Evaluation of Variables According to Agility, Speed, and Power to the Type of Sand of Different Beaches for the Practice of Beach Volleyball

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Abstract: This study aimed to evaluate the density and the effect of the sand characteristics on the physical parameters in Beach Volleyball athletes, the researcher developed an instrument pilot following the standard of the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT, MB-1059/86) for measuring the density of sand in situ. This study formed part eighteen (n=18) female athletes from Brazil, with a mean age of 24 ± 4.35 years, height 1.76 ± 0.05 meter, federated with a year of competition in the Circuit Bank of Brazil and World Tour. The study evaluated three physical abilities and their relation to the density of sand in two different places (beaches of Ipanema and Barra - Rio de Janeiro) in athletes practicing volleyball. According to the objectives proposed in the introduction and the results became evident that the type of sand did not affect the indicators associated with physical valences studied, agility, speed, and power. However, with the tests, it was possible to create a possible profile of the female athlete in the Brazilian beach volleyball.

Keywords: Sand Land, Functional Profile, Beach Volleyball, Agility, Speed, Power.

1. INTRODUCTION

Beach volleyball, over the years, has undergone variations in its rules and conducting new research in search of a better athletic performance. In Brazil, this sport has evolved in a great way, becoming a school in the world-wide sports scene, where the Brazilian teams have achieved great prominence in all categories, being now record holder of international titles¹.

Based on this assumption¹, cites in his studies that specific training execution capabilities to enhance athletes performance during a match come from the ability of explosive strength, agility and speed.^{2,3,4,5,6,7.}

Considering that the expression of these physical capacities occurs in an irregular sand with the possibility of being characterized by different densities, the present study has the objective of investigating the influence of the sand characteristics on the performance of the agility, speed, launched speed and power physical valences in different locations of training and, consequently, to establish benchmarks for assessing these valences to date that do not exist for this type of sand¹.

This premise is evidenced in studies developed in other sports⁸ when it was shown that the terrain directly influences the maintenance of effort intensity in running speed work. In another study with field soccer athletes, a difference in running speed was observed on dry and wet lawns⁹. The literature suggests that this phenomenon also occurs when the intensity of other physical valences between hard surface and sand. ^{10,11,12,13}.

Lejeune, Willems, and Heglund⁸ analyzed comparisons between walking and running on terrains with different characteristics and density. A force platform and kinematic analysis were used to determine the mechanical work done by humans during walking and running on sand and on a hard surface. Walking in the sand requires 1.6-2.5 times more mechanical work than walking on a hard surface at

Julio Cesar de Faria Pastore et al.

the same speed. In contrast, running in the sand requires only 1.15 times more mechanical work than not running on a hard surface at the same speed. Walking in the sand requires 2.1-2.7 times more energy than walking on a hard surface with the same speed; in turn, running in the sand requires 1.6 times more energy than running on a hard surface. This led the authors to believe that the increase in energy cost is mainly due to two effects: the mechanical work done in the sand, and a decrease in the positive work efficiency done by muscles and tendons.

As the World Circuit is played on several continents, different countries and almost always, where the places of competition are performed on beaches, mostly artificial or built for the purpose, we think it necessary to accomplish this assessment to the possible types of sand.

The aim of the research was to verify if differences in the characteristics of sand density generate influences on the performance of beach volleyball athletes.

2. MATERIALS & METHODS

Inclusion criterion was randomly selected eighteen (n=18) beach volleyball female athletes, between the ages of 20 and 32 (24.0 ± 4.35 years), height (1.76 ± 0.05 meters) and Body Mass (66.5 ± 5.4 kg) who trained on the beaches of South zone of Rio de Janeiro, federated participants of the Circuit Bank of Brazil Beach Volleyball and World Circuit Beach Volleyball, for at least one year. However, as an exclusion criterion, it was determined that athletes who did not test on both beaches or were injured during the collection period would be prevented from continuing. Three physical capacities were evaluated in two distinct beaches (Ipanema and Barra - Rio de Janeiro). The capabilities analyzed were agility, speed, launched speed and power.

