in the sport modality. Exclusion criteria comprised lesions which incapacitated the player during evaluation, or rather, any complaint that made the player unable to participate within the normal time during training, two consecutive absences during interventions,

and players quitted from the club during research.

The athletes' tutors signed a Term of Free Consent prior to the start of interventions. The study was approved by the Committee for Ethics in Research of the Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos (UNISINOS) on July 2018, n. 2.733.976.

Data were retrieved in the afternoon prior to training by the respective team, with a total of eight week, between August and September 2018. Athletes were selected at random by simple draw and divided into Group 1 (G1) and Group 2 (G2). Incapacitating lesions, such as laterality, were self-reported by a questionnaire with social and demographic data. The two groups were then submitted to YBT. G1 and G2 were alternatively an experimental

group (EG) and a control group (CG). It was a GE when it received protocol FIFA11+ Part 2 associated with regular sports training and it was a CG when merely submitted to the team's regular sport training.

Interventions were undertaken in groups, starting on the day following evaluations. In the first place, G1 was EG, with a total of 10 interventions during six weeks per group. YBT was applied again on the day following the end of interventions with G1, in the two groups, and again after the 13-day washout period.¹⁹ The start of exercise protocol with G2 occurred on the day following evaluation, within the same shift and frequency for G1; at the end, YBY was undertaken with all the participants in the research (Figure 1).

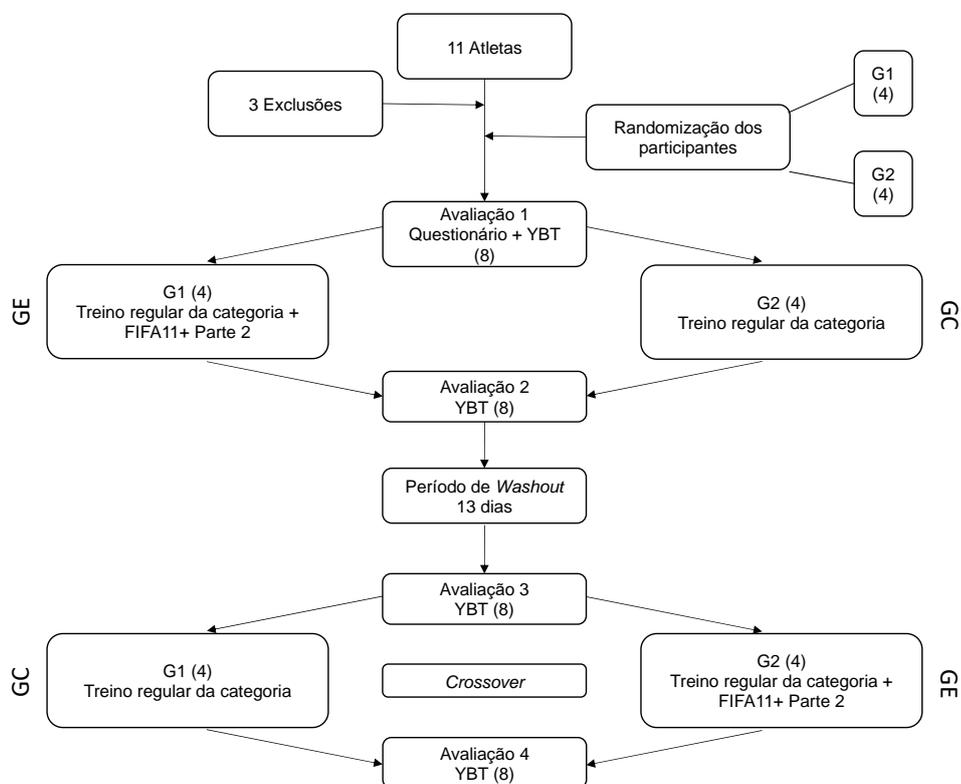


Figure 1. Layout and design of the study. Source: the authors.

Evaluations were done at the sports gymnasium of the institution, at room temperature. Estimated MSIS discrepancy measures were referenced to the anterior-upper iliac spine up to the medial malleolus. Evaluation with YBT employed three measuring tapes fixed to the ground, intersecting at one common place and forming two angles of 135° with regard to the prior direction^{7,20}. The athletes were asked to place the dominant foot, barefoot, with the hallux at the tapes cross points and to displace the contra-lateral lower member in the anterior, postero-lateral and postero-medial directions, respectively. Distance reached was measured and the last three measurements for each lower limb were taken into consideration for analysis^{20,21}. Results was not taken into account when the athlete failed to maintain the position required or when the athlete touched the foot during displacement and discharged weight on the ground, or s/he failed to return to the initial position^{5,21}.

The three previous valid measurements and the greatest measurement obtained in each direction were respectively taken into account to calculate the variation of average distance

in the previous direction and the LLs compound score^{5,22,23}. Compound score is the sum of the greatest LLs measurement obtained for each direction in YBT of the respective discrepancy measurement of LLs length normalized thrice²⁰. Asymetries greater than 4 cm in mean result in the anterior direction and compound scores lower than 89% and 94% indicate deficit in posture control^{8,23}.

