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Initial validation of the coach-created Empowering and Disempowering
Motivational Climate Questionnaire (EDMCQ-C)

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Abstract

This article employs Duda's (2013) hierarchical conceptualization of the coach-created motivational climate to inform the validation of a questionnaire (Empowering and Disempowering Motivational Climate Questionnaire-Coach; EDMCQ-C) that assesses junior athletes' perceptions of the social environmental dimensions proposed by achievement goal theory and self-determination theory. Confirmatory factor analyses (CFA) were initially employed to reduce the number of items required to measure the targeted climate dimensions. A series of competing models were then tested to determine the best representation of the questionnaire's factor structure. The findings revealed that exploratory structural equation modelling (ESEM) provided a better fit of the data to the hypothesised model than CFA solutions. Specifically, the bi-factor ESEM provided the best fit, although parameter estimates suggest that none of the ESEM solutions replicated the underlying theoretical model of the motivational climate proposed by Duda (2013). The evidence from this study suggests that the EDMCQ-C is a promising, parsimonious questionnaire to assess empowering and disempowering facets of the motivational climate albeit the development of the questionnaire remains a work in progress.

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3 Initial validation of the coach-created Empowering and Disempowering
4 Motivational Climate Questionnaire (EDMCQ-C)
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6 Over the past 30 years, a large body of research in sport psychology has confirmed
7 that athletes' performance, motivation, well-being and continued participation in sport is
8 influenced by a range of coach-related factors. Research has demonstrated that athletes'
9 experiences in sport are predicted by the characteristics of the relationship with their coach
10 (see Jowett & Poczwaedoski, 2007), their coach's leadership style (see Riemer, 2007),
11 coaching efficacy (see Myers, Vargas-Tonsing, & Fletz, 2005), and coach's behaviors
12 including the incidence of positive reinforcement and punishments (see Smith & Smoll,
13 2007). There is also substantial evidence that the social psychological environment or
14 'motivational climate' created by the coach is relevant to variability in athletes' cognitions,
15 affect and behaviors. The majority of research focused on the coach-created social
16 psychological environment has been guided by contemporary theories of motivation,
17 including achievement goal theory (AGT; Ames, 1992; Nicholls, 1989) and self-
18 determination theory (SDT; Deci & Ryan, 1985, 2000; Ryan & Deci, 2007).

19 Building upon this work, Duda (2013) recently proposed a hierarchical
20 conceptualization of the coach-created motivational climate that integrates the major social
21 environmental dimensions emphasized within AGT and SDT. According to Duda's
22 conceptualization, the coach-created motivational climate should be considered as
23 multidimensional in nature and can be more or less 'empowering' and 'disempowering'. The
24 purpose of this article is to present the initial validation of a scale that assesses athletes'
25 perceptions of characteristics of empowering and disempowering coach-created motivational
26 climates from Duda's integrated framework in the context of youth sport.

1 **Task- and ego-involving motivational climates**

2 The coach-created ‘motivational climate’ is a term initially proposed in early AGT-
3 based research (e.g., Ames, 1992; Seifriz, Duda, & Chi, 1992). According to AGT, the
4 coach-created motivational climate concerns what the coach does, says and how he/she
5 structures the environment in training and competitions (Duda, 2001). A central assumption
6 of AGT is that the motivational climate can shape an individual’s interpretation of, and
7 responses to, achievement-related activities such as sport by contributing to the use of task-
8 and/or ego-involving criteria to judge competence. When adopting a task-involved criterion,
9 emphasis is placed on effort, personal mastery and/or individual improvement. A task-
10 involved criterion of competence is assumed to be fostered by a task-involving climate,
11 which is characterized by athletes perceiving that trying hard, skill development and
12 cooperative learning are valued by the coach (Newton, Duda & Zin, 2000). Conversely,
13 when an ego-involved conception of competence is adopted, the individual values ‘being the
14 best’ compared to others. This conception of competence is assumed to be facilitated in a
15 coach-created climate that is strongly ego-involving. Ego-involving climates are
16 characterized by athletes perceiving that mistakes result in punishment, the coach providing
17 differential treatment based on the ability level of the athletes, and that intra-team member
18 rivalry is encouraged on the team (Newton et al., 2000).

19 The majority of work that has incorporated assessments of the task- and ego-involving
20 coach-created motivational climates has employed the 33-item Perceived Motivational
21 Climate in Sport Questionnaire-2 (PMCSQ-2; Newton et al., 2000). The PMCSQ-2 is a
22 multi-subscale measure which assumes the higher-order task- and ego-involving climate
23 dimensions are undergirded by more specific situational structures or characteristics (Duda &
24 Balaguer, 2007). The lower-order task-involving dimensions are labeled “effort/
25 improvement”, “important role” and “cooperative learning”. The lower-order ego-involving

1 dimensions include “intra-team member rivalry”, “unequal recognition” and “punishment for
2 mistakes”. Psychometric work on the PMCSQ-2 has found athletes scores on the measure to
3 have adequate factorial validity (Newton et al., 2000), albeit the internal consistency of the
4 intra-term subscale is generally lower when contrasted to the other subscales. The
5 development of the PMCSQ-2 has resulted in a body of research that provides overwhelming
6 support for the benefits of a task-involving coach-created climate for sport participants, as
7 well as the negative outcomes associated with participating in a sport climate marked by ego-
8 involving characteristics (see Duda & Balaguer, 2007; Roberts, 2012).

9 **Autonomy-supportive, controlling and socially-supportive climates**

10 Other coach behaviors that have motivational relevance, but that are not directly or
11 specifically captured within AGT, have been identified within SDT. A central assumption
12 within SDT is the degree to which we observe optimal or diminished functioning and well-
13 and ill-being is dependent on the extent to which the social psychological environment
14 supports or blocks the fulfillment of three innate psychological needs. The three
15 psychological needs proposed by SDT include competence, autonomy and relatedness.
16 Greater need satisfaction is associated with more autonomous striving (i.e., participating in an
17 activity because one enjoys it for its own sake and/or personally values the benefits of the
18 activity), and adaptive, healthful engagement which are conducive to sustained behaviour
19 (Ryan & Deci, 2000a, b). Conversely, diminished or actively thwarted autonomy,
20 competence and relatedness leads to more controlled reasons for engagement (e.g., engaging
21 in the activity for extrinsic rewards or out of feelings of guilt and pressure), ill-being and the
22 compromised welfare of the participants involved (Bartholomew, Ntoumanis, Ryan, &
23 Thøgersen-Ntoumani, 2011; Ryan & Deci, 2000a, b).

24 In terms of the environmental dimensions of focus in SDT research, the extent to
25 which significant others are more or less autonomy-supportive has received considerable

1 attention (Deci & Ryan, 2000; Reeve, 2009). In an autonomy-supportive sport environment,
2 athletes' preferences are recognized and their perspectives are considered, their feelings are
3 acknowledged, they are provided with meaningful choices, their input into decision-making
4 (when and where possible) is welcomed, and a rationale is provided when they are asked to
5 do something (Mageau & Vallerand, 2003). A popular measure that has been adapted to
6 assess autonomy support in sport is the Health Care Climate Questionnaire (HCCQ;
7 Williams, Grow, Freedman, Ryan, & Deci, 1996). Although the HCCQ originally included
8 15 items that captured support of the three basic psychological needs, Williams and
9 colleagues also proposed a 6 item version. This briefer version was first employed in the
10 context of sport by Reinboth, Duda and Ntoumanis (2004) as a scale that focused exclusively
11 on the coach's support for athletes' autonomy need satisfaction (e.g., "the coach provides
12 players with choices and options"). However, subsequent research (e.g., Adie, Duda, &
13 Ntoumanis, 2012; Quested & Duda, 2010) has demonstrated that this shortened version
14 predicts, respectively, athletes' and dancers' feelings of autonomy, competence and
15 relatedness. Previous research has also supported the reliability and validity of athletes'
16 scores on the brief version of the HCCQ (Adie, Duda & Ntoumanis, 2008; Reinboth et al.,
17 2004).