The physical tests adopted followed the standardization determined by the study of Pastore et. al¹.

2.1. Intervening Factors

External factors such as temperature, humidity, barometric pressure and climate were recorded by the researcher although it was not possible to interfere.

2.2. Description of the Experimental Evaluation

The tests were performed in the morning, between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., considering that most of the training takes place at the same time. Before and after the experiments, barometric pressure (Polar model ANX 500, Finland), relative air humidity (Incoterm Thermo-Hygrometer, 5203.03, Brazil) and temperature (Barometer Oregon, EB312E, USA) were recorded. In addition, 4,712 cm3 of sand were collected, for the measurement of its mass (Filizola Balance, MF 6/1, Brazil) from which the density of the sand was calculated.

Following the objective of studying the effect of the sand characteristics on the physical parameters, the tests were performed on two occasions in two beach volleyball courts located in distinct districts of Rio de Janeiro. In this sense, for the evaluation of sand density, an instrument was developed following the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT, MB-1059/86) standard for measuring sand specific mass in situ, using a drilling cylinder, Which is only applicable to fine-grained sand, free from boulders, cohesive and not very hard, under norm number 9813/1987 of the Brazilian Registered Standard (NBR).

As shown in Figure 1, it has as characteristics an acrylic guide cube of 1 centimeter (cm) in thickness and 15 cm in side (C) and in the upper part a center opening with a diameter of 12 cm, where a 60 cm long cylindrical polyvinyl chloride (PVC) crimping tube with a diameter of 10 cm is passed and its upper part is open for air passage (B), the crimping socket (A) has been machined in iron with a base of 20 cm in diameter and 2 mm thick with a fixed tube at the top of 20 cm inlength.

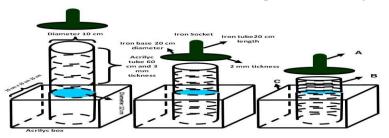


Figure1. Densitometer illustration: An instrument developed for the evaluation of sand density and drilling process for the measurement of sand density.

The natural mass density (Y_h) of the sand in situ was calculated according to the expression:

$$Y_h = \frac{M_t - M_c}{V_c}$$

Where, \mathbf{M}_t is the mass of the cylinder with the sample wet or dry, in grams (g); \mathbf{M}_c is the mass of the cylinder, in g; and \mathbf{V}_c is the cylinder's internal volume, in cm³.

Execution of the test followed chronologically the ABNT standard (MB-1059/86), as summarized in Table 1.

Table1. Test run sequence

* The crimping cylinder is set in the guide box so that it touches the surface of the ground properly leveled and free of loose particles.

* The crimping of the cylinder was started by beating the iron socket, taking care to keep the cylinder in the upright position.

* The crimping was continuous until the cylinder had its entire body full of the harvested material.

* The guide box was removed and the surrounding ground was excavated to the cylinder. The sand was cut beneath the cylinder of its lower edge using a spatula to close the cylinder therewith.

* The mass of the cylinder containing the material, Mt, was determined immediately, in order to avoid loss of moisture, with a resolution of 1gramme (g). The specimen was then removed from the cylinder and the center of the specimen by taking a sample for determination of the moisture content, h, using a scale which allowed a nominal weight of 1,5 kg to 10 kg, With resolution of 0.1 to 1g, respectively, and compatible sensitivities according to NBR 6457 (Brazilian Standard Registered, 1987).

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2.3. Statistical Treatment

For the analysis and treatment of the data, the present study made use of the descriptive statistics with the measures of central tendency and dispersion (mean, median, standard deviation, and variance) and verification of the normality of the sample through the Shapiro-Wilk test. As inferential analysis, asymmetry and kurtosis calculations were used to verify the distribution of the data. From the study of the normality of the data, we will make the comparison of the density of the sand and its respective effects in the performance of the agility, speed, launched speed and power with the comparison test of average more suitable for the design of the study.