Exercise protocol was composed of Part 2 of FIFA11+ entirely, with six proposed activities (Chart 1). Initially, all athletes underwent Level 1, and changes in intensity were determined by the capacity of the athletes for tasks. Modification in the exercises were undertaken according to FIFA11+, classified at Levels 1 to 3, according to the progression of complexity and physical demands^{11,14,16}.

Quantitative variations are described by means and standard deviations, whilst variables by absolute and relative frequencies. Co-Variance (ANCOVA) compared pre- and post-intervention means according to type at 5% significance level ($p < 0.05$); analyses were performed by SPSS 21.0

Chart 1. FIFA11+ Part 2: Intervention protocol

Exercise	Description of complexity	Picture
Supine Level 1 Level 2 * Level 3	Static Elevation of one lower limb Alternate elevation of the lower limbs	
Lateral supine Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 *	Static Elevation and depression of hip With elevation of lower limb	
Thigh Level 1 * Level 2 Level 3	3 to 5 repetitions 7 to 10 repetitions 12 to 15 repetitions	
Support on one foot Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 *	Holding a ball Throwing a ball Imbalance caused by mate	
Squatting Level 1 Level 2 * Level 3	Free, with the elevation of the tip of the foot Deep Unilateral	
Jump Level 1 Level 2 * Level 3	Vertical Unilateral, lateral displacement Multi-directional	

Source: Adaptation of FIFA 11+ Handbook: Complete Warm-up program for the prevention of lesions in football (2011).

(*) Level of exercise shown in the picture.

RESULTS

Final sample comprised eight male athletes, aged 15-17 years old, minimum height 1.78m and maximum height 1.97m, category volley infant-juvenile, students, most of whom at high school. The five positions are given in current analysis (Table 1). All athletes said they were right-

handed, with a frequency of four trainings per week with the team and with volleyball practice time at high yield between 12 and 84 months. Three athletes were excluded from the study: two were excluded due to self-reported lesions at the initial evaluation and one was excluded due to being contracted by the club for work in the national volley team during the period.

Table 1. General characteristic of the sample (n=8). RS, 2018

Variable	Total (n=8)
Age (years)	
Mean \pm standard deviation	16.4 \pm 0.7
Height (m)	
Mean \pm standard deviation	1.87 \pm 0.07
Schooling level - n (%)	
Year 8 Basic Schooling	1 (12.5)
1st year High School	4 (50.0)
2nd year High School	2 (25.0)
3rd year High School	1 (12.5)
Position in volleyball - n (%)	
Setter	2 (25.0)
Middle hitter	3 (37.5)
Opposite hitter	1 (12.5)
Outside hitter	1 (12.5)
Defensive/Líbero	1 (12.5)

Source: the authors.

Evaluation of the difference of discrepancy estimate between LLs detected that the athletes had a clinical difference of up to 1 cm during the four evaluation times under analysis, which is within the 2 cm limit of alteration permitted²⁵. There was no difference between interventions and conventional sports training ($p = 0.061$) and between pre- and post- times for the ten interventions with exercise protocol FIFA11+ ($p = 0.528$). There was consequently no difference when intervention and time effect was assessed ($p = 0.664$) (Table 2).

Table 3 gives athletes' performances in YBT. Difference between left and right LLs means in the anterior distance was 2.9 ± 2.2 cm and 2.3 ± 1.5 cm in pre- and post-intervention, respectively. When the team underwent mere training, variation between means was initially 4.0 ± 3.7 cm; afterwards, it was 3.9 ± 3.3 cm, with no significance ($p = 0.788$). Differences greater than 4 cm between YBT anterior averages reveal a positive result and suggest a neuro-muscle deficit that may cause DB alterations in the athlete⁸.

Table 2. Comparison of difference (Δ) in the length discrepancy of lower limbs, before and after 10 sessions with intervention (IG) and control (CG) group FIFA11+, (n=8). RS, 2018

Variable	IG	CG	Effects (rate-p)		
	Mean \pm SD	Mean \pm SD	Intervention	Time	Intervention x Time
Δ discrepancy (cm)			0.061	0.528	0.644
			IC 95%	IC 95%	
Before	0.3 \pm 0.4	0.8 \pm 0.5	[0.06 : 0.44]	[0.25 : 0.75]	
After	0.3 \pm 0.5	0.6 \pm 0.7	[0.22 : 1.09]	[0.05 : 0.76]	

Source: authors.

There were no significant changes between direct Compound Score between interventions ($p=0.740$) and times ($p=0.697$). Similar behavior was detected in

Compound Score of the left lower members between intervention and times ($p=0.590$) (Table 3).