18 Building upon the body of work that has examined autonomy-supportive
19 environments in sport, recent studies have also determined the concomitants of a controlling
20 coaching climate (see Bartholomew, Ntoumanis, & Thøgersen-Ntoumani, 2009).
21 Bartholomew, Ntoumanis and Thøgersen-Ntoumani (2010) proposed that coaches may create
22 both autonomy-supportive and controlling climates simultaneously and thus low scores on
23 the HCCQ do not automatically equate to the presence of a controlling climate. A controlling
24 coaching climate was characterized by Bartholomew et al. (2010) as pressuring, coercing and
25 intimidating for sports participants and is measured via the 15-item Controlling Coach

1 Behaviors Scale (CCBS). Initial work with the CCBS suggests this scale has sound
2 psychometric properties (Bartholomew et al., 2010). Previous research has also confirmed
3 that a controlling coaching climate, assessed via the CCBS, is associated with the higher
4 levels of psychological need thwarting (Balaguer, Gonzalez, Fabra, Castillo, Mercé, & Duda,
5 2012; Bartholomew, Ntoumanis, Ryan, Bosch, & Thøgersen-Ntoumani, 2011).

6 Drawing from SDT, a third aspect of the environment that is assumed to be
7 particularly relevant to the relatedness psychological need is the level and quality of social
8 support (or interpersonal involvement; Skinner & Edge, 2002). From an SDT perspective, in
9 a socially-supportive environment, every athlete feels cared for and is empathized with, and
10 is valued as an athlete and as a person (Mageau & Vallerand, 2003; Reinboth et al., 2004). In
11 previous SDT-grounded studies (e.g., Reinboth et al., 2004), the degree of social support
12 offered by coaches has been measured using an adapted version of the 7-item Social Support
13 Questionnaire (SSQ; Sarason, Sarason, Shearin, & Pierce, 1987). The initial psychometric
14 properties of the adapted (for sport) SSQ have been supported and socially-supportive
15 coaching has been positively correlated with the satisfaction of relatedness in sport
16 participants (Reinboth et al., 2004).

17 **The Motivation Climate from the Perspectives of AGT and SDT**

18 In addition to examining facets of the coach-created social psychological environment
19 according to AGT or SDT, previous research has determined the utility of conjointly
20 considering facets of the environment targeted within both theories (e.g., Quested & Duda,
21 2010; Reinboth et al., 2004; Standage, Duda & Ntoumanis, 2003). The aim of research that
22 has adopted a broader, multi-dimensional perspective of the social psychological
23 environment has been to examine the mechanisms (in particular, the implications for basic
24 psychological needs) that underpin the relationship between the various theory-informed
25 dimensions of the motivational climate outlined above and targeted outcome variables.

1 Reinboth and colleagues' analysis, for example, revealed that task-involving, autonomy
2 supportive and socially-supportive climates predicted the satisfaction of adolescent cricket
3 and soccer players' autonomy, competence and relatedness needs, respectively.

4 Reinboth et al's (2004) study was extended by Quested and Duda (2010) within the
5 vocational dance setting. Quested and Duda's findings revealed dancers' perceptions of task-
6 involving climate to positively predict satisfaction of the three psychological needs, although
7 the strongest path was to competence need satisfaction. Dancers' perceptions of an autonomy
8 supportive climate were positively related to autonomy and relatedness need satisfaction, and
9 these paths were stronger than the relationships between a task-involving climate and
10 autonomy and relatedness needs. Finally, an ego-involving climate corresponded negatively
11 with dancers' competence and relatedness need satisfaction. The findings of Quested and
12 Duda (2010) are particularly important as they demonstrate that when facets of the social
13 psychological environment according to AGT and SDT are considered simultaneously, they
14 vary in their relationships with basic psychological need satisfaction. Moreover, the evidence
15 from Quested and Duda's study suggests the environmental dimensions from AGT and SDT
16 predicted unique variance in the dancers' basic psychological need satisfaction. That is,
17 despite being included in the same structural equation model, the effects of autonomy-support
18 did not suppress the effects of a task- and ego-involving climates (or vice-versa).

19 In addition, previous research suggests that while there is interdependence between
20 the targeted climate dimensions (i.e., there is a significant relationship), the relationship
21 between the various dimensions is not perfect (i.e., $r = 1.00$). For example, Reinboth et al.
22 (2004) reported bivariate correlations ranging from .32 to .70 for autonomy support, task-
23 involving and social support, and the bivariate correlation between autonomy support and
24 task-involving climates in the Quested and Duda study was .59. Taken together, the research
25 conducted to date suggests that although the broad spectrum of environment dimensions

1 proposed by AGT and SDT are inter-related, each dimension may not be redundant with
2 other included dimensions. Furthermore, because each climate dimension is assumed to hold
3 distinct implications for the satisfaction (or thwarting) of athletes' psychological needs, a
4 fuller understanding of the potential impact and determinants of the coach-created
5 motivational climate should emerge when the environmental factors emphasized in AGT *and*
6 SDT are considered together (rather than taken into account in isolation from one another).

7 Highlighting past work which has adopted this multiple theory approach to studies of
8 the concomitants of the motivational climate, Duda (2013) recently described the importance
9 of pulling from AGT and SDT when investigating the features and consequences of the
10 coach-created social psychological environment. Within Duda's hierarchical and
11 multidimensional conceptualization, it is proposed that the coach-created motivational
12 climate can be more or less 'empowering' and 'disempowering'. An empowering coach-
13 created motivational climate is characterized by lower-order task-involving, autonomy-
14 supportive and socially-supportive features. In contrast, a disempowering climate is marked
15 by lower-order ego-involving and controlling (including those which are relatedness
16 thwarting) characteristics. Duda's conceptualization also assumes that an empowering
17 climate will be supportive of athletes' basic psychological needs, but importantly
18 differentiates between support of competence per se and the support of a task-focused
19 conception of competence. This is an important extension to the assumptions of SDT
20 because, in some instances, the support of this basic psychological need can lead to
21 maladaptive or undesirable consequences if competence is conceived in a primarily ego-
22 involving manner (Ntoumanis & Standage, 2009). Duda also suggested that coach-created
23 climates which are highly disempowering hold implications for psychological need
24 thwarting.

25 **Present Study**

1 In an attempt to measure the underlying dimensions of ‘empowering’ and
2 ‘disempowering’ coach-created motivational climates in sport, researchers would be forced to
3 rely on numerous multi-item questionnaires (described above) that are distributed throughout
4 the literature. Although scores on these questionnaires have been shown to be acceptably
5 valid and reliable, they may place burden on research participants; i.e., when used conjointly,
6 67 items in total tap the five features of the environment dimensions proposed by AGT and
7 SDT. Such a length may be acceptable to study participants when a researcher is interested
8 solely in motivational climate scores, but less tolerable when used in combination with a
9 battery of other instruments and particularly in the case of youth sport participants. As sport
10 psychology researchers are generally interested in the correlates (i.e., determinants and
11 potential consequences) of the motivational climate, as well as the psychological mechanisms
12 that explain the relationship between the climate and targeted outcome variables, there is
13 clearly a need for a brief, multi-dimensional scale that measures particular coach behaviors
14 comprising empowering and disempowering motivational climates. Moreover, this scale
15 should balance brevity with psychometric integrity. To date, there has been no systematic
16 psychometric attempt to produce a relatively short scale that is informed by both AGT and
17 SDT and that simultaneously taps features of empowering and disempowering coach-created
18 motivational climates aligned with Duda’s (2013) conceptualization. To address this gap in
19 the literature, the present paper outlines the initial validation of the multiple theory-grounded
20 Empowering and Disempowering Motivational Climate Questionnaire-Coach version
21 (EDMCQ-C) within youth sport specifically. The aims of the studies were to: 1) reduce the
22 number of overall items required to measure empowering and disempowering climates to a
23 more manageable number (i.e., approximately half of the original item pool); 2) identify the
24 best approach to modelling the factor structure of the scale, and; 3) establish the internal
25 reliability of athletes’ scores on the EDMCQ-C.