For the inferential analysis of the comparison of the different types of sand, Student's "T" Test was performed, according to normality; to identify the interference of the sand type in the performance results in the agility, power, and speed tests, being the same tests used to the beaches. Finally, a Pearson correlation was performed to compare the heart rate response to the result of each test, according to the normality of the sample, taking into account the error estimate and the confidence level, the confidence level for data analysis was p<0.05. Data were analyzed using the statistical package SPSS® version 23.0 for Windows®.

3. RESULTS

The anthropometric characteristics of the group in the present study presented values for Age (24.0 \pm 4.5) years, Body Mass (66.5 \pm 5.4) kg, Height (1.76 \pm 0.05) meters, BMI (21.6 \pm 1.6) kg/m², Sum of 7 skinfolds (89.8 \pm 15.2) millimeters, % Fat (17.2 \pm 2.5) % and Body Density (1.059 \pm 0.005) g/cm³.

In the anthropometric characteristics of the group, it was possible to detect in relation to the age that the group presented a considerable dispersion in this variable, as verified by the coefficient of variation (19%). Considering that the group is female, this characteristic exerts a considerable influence on the fat percentage variable (% G), and that the female athlete herself has a characteristic of every five years to modify her anthropometric profile.

With regard to perimeter of the circumferences, the values of Thorax (81.6 ± 5.1), Abdomen (80.5 ± 5.4), Right Arm (28.8 ± 1.8), Left Arm (28.3 ± 1.8), Right Thigh (58.5 ± 3.5), Left Thigh (58.2 ± 3.6), Right Leg (35.3 ± 2.4), and Left Leg (35.3 ± 2.3) where all the results of each test are presented in centimeters.

For the skinfolds, the values of average Axillary (7.8 \pm 2.8), Subscapular (9.5 \pm 2.2), Triceps (13.8 \pm 3.1), Suprailiac (12.5 \pm 3.9), Abdomen (16.2 \pm 4.5), Thigh (17.1 \pm 3.9) and Leg (12.8 \pm 2.7). The results are all expressed in millimeters.

We observed that the regions of greatest accumulation of subcutaneous fat were to the thigh and the abdomen. It is worth noting that volleyball presents a predominant anaerobic characteristic, making it difficult to mobilize body fat, making it slower to mobilize subcutaneous deposits^{15.}

The relative humidity of the initial air $(83.3 \pm 10.5)\%$, relative humidity of the final air $(74.4 \pm 9.3)\%$, was related to the values collected in relation to the ambient conditions in Ipanema beach, initial air temperature (19.5 ± 3.3) degrees, final air temperature (24.5 ± 3.3) degrees, barometric pressure (766.2 ± 2.1) mmHg, sand weight (7.0 ± 0.3) kg, Climate (1.4 ± 0.5) , where the climatic situation (1-sun and 2-cloudy), sand volume (4712.4) cm³, and sand density (1.374 ± 0.070) g / cm³.

The environmental conditions found on Ipanema beach, henceforth called beach one (1), were of the average barometric pressure of 766 mmHg, sand density of 1,374 g.cm3, which were considered as intervening factors in the performance (According to Table 2).

Table 2 - Mean values and standard deviation of the environmental conditions: initial air (IA) and final air
(FA), initial air temperature (IAT) and final air temperature (FAT), barometric pressure in mmHg (BP), sand
weight (kg), climatic situation (1- sun, 2- cloudy), sand volume (SV) (cm^3) and sand density (SD) (g cm^3).