Table 3. Comparison of mean rates of anterior displacement of the right lower member (RLM) and left lower member (LLM) and Compound Score (CS) of the Y-Balance Test (YBT), before and after 10 sessions with intervention group (IG) and control group (CG). (n=8)

Variable YBT	IG	CG	Effects (rate-p)		
	Mean \pm SD	Mean \pm SD	Intervention	Time	Intervention x Time
Média Anterior (cm)			0.128	0.612	0.778
			IC 95%	IC 95%	
Before	2.9 \pm 2.2	4.0 \pm 3.7	[1.3 : 3.8]	[1.2 : 5.7]	
After	2.3 \pm 1.5	3.9 \pm 3.3	[1.6 : 6.3]	[1.6 : 4.5]	
CS - RLM (%)			0.740	0.697	0.433
			IC 95%	IC 95%	
Before	102.87 \pm 6.01	102.5 \pm 7.55	[97.4 : 107.1]	[97.2 : 108.2]	
After	101.62 \pm 5.85	103.00 \pm 9.87	[95.7 : 109.8]	[96 : 108.6]	
CS – LLM (%)			0.492	0.237	0.590
			IC 95%	IC 95%	
Before	101.12 \pm 6.08	101.87 \pm 8.39	[96.1 : 106.7]	[95.7 : 107.3]	
After	101.62 \pm 7.19	103.50 \pm 9.54	[95.3 : 110.1]	[96.1 : 109]	

Source: authors.

DISCUSSION

Current study determines whether Part 2 of the FIFA11+ protocol exercises could improve volley young athletes' DB. YBT was employed to evaluate indirectly

adolescents' DB after 10 interventions. No significant alterations were identified. Two studies on FIFA11+ in its entirety showed different results from those in current study^{26,27}. A study with 226 young female football athletes, aged 13-18 years

identified improvement in DB after undergoing warm-up protocol for 10 weeks²⁶. In another study, there was a DB evolution in 20 male football athletes, aged 12.91 years, on an average, after six weeks with FIFA11+.²⁷ Several aspects may have affected divergent results, namely, the number of participants, intervention period, sports modality. In current analysis, interventions were undertaken in athletes of a single team of one modality.

Intervention time, with 10 meetings during three weeks, may have triggered results obtained. There is no agreement with regard to frequency of interventions with warm-up protocols such as FIFA11+, suggesting an inability in improving the athletes' physical performance and their aptitude in neuro-muscle-skeleton variables, such as DB, with two weekly meetings during 10 weeks of intervention^{28,29}. Meta-analysis has revealed that the protocol of FIFA11+ exercises improved DB, without mentioning the application times of results¹⁷. Therapeutic success proposed by warm-up protocols are related to intensity, adherence and frequency of activities by team and athletes²⁶. It is well-known that neuromuscular improvement, as every other motor learning, occurs through repetition and intensity of the stimulus³⁰.

The organization and integration of the sensorial, exteroceptive and proprioceptive systems occurs gradually, according to age and experience¹². Therefore, sports practice influences the maturity and improvement of the sensorial-

motor system, with consequences for of posture control¹². In spite of motor acts, such as running, jumping and displacement, are similar in collective sports, intensities, neuromuscular demands and physical aptitudes are unique for each modality and develop an adaptation complex which may have repercussions in neuromuscular behavior and may influence YBT results^{5,13,31}. Further, the difference between sports modalities and the athlete's technical level may directly affect DB³².

Volleyball is characterized as a sports with little or no physical contact but with repetitions of vigorous motor acts and great impacts¹. The recurrence of necessary motor functions for volleyball practice coupled to indispensable speed and effort for competitiveness bring about an increase in stress of the organic tissues^{1,33}. The effects of sports specialization in YBT performance in different modalities was investigated and variations were reported when compared to individual and collective practice^{5,21}. Consequently, stimuli by FIFA11+ Part 2 may not have been the most adequate for the best DB improvement in young volleyball athletes.

In its entirety, FIFA11+ reduces the repercussions of intrinsic factors in athletes, improving skills, such as trunk stability, static and dynamic balance and muscle strength^{11,34}. Part 1 and 2 may have an effective proprioceptive control of the trunk, MSIS and abdominal muscle complex, with a successful dynamic stability during sports activity²⁶. Variables, such as body center stabilization, muscle

strength and MSIS range of motion, affect YBT results³¹. However, FIFA11+ Part 2 does not address activities for mobility gain. Since current analysis employed only the second part of the program, it may be suggested that DB does not undergo significant changes with the application of a fraction of the protocol in the population concerned.

Several sports modalities employ YBT to evaluate the predisposition of lesions in LLs in athletes^{6,7,23,35}. Quick, effective and low-cost evaluation of athletes on flat ground was one of the reasons for the choice^{5,31}. Anyhow, test sensitivity has been questioned by researchers³¹. The lack of a standard instrument to evaluate DB demands several estimation methods to classify this aspect in the literature³². Several data collection instruments may be options for DB evaluation. They are capable of calculating the time of stabilization of the limb's reaction after impacting the ground through force platforms or the association of visual and proprioceptive components with the vestibular system by computerized analysis^{7,12,36}.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

DB improvement in young volleyball athletes could not be detected after 10 interventions by FIFA11+ Part 2. FIFA11+ has a proven efficaciousness in athletes of different modalities. Due to the characteristics of volleyball, Part 2 was applied. It may be recommended that in further studies the specifically volleyball

protocol be adapted since there is a deep distinction between the modality in current study and that described in the literature.

APPLICATIONS

Establishment of concepts for the use of warm-up protocols to prevent lesions in young volleyball athletes through functional, low-cost and easy aspects.

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