1 **Methods**

2 **Description of Three Samples**

3 The total sample in this series of studies consisted of 2273 children and adolescents
4 from sport teams in England and Wales. All participants were competing at the grassroots
5 level and completed the questionnaire at the start of a competitive season and after at least
6 four weeks of interaction to their coach. Group one completed the original version of five
7 questionnaires (i.e., 67 items) described below tapping the targeted features of empowering
8 and disempowering motivational climates (Duda, 2013). Following the item reduction
9 analysis, athletes from groups two and three completed shortened versions of the climate
10 scales.

11 **Group One:** The sample ($N = 378$) comprised 227 males and 140 females aged between 8
12 and 17 years old ($M = 12.6$; $SD = 3.0$); 11 athletes did not report their gender. The athletes
13 represented soccer ($n = 297$) and hockey ($n = 81$) grassroots teams. Mean number of seasons
14 with the current team was 1.87 ($SD = 1.8$) and mean hours training per week with the current
15 team was 3.36 ($SD = 3.0$).

16 **Group Two:** The sample ($N = 1211$) comprised of 1018 male and 175 females (18 athletes
17 did not disclose their gender) soccer players aged between 9 and 15 years old ($M = 11.46$; SD
18 $= 1.56$). The mean number of seasons on team was 2.43 ($SD = 1.92$) and the mean number of
19 hours training per week with the current team was 2.77 ($SD = 1.09$). Athletes in group 4
20 were recruited as part of the Promoting Adolescent Physical Activity (PAPA) project (see
21 Duda et al., 2013). The data included in this study from group two was collected prior to
22 their coaches being exposed to the intervention tested in the PAPA project (i.e., the
23 Empowering Coaching™ training programme, Duda, 2013).

24 **Group Three:** The sample ($N = 706$) comprised 440 males and 265 females (1 athlete did not
25 indicate gender) aged between 9 and 17 years old ($M = 13.9$; $SD = 2.1$). The athletes

1 participated in soccer ($n = 379$), hockey ($n = 158$), dancing ($n = 94$), basketball ($n = 33$),
2 rugby ($n = 23$), netball ($n = 17$), and lacrosse ($n = 2$). Mean number of seasons with the
3 current team was 3.59 ($SD = 3.1$) and mean hours training per week with the current team
4 was 3.52 ($SD = 2.4$).

5 **Original Climate Measures**

6
7 Athletes in group one completed the original measures of the climate scale described
8 below. To ensure consistency between the scales, responses to all items were provided on a
9 5-point scale (i.e., 1 = *strongly disagree* - 5 = *strongly agree*). Athletes from group one
10 completed one of two versions of the original climate questionnaires to counterbalance the
11 order in which the scales described below were presented. As previous research (e.g., Smith,
12 Smoll & Barnett, 1995) has shown that scales developed using data from older populations
13 may not function successfully in younger athletes, and because a number of the original
14 scales were developed using data from older study participants, we reworded and/or modified
15 certain statements to ensure the participants could read and understand the items. The
16 average Flesch-Kincaid reading level was 5.5, suggesting the items were suitable for children
17 around the age of 10 years.

18 **Task- and ego-involving climates.** Athletes' perceptions of coach-created task- (17 items)
19 and ego- (16 items) involving motivational climates were assessed with the 33-item PMCSQ-
20 2 (Newton et al., 2000). Newton et al. identified three facets of a task-involving climate,
21 including cooperative learning (e.g., "On this team, players help each other learn"), important
22 role (e.g., "On this team, each players contributes in some important way") and
23 effort/improvement (e.g., "On this team, the coach wants us to try new skills"). Three sub-
24 dimensions of the ego-involving climate were also revealed, including intra-team rivalry
25 (e.g., "On this team, the coach only praises players when they outplay their teammates"),
26 punishment for mistakes (e.g., "On this team, the coach gets mad when players make a

1 mistake”) and unequal recognition (e.g., “On this team, the coach gives most of his or her
2 attention to the stars”). Psychometric work on the PMCSQ-2 has found scores on the
3 majority of the subscales and higher-order dimensions to have adequate internal reliability
4 and factorial validity (e.g., Newton et al., 2000).

5 **Autonomy-supportive climate.** Athletes’ perceptions of autonomy support were assessed
6 using 7 items (e.g., “the coach encourages players to ask questions”) from Reinboth et al.’s
7 (2004) adapted version of the HCCQ for sport. An additional 5 items were generated to
8 capture an aspect of autonomy support not measured by the HCCQ. Aligned with Reeves’
9 (2006) proposals regarding creating autonomy-supportive climates in the classroom, the
10 additional 5 items tapped athletes’ perceptions that their coach emphasises the importance of
11 participating in sport for intrinsic reasons (e.g., “The coach emphasizes to players that it is
12 important to enjoy playing this sport”). Previous research has supported the internal
13 reliability and predictive validity of athletes’ scores on the adapted seven-item version of the
14 HCCQ (e.g., Reinboth et al., 2004; Smith, Ntoumanis, & Duda, 2007).

15 **Controlling climate.** Athletes’ perceptions of their coach’s controlling behaviors were
16 measured using the 15-item Controlling Coach Behaviors Scale (CCBS; Bartholomew et al.,
17 2010). The CCBS is a multidimensional scale that captures controlling use of rewards (e.g.,
18 “the coach tries to motivate players by promising to reward them if they do well”), negative
19 conditional regard (e.g., “the coach is less accepting of players if they have disappointed him
20 or her”), intimidation (e.g., “the coach shouts at players in front of others to make them do
21 certain things”), and excessive personal control (e.g., “the coach tries to control what players
22 do during their free time”). Bartholomew et al. (2010) confirmed athletes’ responses to
23 the CCBS were valid and reliable.

24 **Socially-supportive climate.** Athletes’ perceptions of their coach’s social support were
25 tapped using the 7 item (e.g., “The coach is always there to comfort players when they are

1 upset”) Social Support Questionnaire (SSQ6; Sarason et al., 1987) modified for use in sport
2 by Reinboth et al. (2004). Reinboth et al. revealed athletes’ scores on the adapted version of
3 the SSQ6 to be reliable.

4 **Procedures**

5 Ethical approval for this series of studies was granted by a committee from the first
6 and fourth authors’ university. Initial contact was made with the representatives of youth
7 teams/clubs to obtain their permission to approach athletes regarding the study. Parents of
8 the athletes were informed of the details of what participation would involve, both verbally
9 and in writing. An opt-out approach to parental informed consent was adopted, in which
10 parents could decide to exclude their child/children from the project by signing and returning
11 the consent form. The athletes were also invited to participate, and they received verbal and
12 written information regarding the nature of their voluntary participation in the study.
13 Athletes completed the questionnaire before, during or after a training session in a location
14 away from their coach and/or parents. The original versions of the questionnaire took group
15 one athletes approximately 20 minutes to complete, while the shortened version took group
16 two and three athletes approximately 10 minutes. A trained research assistant was present to
17 address any questions and to provide support with questionnaire completion in the case of the
18 younger children.

19 **Data Analysis**

20 **Selection of Items:** Data from group one were employed to select the items. To reduce the
21 overall number of items (i.e., 67) to a more manageable number (approximately half of this
22 item pool), we adopted similar procedures to those outlined by Marsh, Martin and Jackson
23 (2010). In reducing the number of items our overall aim was to retain statements that
24 preserved the content of the five climate dimensions, with at least three items per subscale,
25 and that resulted in a factor structure in which goodness-of-fit indexes were acceptable.