IPANEMA BEACH									
	Mean	SD	Coef. Var.	Medium	Maximum	Mínimum	kurtosis	Asimmetry	
IA (%)	83.3	10.5	0.13	85.0	94.0	60.0	0.9	-1.1	
FA (%)	74.4	9.3	0.12	77.0	82.0	53.0	1.4	-1.5	
IAT (°)	19.5	3.3	0.17	18.0	29.0	17.0	5.9	2.3	
FAT (°)	24.5	3.3	0.13	23.0	34.0	22.0	6.4	2.3	
BP (mmHg)	766.2	2.1	0.00	765.9	768.1	763.3	-1.6	-0.4	
Sand Weight (kg)	7.0	0.3	0.05	7.2	7.3	6.6	-1.8	-0.4	
Climatic Situation	1.4	0.5	0.36	1.0	2.0	1.0	-1.9	0.6	
SV (cm ³)	4712.4	0.0	0.00	4712.4	4712.4	4712.4	-2.3	1.1	
SD (g.cm ³)	1.37464	0.07010	0.05	1.42391	1.44152	1.28491	-1.83185	-0.35795	

Standard deviation (sd), Coefficient of variation (coef. var.)

Regarding the climatic conditions measured at Barra beach, the results showed such values:

Relative air humidity initial (83.4 \pm 3.9)%, Relative air humidity final (79.6 \pm 2.7) %, initial temperature (20.8 \pm 2.0) degrees, final temperature (26.2 \pm 3.5) degrees, barometric pressure (760.6 \pm 3.7) mmHg, sand weight (6.7) kg, climate (1.4 \pm 0.5), sand volume (4712.4) cm³ and sand density (1.303 \pm 0.009).

The environmental conditions found in the Barra beach, henceforth called beach two (2), were of the barometric pressure of 760.6 mmHg, sand density of 1.303 g.cm³ factors considered to be intervening in performance (According to Table 3).

Table 3 - Mean values and standard deviation of the environmental conditions: initial air (IA) and final air (FA), initial air temperature (IAT) and final air temperature (FAT), barometric pressure in mmHg (BP), sand weight(kg), climatic situation (1- sun, 2- cloudy), sand volume (SV) (cm³) and sand density (SD) (g cm³).

BARRA BEACH								
	Mean	SD	Coef. Var.	Medium	Maximum	Minimum	kurtosis	Asimmetry
IA (%)	83.4	3.9	0.05	83.0	88.0	77.0	-0.7	-0.6
FA (%)	79.6	2.7	0.03	80.0	82.0	75.0	-0.6	-0.9
IAT (°)	20.8	2.0	0.10	20.0	24.0	19.0	-1.3	0.6
FAT l(°)	26.2	3.5	0.13	25.0	30.0	22.0	-1.9	0.1
BP (mmHg)	760.6	3.7	0.00	759.0	767.1	757.5	-0.2	1.2
Sand Weight (kg)	6.7	0.0	0.01	6.7	6.7	6.6	-0.7	0.8
Climatic Situation	1.4	0.5	0.36	1.0	2.0	1.0	-1.9	0.6
SV (cm ³)	4712.4	0.0	0.00	4712.4	4712.4	4712.4	-2.3	1.1
SD (g.cm ³)	1.30388	0.00923	0.01	1.29998	1.31929	1.29446	-0.74210	0.81310

Standard deviation (sd). Coefficient of variation (coef. var.)

The results of the tests performed at Ipanema beach presented the following data: Agility (6.97 \pm 0.39), Speed (3.26 \pm 0.22), Launched Speed (2.81 \pm 0.25) and Power (3.02 \pm 0.37). Consequently, the same tests performed at Barra beach presented the following values: Agility (6.91 \pm 0.40), Speed (3.30 \pm 0.21), Launched Speed (2.87 \pm 0.35) and Power (3.11 \pm 0.40) where all the results of each test are presented in seconds (Tables 4 and 5).

Evaluation of Variables According to Agility, Speed, and Power to the Type of Sand of Different Beaches for the Practice of Beach Volleyball

Analyzing Tables 2 and 3, it was possible to verify that there is a significant difference between the climatic conditions of a barometric pressure of Barra and Ipanema beaches, as well as the pressure of the beach of Barra, is smaller between both. The environmental conditions of sand density and sand weight also present a significant difference, being that the beach of Barra is smaller than that of Ipanema.