1 Items were selected via CFAs conducted in EQS 6.1 (Bentler & Wu, 2002) using the robust
2 maximum likelihood (ML) estimation procedure (Chou, Bentler, & Satorra, 1991). Missing
3 data were replaced using the expectation maximization algorithm, a widely recommended
4 approach to imputation for missing data (Marsh, 2007), as operationalized using missing
5 value analysis in SPSS. Initially, we analyzed each climate scale individually. The decision
6 to analyze each scale individually (rather than include all 67 items in one initial CFA) was
7 taken to ensure each questionnaire had a good factor structure before moving onto examine
8 the interrelationships between items from different scales. In addition, because the PMCSQ-
9 2 and CCBS are multidimensional in nature, individual CFAs allowed us to retain as many
10 subscales from these scales as possible.

11 Items were deleted based on theoretical rationales, low standardized factor loadings,
12 standardized residuals, modification indices, and in the case of the PMCSQ-2 and the CCBS,
13 high standardized cross loadings, until the data demonstrated good fit to each structural
14 model. Following the CFAs on the individual scales, a CFA was conducted on a three factor
15 lower-order “empowering climate” model that included task-involving, autonomy-supportive
16 and socially-supportive items. A separate CFA on a two factor lower-order “disempowering
17 climate” model that included ego-involving and controlling coaching items was also tested.
18 Items were removed in both CFAs following the procedures outlined in step one to produce
19 two clean structures (i.e., minimal cross-loading items, standardized factor loadings > .50).
20 Finally, a CFA was conducted on a five-factor lower-order model and any problematic items
21 removed.

22 **Testing alternative models:** Once the final items were selected based on the procedures
23 described above, we evaluated the best approach to modelling the factor structure of the
24 EDMCQ-C. To do this, we tested a number of models using the procedures outlined by
25 Morin, Arens and Marsh (2014) and Myers, Martin, Ntoumanis, Celimli and Bartholomew

1 (2014). Previous studies (e.g., Bartholomew, Ntoumanis, Ryan, & Thøgersen-Ntoumani,
2 2011; Newton et al., 2000) concerning the development (and subsequent cross-validation) of
3 theory-based multidimensional scales in sport and exercise generally proceed by first testing
4 a correlated first-order factor model using confirmatory CFA. Here, the first-order factors are
5 permitted to correlate and items are restricted to load on their intended factor. To account for
6 the (often) high correlations between the lower-order factors, researchers follow their initial
7 CFA with a post-hoc test of a higher-order (e.g., second-order) model (H-CFA) (Myers et al.,
8 2014). In a higher-order model, each item is specified as loading on its targeted first-order
9 subscale and each first-order factor is permitted to load on one or more higher-order factors
10 (e.g., Rindskopf & Rose, 1988).

11 Recently, CFA has been critiqued due to its reliance on the highly restrictive
12 Independent Cluster Model (ICM). The ICM limits each item to load on its intended factor
13 but all possible cross-loadings on non-intended factors are restricted to be zero. In reality,
14 items from multidimensional scales are seldom ‘pure’ indicators of the construct they are
15 proposed to measure and often have systematic associations with non-intended, albeit related
16 subscales (Morin et al., 2014). One consequence of the highly restrictive ICM-CFA model is
17 inflated correlations between the lower-order factors (see Marsh, Liem, Martin, Morin, &
18 Nagengast, 2011; Marsh, Nagengast, Morin, Parada, Craven, & Hamilton, 2011). To
19 overcome this limitation, a more flexible approach has been proposed (Asparouhov &
20 Muthén, 2009; Morin, Marsh, & Nagengast, 2013) that is thought to provide a better
21 representation of complex multidimensional structures. This approach, labelled Exploratory
22 Structural Equation Modelling (ESEM) (Asparouhov & Muthén, 2009), integrates the
23 principles of Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) (i.e., items permitted to cross-load on non-
24 intended factors) within the CFA/SEM framework (i.e., fit indices to assess model fit).

1 The advantages of using ESEM in the development and cross-validation of
2 multidimensional scales has been supported inside (e.g., Myers, 2013) and outside (e.g.,
3 Marsh, Muthén, Asparouhov, Lüdtke, Robitzsch, Morin et al., 2009) of sport-related
4 research. Recent developments by Morin, Marsh and colleagues (see Morin, Marsh et al.
5 2013; also see Marsh, Morin, Parker, & Kaur, 2014; Marsh, Nagengast, & Morin, 2013) have
6 also proposed an ESEM-Within-CFA model, which permits tests of higher-order factor
7 models based on ESEM models (H-ESEM). Here, a CFA is employed to estimate high-order
8 factors defined from the first-order ESEM factors (Morin et al., 2014). An ESEM-Within-
9 CFA model is advantageous when testing the factor structure of a multidimensional scale
10 because the inclusion of a higher-order construct/s ensures the aforementioned item cross-
11 loadings are not inflated (Morin et al., 2014).

12 In addition to ESEM and ESEM-Within-CFA, psychometric experts (e.g., Morin et
13 al., 2014; Myers et al., 2014; Ntoumanis, Mouratidis, Ng & Viladrich, 2015) have
14 acknowledged the usefulness of testing the structure of multidimensional scales using a bi-
15 factor model (Holzinger & Swineford, 1937). In a bi-factor approach, a theory-informed
16 measurement model is represented by one or more higher-order (or “general”) factors (e.g.,
17 empowering and disempowering climates), lower-order (or “group”) factors (e.g., task- and
18 ego-involving climates, autonomy- and social-supportive climates, and controlling climates),
19 and a pattern matrix in which each item loads onto a general factor and onto a group factor.
20 In addition, all correlations between the group-factors and the global-factor/s are constrained
21 to be zero. A bi-factor model is therefore distinguished from an ICM-CFA higher-order
22 model and the ESEM-Within-CFA model because items are permitted to be directly
23 influenced by a general factor, as well as a more narrowly defined group factor (Myers et al.,
24 2014). In turn, a bi-factor model (unlike the H-CFA model and ESEM-Within-CFA model)
25 permits the researcher an opportunity to examine the predictive validity of both the general

1 factor (e.g., empowering climate) and the group factors (e.g., task-involving, autonomy and
2 social supportive climate) simultaneously. Traditionally, researchers were forced to rely on a
3 bi-factor CFA approach (B-CFA) where items were permitted to load on the global factor and
4 only one of the group factors (while loadings on non-intended group factors were constrained
5 to be zero). However, it is now possible to conduct a bi-factor rotation within the
6 Exploratory Factor Analysis/ESEM framework, resulting in a direct estimation a of bifactor-
7 ESEM model (B-ESEM). Thus, in this study we tested six competing structural
8 representations of the EDMCQ-C: CFA, H-CFA, B-CFA, ESEM, H-ESEM, and B-ESEM.

9 The alternative models were tested in Mplus 7.0 (Muthén & Muthén, 1998-2013),
10 based on the robust maximum likelihood (MLR) estimator. The MLR estimator provides
11 standard errors and fit indices that are robust to the Likert nature of the items, violations of
12 normality assumptions, and is able to handle missing data. When modelling the B-CFA
13 structure, the global and group factors were specified as orthogonal to ensure the
14 interpretability of the solution was in line with bifactor assumptions. That is, the group
15 factors reflected the part of the items' variance not explained by the global factors, and the
16 global factors reflected the proportion of the items' variance that is shared across all items
17 (e.g., Chen, West, & Sousa, 2006; Reise, 2012). For the ESEM, a target rotation was adopted
18 in which all cross-loadings were "targeted" to be close to zero and all main loadings were
19 freely estimated. From this ESEM model, an H-ESEM model was estimated using ESEM-
20 Within-CFA (Morin, Marsh et al., 2013) where task-involving, autonomy support and social
21 support factors were specified as related to a higher-order empowering climate factor, and
22 ego-involving and controlling coaching factors specified as related to a second higher-order
23 factor labelled disempowering climate. For the B-ESEM, an orthogonal bi-factor target
24 rotation was employed when estimating the model (Reise, 2012; Reise et al., 2011). The five
25 group factors were defined from the same pattern of target and non-target factor loadings that

1 was used in the first-order ESEM solution, and task-involving, autonomy support and social
2 support items were allowed to define a global empowering factor, and ego-involving and
3 controlling items defined a global disempowering factor. Given the EDMCQ-C includes two
4 higher-order/global factors, we employed CFA to model the empowering and disempowering
5 factors as part of the B- ESEM model¹.

6 **Assessment of model fit:** To evaluate goodness of fit, common goodness-of-fit indices were
7 employed rather than the chi-square test of exact fit which is known to be oversensitive to
8 sample size and minor model misspecifications (Marsh, Hau, & Grayson, 2005). Goodness-
9 of-fit indices and information criteria included the (robust) comparative fit index (CFI;
10 Bentler, 1990), the (robust) Tucker-Lewis index (TLI; Tucker & Lewis, 1973), and the
11 (robust) root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA; Steiger, 1990) with its 90%
12 confidence interval. CFI and TLI values $> .95$ and RMSEA values $< .06$ are considered as
13 indicators of excellent fit (Hu & Bentler, 1999). CFI and TLI values $> .90$ and RMSEA $< .08$
14 are considered as indicators of acceptable fit (Marsh, Hau, & Wen, 2004).

15 To compare the fit of the six alternative models, we adopted the procedures specified
16 by Morin et al. (2014). When comparing alternative (nested) models, it is recommended
17 (e.g., Chen, 2007; Cheung & Rensvold, 2002) that models provide a similar degree of fit to
18 the data when the change (from the restrictive to more restrictive model) in CFI is $< .01$ and
19 increases in RMSEA are $< .015$. Changes in the TLI (adopting similar guidelines associated
20 with changes in CFI), which includes a penalty for parsimony, are also recommended for
21 models with a complex structure (Marsh et al., 2009; Morin, Marsh et al., 2013). We also
22 examined the Akaike Information Criteria (AIC; Akaike, 1987), the Bayesian Information
23 Criterion (BIC; Schwartz, 1978), and the sample size adjusted BIC (ABIC; Sclove, 1987)
24 when comparing the alternative models. The AIC, BIC, and ABIC do not describe the fit of

1 the model. However, lower values are considered to reflect better fit to the data of one model
2 compared to a model with a higher value.

3 It should be noted that the guidelines described above regarding assessment of model
4 fit and model comparisons have, to date, been established for CFA rather than ESEM
5 ¹ Thanks for Alexandre Morin for this recommendation.
6 solutions. Previous applications of ESEM (e.g., Marsh et al., 2009; Morin, Marsh et al.,
7 2013; also see Grimm, Steele, Ram, & Nesselroade, 2013) have, however, relied on similar
8 criteria albeit the adequacy of the guidelines for ESEM is still to be determined. Thus, it is
9 generally recommended that the previously described interpretation guidelines are treated as
10 rough rather than “golden” rules (for both CFA and ESEM related analyses). In addition to
11 these rules, it is also recommended that researchers consult the parameters estimates,
12 statistical conformity and theoretical adequacy when evaluating and comparing model (Fan &
13 Sivo, 2009; Marsh et al. 2004; 2005).

14 Results

15 **Item selection:** Using data from group one, the analyses resulted in 17 empowering items
16 and 15 disempowering items. The retained items loaded significantly ($p < .001$) on their
17 intended factor and the standardized factor loading for retained items ranged between .51 -
18 .79 (see Table 1). The fit of the data to the final model was excellent: CFI = .95, TLI = .95,
19 RMSEA = .03 (90% CI = .02 to .04). The final pool of items included nine task-involving
20 items, five autonomy-supportive items, three socially-supportive items, seven ego-involving
21 items, and eight controlling items. The nine task-involving items captured the three sub-
22 dimensions of a task-involving climate as originally assessed by the PMCSQ-2, and eight
23 controlling items captured the four subscales of controlling coaching as assessed by the
24 CCBS. In contrast, items measuring perceptions of an ego-involving climate were limited to
25 punishment for mistakes and unequal recognition subscales. The final model consisting of 32
26 items was retested on three occasions, with each version of the model including a different

1 intra-team member rivalry item from the ego-involving subscale. The inclusion of each intra-
2 team member rivalry item decreased model fit and the standardized factor loading for each
3 item was unacceptable. Therefore, the retained items did not include items capturing intra-
4 team rivalry.²

5 In addition to the 32 items selected during this initial analysis, two further items
6 capturing coach controlling use of rewards were added to the controlling climate pool of
7 items. The rationale for including two additional items was that we felt they captured
8 additional controlling use of rewards strategies commonplace in youth sport but not included
9 in the original CCBS. The two additional items were “My coach only allows something we
10 like to do at the end of training if players have done well during the session” and “My coach
11 only rewards players with prizes or treats if they have played well” (items 15 and 20 in Table
12 3, respectively). Thus, the final number of items was 34.

13 **Testing alternative models:** The alternative models were initially tested using data from
14 group two. Table 2 (top section) presents the goodness-of-fit indices and information criteria
15 associated with the models and Table 3 and 4 presents the standardised factor loadings and
16 uniquenesses. The CFA solution (CFI = .893; TLI = .884; RMSEA = .037) provides poor
17 degree of fit to the data, as do the H-CFA and the B-CFA (CFI and TLI \leq .90 and higher
18 values on the BIC and ABIC). The ESEM and H-ESEM solutions provide an adequate (CFI
19 \geq .948; TLI \geq .927) to excellent (RMSEA; .028) degree of fit to the data, and an apparently
20 better representation of the data than the CFA model according to improvement in fit indices
21 and a decrease in the values of the AIC and ABIC. The B-ESEM model provides an
22 adequate (TLI = .942) to excellent (CFI = .962; RMSEA = .025) degree of fit to the data, and
23 a slightly better level of fit to the data and a lower AIC value than all other models. Based on
24 this information, ESEM solutions provided a better fit compared to the CFA models, with the
25 B-ESEM model appearing to provide the best representation of the data.

1 In addition to using information on model fit to guide the selection of the best model,
2 Morin et al. (2014) proposed that a detailed examination of the parameter estimates and
3 theoretical conformity of the various models should guide researchers' decisions. Morin et
4 al. suggest that initially, the researcher should compare the CFA and ESEM models before
5 moving onto compare the ESEM (and related H-ESEM) and B-ESEM models.
The results from the CFAs involved with selecting the items are available by request from the first author.

6 *CFA versus ESEM.* In addition to consulting the fit indices, it is recommended that the ESEM
7 model is adopted over the CFA model when the estimated factor correlations are substantially
8 reduced in the ESEM (Marsh et al., 2009; Morin, Marsh et al., 2013). In the current study,
9 the ESEM resulted in lower factor correlations ($|r| = -.03$ to $r = .599$) than the CFA ($|r| = -$
10 $.409$ to $r = .903$). For the ESEM, the highest correlations involved facets of the empowering
11 climate (e.g., task-involving and social support) or facets of the disempowering climate (e.g.,
12 ego-involving and controlling coaching) (see Table 5).

13 An examination of the ESEM parameter estimates (see Table 3) reveals well-defined
14 factors for task-involving, socially-supportive, and ego-involving climate due to substantial
15 target factor loadings (varying from $|\lambda| = .359$ to $.680$). In contrast, the autonomy-supportive
16 (target $|\lambda| = .058$ to $.235$) and controlling coaching factors (target $|\lambda| = .124$ to $.680$) were less
17 well defined. Specifically, none of the autonomy support items and five controlling coaching
18 items loaded significantly on their intended factor. The parameter estimates for the ESEM
19 also revealed multiple non-target cross-loadings, and the majority of the more substantial
20 non-target cross-loadings ($> .200$) involved autonomy support and controlling coaching
21 items. The autonomy support items had elevated scores on the task-involving and, to a lesser
22 extent, the social support factors, while a number of controlling coaching items demonstrated
23 elevated factor loadings on the ego-involving and autonomy support (negative loadings)
24 factors. In sum, then, the results from group two provide support for the ESEM model, albeit
25 there are issues with the autonomy support items and half of the controlling items. Regarding

1 the H-ESEM, the analysis revealed that none of the lower-order dimensions loaded
2 significantly onto their respective higher-order dimensions.