Table4. Mean values and standard deviation of the tests obtained in female beach volleyball athletes.

IPANEMA BEACH								
	Mean	SD	Coef. Var.	Medium	Minimum	Maximum	kurtosis	Asimmetry
Agility	6.97	0.39	0.06	7.10	6.10	7.44	0.58	-1.12
Speed	3.26	0.22	0.07	3.26	2.94	3.91	2.87	1.28
L. Speed	2.81	0.25	0.09	2.79	2.34	3.50	2.79	1.02
Power	3.02	0.37	0.12	2.92	2.37	3.71	-0.70	0.16

Launched Speed (L. Speed). Standard deviation (sd). The coefficient of variation (coef. var.)

Table5. Mean values and standard deviation of the tests obtained in female beach volleyball athletes.

BARRA BEACH								
	Mean	SD	Coef. Var.	Medium	Minimum	Maximum	Kurtosis	Asimmtry
Agility	6.91	0.40	0.06	7.02	5.64	7.33	4.64	-1.90
Speed	3.30	0.21	0.07	3.27	3.04	3.92	2.96	1.60
L. Speed	2.87	0.35	0.12	2.82	2.27	3.64	0.90	0.85
Power	3.11	0.40	0.13	3.00	2.38	3.78	-1.10	0.20

Launched Speed (L. Speed). Standard deviation (sd). The coefficient of variation (coef. var.)

It is possible to observe in table 6 that there was an inference between the environmental conditions of the two beaches with the use of Student's "T" test. The mean environmental conditions were significantly different (p<0.05). Where only relative humidity measured initially at the tests did not present significant difference.

When observing the tables 4 and 5 it is verified that the differences of the beach of Barra exerted influence in the tests of speed, speed launched and power realized in both beaches. Due to the lower sand density and sand weight conditions in Barra beach, they consequently generated a worse result.

Table6. Comparison of the values of the environmental characteristics between the Ipanema and Barra beaches

Test "T"	Р.
SD	0.000*
SW (kg)	0.000*
IA	0.968
FA	0.024
BP	0.000*

Initial air (IA). Final air (FA). Barometric Pressure (BP)

Sand Weight (SW). Sand Density (SD). (p<0.05)

As can be seen in table 7, there are differences in the barometric pressure in the heat rate (HR) test relative to the maximum speed, as well as in the mean HR relative to speed and mean power HR. It was also observed in the HR maximum relative to the agility and the average temperature, as in the HR maximum, relative to the power at the mean temperature and, finally, the reserve HR relative to the average temperature.

Table7. Estimation of Pearson correlation for environmental and maximum. medium and reserve heart rate foragility. speed. and power

VALUE - p						
Variables	RU. Av.	T. Av.	BP			
HR.Mx.Agility	0.081	-0.028*	-0.125			
HR.Mx.Speed	0.125	0.147	0.024*			
HR.Mx.Power	-0.122	0.019*	0.087			
HR.Md.Speed	0.124	-0.240	-0.010*			
HR.Md.Power	-0.017	-0.166	0.011*			
HR. Reserve	-0249	0.042*	-0.119			

Relative humidity average (RU. Av.) Temperature average (T. Av.) Heart Rate Maximum (HR.Mx).

Heart Rate Medium (HR. Md). (p<0.05)

4. DISCUSSION

After years of training on several beaches across continents, it is well known that the types of sand are different because the description of the athletes themselves says they can jump more or less, depending on the type of sand. In this sense, with this investigation, we wanted to try to understand if through the physical tests applied could prove these differences in function of the different types of sands of different beaches.

According to the researched literature, it did not present any analysis of the physical and functional characteristics of a beach volleyball game. Another study with 26 female volleyball athletes presented the following data for the agility test (agility T-Test) coefficient of (0.762) and in the power test (vertical jump) the coefficient found was $(0.932)^{14}$.