3 **ESEM (and H-ESEM) versus B-ESEM.** Although the B-ESEM provides a slightly better fit
4 to the data (according to both fit indices and lower AIC values) than ESEM and H-ESEM, the
5 G factors were not particularly well defined by strong and significant target loadings
6 (empowering: $|\lambda| = .000$ to $.515$; disempowering: $|\lambda| = .153$ to $.497$). Specifically, only eight
7 task-involving and three autonomy-supportive items presented significant target loadings on
8 the empowering G-factor, while none of the ego-involving and controlling items loaded
9 significantly on the disempowering G-factor. Over and above the G factors, 21 items also
10 failed to demonstrate significant target factor loadings of their respective S factors, and four
11 autonomy-supportive items and six controlling items had elevated ($\lambda > .200$) and significant
12 factor loadings on non-intended S factors (see Table 3). This suggests that the socially-
13 supportive, ego involving, and (to a lesser extent) the task-involving S factors tap into
14 relevant specificity and add information to the G-factor. In contrast, the autonomy-
15 supportive and controlling coaching S factors appear to be more weakly defined.

16 In sum, the ESEM related models provide a better fit to the data than the CFA. The
17 ESEM (and associated H-ESEM) demonstrates a slightly poorer fit to the data compared to
18 the B-ESEM model, albeit the three ESEM-related models provide an acceptable-to-excellent
19 fit to the data. However, an examination on the parameters suggests the ESEM-related
20 solutions are problematic and they fail to align with the theory underpinning this model.
21 Thus, we decided to re-test the ESEM-related models using the data from group three to
22 determine whether any of the limitations identified in the current analyses were as a result of
23 idiosyncrasies of group two only.

24 **Re-testing the ESEM-related models.** Data from group three were employed to re-test the
25 ESEM-related models. The ESEM and H-ESEM solutions provided an adequate ($CFI \geq$

1 .941; TLI \geq .918) to excellent (RMSEA; \leq .03) degree of fit to the data (see Table 2 bottom
2 section). The ESEM resulted in similar factor correlations ($|r| = .07$ to $r = .531$) as reported in
3 the analysis conducted with group two (see Table 5). In addition, the parameter estimates
4 (see Table 4) revealed well-defined factors for task-involving, ego-involving, and controlling
5 climates due to substantial target factor loadings (varying from $|\lambda| = .218$ to $.781$). In
6 contrast, the autonomy-supportive (target $|\lambda| = .027$ to $.198$) factor was less well defined with
7 four items failing to load significantly onto their intended factors but loading significantly
8 onto the task-involving dimension (target $|\lambda| = .195$ to $.514$). In addition, two socially-
9 supportive items failed to load significantly onto their intended factor. Regarding the H-
10 ESEM, the analysis revealed that four of five lower-order dimensions loaded significantly
11 onto their respective higher-order dimensions ($|\lambda| = .71$ to $.78$, $p < .05$). Only the task-
12 involving lower order factor failed to load significantly onto its intended higher-order factor
13 ($|\lambda| = .23$, $p > .05$).

14 Regarding the B-ESEM, the fit was adequate (TLI = .931) to excellent (CFI = .955,
15 RMSEA .027) (see Table 2 bottom section), with lower information criteria values compared
16 to the ESEM and H-ESEM. However, the empowering G factor was not particularly well
17 defined by strong and significant target loadings ($\lambda| = -.014$ to $.489$), with only two task-
18 involving items loading significantly. In contrast, the disempowering G factor was well
19 defined with 15 items loading significantly ($\lambda| = .290$ to $.576$). Over and above the G factors,
20 22 items failed to demonstrate significant target factor loadings of their respective S factors.
21 In particular, items measuring autonomy-supportive and controlling coaching failed to load
22 significantly on their intended S factor (see Table 4). This suggests that the task-involving,
23 socially-supportive and ego involving S factors tap into relevant specificity and add
24 information to the G-factors. In contrast, the autonomy-supportive and controlling S factors
25 appear to be more weakly defined.

1 supportive) and disempowering (i.e., ego-involving and controlling) dimensions of the coach-
2 created climate.

3 The initial analyses focused on reducing the number of items required to measure
4 empowering and disempowering facets of the climate. Overall, the retained items captured
5 the majority of coaching behaviors included in the original climate scales. For example, the
6 items retained in the EDMCQ-C measure all four facets of controlling coaching included in
7 the CCBS, the three facets of a task-involving climate according to the PMCSQ-2, and a
8 range of autonomy- and socially-supportive characteristics. The retained items in the
9 EDMCQ-C also measure two facets of an ego-involving climate (i.e., unequal recognition
10 and punishment for mistakes). However, there are no items capturing the third aspect of ego-
11 involving coaching assessed via the PMCSQ-2, namely intra-team member rivalry. Previous
12 research on the psychometric properties of athletes' scores on the PMCSQ-2 has also
13 revealed the problematic nature of the intra-member rivalry subscale scale. For example,
14 across two studies, Newton and colleagues (2002) reported low internal consistency scores
15 for this PMCSQ-2 subscale. Future research centered on the psychometric properties of the
16 EDMCQ-C may wish to examine whether this specific finding is replicated in other samples
17 of athletes or whether it is possible to include intra-team rivalry items (by collecting data
18 using the EDMCQ-C and including all of the items from the original intra-member rivalry
19 subscale from the PMCSQ-2). Until such evidence is available, researchers should remain
20 cognizant that the EDMCQ-C does not currently capture a previously considered
21 characteristic of a disempowering climate.

22 Having reduced the number of items needed to measure the five climate dimensions, a
23 series of alternative models revealed better fit to the data for the ESEM solutions compared
24 the CFA-related structures across two separate samples of youth athletes. The superiority of
25 ESEM (compared to CFA) was also confirmed via lower factor correlations between the five

1 climate dimensions. This finding complements previous evidence inside (e.g., Myers, Chase,
2 Pierce & Martin, 2011; Perry, Nicholls, Clough & Crust, 2015) and outside (e.g., Marsh et
3 al., 2009) of sport that has compared CFA and ESEM, and provides further support for the
4 employment of ESEM when testing the factor structure of multidimensional scales. In the
5 case of the EDMCQ-C, it is unsurprising that the ESEM-related models outperformed CFA
6 solutions. From a theoretical perspective, it is conceivable that there is considerable overlap
7 between items tapping task-involving, autonomy support and social support coaching
8 behaviours, and between items intended to measure ego-involving and controlling climates.
9 In fact, previous research in sport has confirmed strong associations between the various
10 climate dimensions, with correlations as high as .70 (Reinboth et al., 2004). Thus, when the
11 CFA solutions were imposed on the five climate dimensions and items were prevented from
12 cross-loading onto non-intended factors, the theoretical overlap between climates dimensions
13 was represented in inflated factor correlations and subsequent poor(er) fit. In contrast, this
14 inflation was reduced in the ESEM solutions due to items being permitted to load onto
15 intended and non-intended factors. Ultimately, this flexible approach resulted in a better fit
16 between the data and the ESEM solution of the EDMCQ-C.

17 Although the ESEM solutions provided a better fit to the data, a detailed examination
18 of the parameter estimates suggested the solutions across groups two and three were
19 discrepant from the theory (see Duda, 2013) underpinning the EDMC-Q. This finding is
20 particularly noteworthy given Morin et al's (2014) suggestion that decisions regarding the
21 appropriateness of a model should not be based solely on fit indices, but should also take into
22 consideration parameter estimates and substantive theory. Across samples two and three,
23 task- and ego-involving items, and to a lesser extent some socially-supportive and controlling
24 items, loaded as expected with strong loadings on their intended factors and weaker loading
25 values on their non-intended factors. In contrast, the majority of autonomy-supportive

1 (groups two and three) items and some controlling (group two) and socially-supportive
2 (group three) items failed to load significantly on their intended factor and demonstrated
3 elevated and significant factor loadings on their non-intended climate dimension (autonomy-
4 supportive and socially-supportive items loaded on the task-involving factor, and controlling
5 items on the ego-involving and autonomy-supportive factors). In the context of ESEM,
6 cross-loading items are perfectly acceptable because they provide a better representation of a
7 multidimensional structure compared to when items are treated as “pure” indicators of a
8 construct (Marsh et al, 2014; Morin et al., 2014). It is therefore understandable that the
9 autonomy-supportive items, for example, cross-loaded onto task-involving and socially-
10 supportive factors given the commonalities in the content and behaviors of the three
11 empowering climate dimensions. An autonomy-supportive climate in sport, for example, will
12 also likely be task-involving and socially-supportive because athletes of all abilities in such
13 environments are encouraged to derive intrinsic enjoyment and a sense of accomplishment
14 from learning new skills and trying hard, have their questions carefully and considerably
15 answered, and their perspectives are considered no matter what happens in competition or
16 training. Likewise, there are commonalities between ego-involving and controlling
17 behaviours; for example, coaches that adopt an intimidating style in response to mistakes are
18 likely to be less supportive of the athletes who are lower in ability. However, in addition to
19 cross-loadings, ESEM expects that items should load significantly on their intended factor.
20 As this was not the case for the majority of autonomy-supportive items, and a selection of
21 socially-supportive and controlling items, in the current study, further research should
22 attempt to revise this set of items to ensure the empowering and disempowering climate
23 dimensions are more clearly distinguishable from one another.

24 Relying on the ESEM solutions, a comparison of first-order versus bi-factor and
25 higher-order models was conducted to assess the presence of hierarchical constructs (Morin

1 et al., 2014). The advantage of the B-ESEM approach to modelling a multidimensional scale
2 is that items are permitted to load onto two latent variables; a general construct (e.g.,
3 empowering or disempowering) and a sub-domain construct (e.g., task-involving). Support
4 for the B-ESEM solution subsequently presents the researcher with an opportunity to
5 examine the predictors and/or correlates of the sub-domain and general constructs
6 simultaneously (Myers et al., 2014). This is not the case with the ‘traditional’ approach to
7 modelling the higher-order nature of a construct (e.g., H-ESEM), where the correlation
8 between lower-order dimensions (e.g., ego-involving, controlling coaching) is represented by
9 a second-order construct (e.g., disempowering climate). Examining the bi-factor and higher-
10 order ESEM solutions, and comparing to the lower-order ESEM model, made sense in the
11 current study given the multidimensional nature of the EDMC-Q and the possibility of a
12 hierarchical structure as suggested by Duda’s (2013) conceptualisation.

13 Across groups two and three, the data fit the B-ESEM solution slightly better than the
14 H-ESEM and ESEM. However, as per the lower-order ESEM, the B-ESEM revealed
15 problems with the parameter estimates. In group two, 11 (from 19) items loaded significantly
16 onto the G empowering factor and no items (from 17) loaded significantly on the
17 disempowering G factor. In group three, the number of items loading significantly on the
18 empowering G factor was two, and 15 items loaded significantly on the disempowering G
19 factor. Overall, the results from the B-ESEM suggest that, while this model provided the best
20 fit to the data, the items fail to represent the empowering and disempowering global factors as
21 well as the five sub-domain climate constructs. The evidence from the H-ESEM also fails to
22 fully support Duda’s (2013) theoretically integrated conceptualisations of the
23 multidimensional climate, albeit the model in group three did come close. Specifically, in
24 group three, four of the five lower-order dimensions loaded significant on the higher-order
25 dimensions. Only the task-involving climate dimension failed to load significantly on the

1 higher-order dimension. Conversely, none of the lower-order dimensions loaded
2 significantly on the higher-order dimensions in group two. In sum, the findings from the B-
3 ESEM and H-ESEM models suggest that the hierarchical, multidimensional nature of the
4 coach-created motivational climate (as captured in the 34 items comprising the EDMCQ-C)
5 was not fully replicated across groups two and three in a manner that is consistent with
6 Duda's (2013) original framework.

7 **Study Limitations and Future Research Directions**

8 This study had a number of limitations. Although we tested the factor structure(s) of
9 the scale, we did not consider alternative indicators of validity and reliability. We decided
10 not to examine the additional indicators because our findings suggested that no one solution
11 provided an accurate representation of the multidimensional and hierarchical
12 conceptualisation underpinning the EDMCQ-C, and thus we felt it important to resolve this
13 issue first. However, as the EDMCQ-C is developed further, researchers should consider
14 additional forms of validity (e.g., predictive validity) and reliability when deciding which
15 model to eventually accept (Myers et al., 2014). A further limitation of the study was that the
16 multilevel nature of the data (i.e., athletes nested within teams) which was not accounted.
17 We did not account for the multilevel nature of the data due to the limited number of teams
18 per parameters of the more complex models (i.e., B-ESEM). While it is not possible to
19 conduct a multilevel analysis in ESEM, it is possible to account for 'clusters'. Therefore,
20 future research should attempt to recruit athletes from a larger number of teams and
21 subsequently account for clustering effects when examining the factor structure of the
22 EDMCQ-C (see Myers, 2013, for an example).

23 Future research should also examine the factor structure of the EDMCQ-C with a
24 more heterogeneous sample of athletes. Grassroots youth sport is an important context to
25 examine features of empowering and disempowering coaching climates because previous

1 research has confirmed the role of the lower-order dimensions in determining children's
2 psychological and physical health (Duda, 2013; Duda & Balaguer, 2007; Ntoumanis, 2012).
3 Nonetheless, empowering and disempowering climates are certainly evident and relevant in
4 settings with other groups of athletes (e.g., elite junior performers, adults). Thus, future
5 research is warranted which tests the alternative models (and additional psychometric
6 properties) of the EDMCQ-C in diverse samples of sport participants. The samples pertinent
7 to the present work were also dominated by male athletes and therefore subsequent studies
8 should also attempt to specifically examine the psychometric properties of female athletes'
9 scores on the EDMCQ-C.

10 **Conclusions**

11 In summary, the purpose of the current research was to report the initial psychometric
12 properties of the EDMC-Q, a questionnaire that measures characteristics of empowering and
13 disempowering coach-created motivational climates as originally proposed by Duda (2013).
14 Adopting Duda's (2013) theoretically-integrated conceptualization of the coach-created
15 motivational climate is advantageous because it recognises the broad spectrum of climate
16 dimensions central to AGT and SDT simultaneously and their implications for athletes'
17 motivation, well-being and sustained engagement in sport. The evidence from this study
18 suggests the EDMC-Q should be considered a work in progress. As work continues on
19 developing the psychometric properties of the scale, we encourage researchers to employ
20 their own data sets to test the various ESEM solutions and contribute to a growing body of
21 evidence regarding problematic items that 1) consistently fail to load on the intended lower-
22 order/S or higher-order/G factors, and 2) that have stronger cross-loading values compared to
23 the loading value on the intended factors. The identification of such items will inform
24 decisions regarding re-writing and/or deleting items, which may subsequently provide a
25 platform to produce a cleaner factor structure of the EDMC-Q (i.e., items loading onto

1 intended factor and/or G factors, smaller cross-loadings on non-intended factor) and thus
2 move the scale closer to replicating the hierarchical, multidimensional structure of the
3 motivational climate proposed by Duda (2013).

4

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1
2 Table 1. Item Means, Standard Deviations, Factor Loadings, and Uniquenesses Following Item Reduction CFAs (Group 1).