However, the study by Leite¹⁶, who observed 13 subjects with an average of 19.46 ± 2.82 years of Le Parkour practice in which they were, evaluated in the squat jump test with a mean of 55.96 ± 5.31 cm. The results found for Le Parkour practitioners in this study were superior to those of Street Skate practitioners with at least two years of practice, whose mean value was 46.7 ± 8.3 cm. This suggests that the practice of Le Parkour develops the power of lower limbs due to being an acyclic activity like beach volleyball.

A study that was conducted with 11 indoor volleyball athletes with an average of 15.9 years detected as results for the agility test the average of 6.59 seconds¹⁷.

Vieira⁷ researched 9 volleyball athletes and found the means for the agility of 0.32 seconds (sec) and for the power test of 0.02 centimeters (cm).

On the order hand, Dourado¹⁸ conducted a study in which 12 male volleyball players with an intentional average of 17.76 ± 0.71 years were evaluated, who underwent physical training for seventeen weeks, totaling 94.92 hours of preparation and observed for (P = 0.000) And the jump power test) (p = 0.790).

In another research was evaluated 40 volleyball athletes performing the power test (vertical jump test - Sargent Test adapted) resulting in the first group composed of 21 athletes 43.58 ± 5.32 cm and the second group composed of 19 athletes 44.47 ± 3.67 cm. It is observed that the explosive strength of the lower limbs quantified by the height of the vertical jump, did not present significant difference between the groups¹⁹.

Conformed the study by Silva-Junior²⁰, aimed to examine the correlations between sprints of 10 and 30 meters and vertical jump power in young soccer players. A total of 143 male soccer players from the Under-20 (n = 34), Under-17 (n = 43) and Under-15 (n = 66) males participated in the study, and sprints of 10 and 30 meters. The results found presented low to moderate correlations when comparing the absolute values of time and height achieved (r = .47 to .71).

Nevertheless in another research⁸ was analyzed comparatives between walking and running on terrains with different characteristics and density. Force platform and film analysis were used to determine the mechanical work done by humans during walking and running in the sand and on a hard surface. Walking in the sand requires 1.6-2.5 times more mechanical work than walking on a hard surface at the same speed.

In contrast, running in the sand requires only 1.15 times more mechanical work than not running on a hard surface at the same speed. Walking in the sand requires 2.1-2.7 times more energy than walking on a hard surface with the same speed; in turn, while running in the sand requires 1.6 times more energy than running on a hard surface. This led the authors to believe that the increase in energy cost is mainly due to two effects: the mechanical work done in the sand, and a decrease in the positive work efficiency done by muscles and tendons.

In spite of these findings in the literature, in the present study within the evaluations performed (agility, speed, and power), there are no clear significant differences, we think that the meteorological conditions (temperature, barometric pressure, among others) may condition the athletes (such as humidity) among others.

However, it was not possible to identify with certainty the proposed study objectives with certainty, but according to the reports of coaches and athletes, these different and pioneering evaluations in

beach volleyball could help improve the quality of physical work, as well as the type of sand or beach to use so that it can be as close as possible to the reality of the competition and can help to improve the conditions of practice and future success.

5. CONCLUSION

According to the objectives proposed in the introduction and with the presented results, it was evident that the type of sand did not interfere in the indicators associated with the studied physical valences, agility, speed, launched speed and power.

However, there seems to be a direct finding in the results regarding some variables, regarding the barometric pressure and the average temperature in relation to the speed, agility and power and even the Heart Rate of reserve found in the present investigation.

It is necessary to reiterate that the methodology used here was specially developed for this pilot study. It can be improved in view of the interest of each research that is carried out, but that the data contained herein may serve the professionals who practice the modality as a reference for future works with similar purposes.

Therefore, it is with this type of work based on other areas of intervention that possible new indicators can be found and at the same time, small starting points to improve the performance of the athletes. Gradually this information can make the difference between winning and losing.

This research team intends to improve the information so that new indicators can be found to stimulate the teams present at the upcoming 2020 Olympics in Japan. To do so, a possible investigation on the next world circuit may be a key point.

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