EDMCQ-C Subscale and Item	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	Factor Loading	Uniqueness
Task-involving				
1. My coach encouraged players to try new skills	4.09	1.00	.52	.86
4. My coach tried to make sure players felt good when they tried their best	4.11	.94	.69	.73
11. My coach made sure players felt successful when they improved	4.05	1.02	.64	.77
13. My coach acknowledged players who tried hard	3.89	.98	.58	.82
18. My coach made sure that each player contributed in some important way	3.88	1.03	.64	.77
23. My coach made sure everyone had an important role on the team	3.93	1.04	.62	.78
28. My coach let us know that all the players are part of the team's success	3.95	1.01	.64	.77
30. My coach encouraged players to help each other learn	3.84	1.04	.70	.71
34. My coach encouraged players to really work together as a team	4.26	.93	.59	.83
Autonomy-supportive				
3. My coach gave players choices and options	3.68	1.02	.55	.84
6. My coach thought that it is important that players participate in this sport because the players really want to	3.87	.98	.55	.83
16. My coach answered players' questions fully and carefully	3.91	1.01	.61	.79
22. When my coach asked players to do something, he or she tried to explain why this would be good to do so	3.86	1.00	.61	.79
32. My coach thought that it is important for players to play this sport because they (the players) enjoy it	3.86	1.01	.70	.71
Socially-supportive				
8. My coach could really be counted on to care, no matter what happened	3.73	1.09	.79	.61
14. My coach really appreciated players as people, not just as athletes	3.84	1.07	.75	.66
27. My coach listened openly and did not judge players' personal feelings	3.66	1.06	.67	.75
Ego-involving				
5. My coach substituted players when they made a mistake	2.33	1.23	.54	.84
9. My coach gave most attention to the best players	2.21	1.29	.63	.77
10. My coach yelled at players for messing up	2.27	1.29	.67	.75
19. My coach had his or her favorite players	2.35	1.30	.73	.68
21. My coach only praised players who performed the best during a match	2.69	1.22	.51	.83
25. My coach thought that only the best players should play in a match	2.47	1.23	.76	.65
33. My coach favored some players more than others	2.60	1.33		
Controlling coaching				
2. My coach was less friendly with players if they didn't make the effort to see things his/her way	2.70	1.29	.62	.79
7. My coach was less supportive of players when they were not training and/or playing well	2.39	1.21	.56	.83
12. My coach paid less attention to players if they displeased him or her	2.20	1.13	.69	.72
17. My coach was less accepting of players if they disappointed him or her	2.25	1.09	.71	.70
24. My coach shouts at players in front of others to make them do certain things	2.37	1.24	.58	.81
26. My coach threatened to punish players to keep them in line during training	2.05	1.21	.69	.73

29. The coach mainly used rewards/ praise to make players complete all the tasks he/she sets during training	2.26	1.11	.55	.83
31. My coach tried to interfere in aspects of players' lives outside of this sport	1.92	1.13	.54	.84

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3 *Note.* All factor loadings are statistically significant ($p < .05$).

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1 Table 2. Goodness of Fit Statistics and Information Criteria for the Models Estimated on the EDMCQ-C (Groups 2 and 3).

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	χ^2	df	CFI	TLI	RMSEA	RMSEA 90% CI	AIC	BIC	ABIC
Model (Group 2)									
CFA	1223.925*	517	0.893	0.884	0.036	.033 - .038	97717	98274	98274
H-CFA	1294.009*	524	0.884	0.875	0.037	.035 - .040	97795	98316	98317
B-CFA	1221.701*	497	0.89	0.876	0.037	.035 - .040	97709	98365	98365
ESEM	743.908*	401	0.948	0.927	0.028	.025 - .031	97264	98398	98398
H-ESEM	742.838*	405	0.949	0.929	0.028	.025 - .031	97266	98380	98380
B-ESEM	614.992*	366	0.962	0.942	0.025	.022 - .029	97115	98422	98422
Model (Group 3)									
ESEM	1022.353*	401	0.941	0.918	0.03	.028 - .032	0.918	159736	159012
H-ESEM	997.422*	405	0.944	0.922	0.029	.027 - .031	0.922	159712	159000
B-ESEM	842.153*	366	0.955	0.931	0.027	.025 - .043	0.931	159692	158857

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4 *Note.* CFA= Confirmatory factor analysis; H = Hierarchical model; B = Bifactor model; ESEM = Exploratory structural equation modeling; df = Degrees of freedom; CFI =
5 comparative fit index; TLI = Tucker-Lewis index; RMSEA = root mean square error of approximation; CI = confidence interval; AIC = Akaike information criterion; CAIC
6 BIC = Bayesian information criterion; ABIC = Sample size adjusted BIC; ESEM were estimated with target oblique rotation; bifactor-ESEM were estimated with bifactor
7 orthogonal target rotation; * $p < .01$.

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1 Table 4. Standardized Factor Loadings for First-Order CFA, ESEM and Bifactor-ESEM Solutions of the EDMCQ-C (Group 2)

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Item	First-Order CFA Solution			First-Order ESEM Solution					B-ESEM Solution					G-Factor	Uniquenesses
	Factor Loading	Uniquenesses	T	A	S	E	C	Uniquenesses	T	A	S	E	C		
1	0.485**	.764**	0.44**	0.085	-0.013	-0.126	0.053	.758**	0.149	0.070	0.129	-0.269**	-0.027	0.429**	.700**
4	0.513**	.737**	0.469**	0.041	-0.022	-0.092	-0.021	.744**	0.104	-0.013	0.159	-0.294**	0.027	0.515**	.612**
11	0.594**	.647**	0.481**	-0.059	0.136	-0.166**	0.11	.633**	0.279	0.223	0.122	-0.210*	0.160	0.435**	.599**
13	0.467**	.782**	0.391**	-0.034	0.133	-0.035	0.075	.775**	0.188	0.167	0.145	-0.092	0.127	0.401**	.730**
18	0.586**	.657**	0.539**	0.029	0.060	-0.079	0.092	.652**	0.419	0.166	0.066	-0.137	0.051	0.367**	.637**
23	0.612**	.625**	0.565**	0.062	0.064	-0.117*	0.073	.622**	0.468*	0.126	0.087	-0.218**	0.029	0.304**	.618**
28	0.605**	.634**	0.68**	0.032	0.017	-0.023	-0.054	.635**	0.386**	-0.004	0.146	-0.227**	0.062	0.369**	.637**
30	0.643**	.587**	0.498**	0.115	-0.060	0.047	-0.039	.546**	0.498*	-0.019	0.104	-0.168*	-0.035	0.401*	.550**
34	0.504**	.746**	0.498**	0.029	-0.047	0.027	-0.191**	.707**	0.458	-0.139	0.092	-0.212*	0.057	0.206	.672**
3	0.407**	.834**	0.296**	0.085	0.085	-0.121*	0.065	.833**	0.188	0.120	0.121	-0.196*	-0.009	0.272**	.823**
6	0.534**	.714**	0.356**	0.087	0.182*	0.031	-0.062	.735**	0.360**	0.042	0.218**	-0.144*	0.052	0.252*	.735**
16	0.622**	.613**	0.35**	0.131	0.287**	-0.094	0.072	.624**	0.432	0.204	0.230	-0.192**	0.031	0.245**	.621**
22	0.554**	.693**	0.216*	0.235	0.383**	0.039	0.033	.662**	0.371	0.217	0.331*	-0.072	-0.039	0.217	.652**
32	0.587**	.655**	0.434**	0.058	0.153	0.099	-0.207*	.639**	0.582**	-0.047	0.198	-0.119	0.106	0.153	.571**
8	0.677**	.541**	0.066	0.264*	0.518*	0.009	-0.117	.570**	0.292	0.140	0.519**	-0.224**	0.004	0.156	.551**
14	0.629**	.604**	0.052	0.121	0.569*	0.058	-0.111	.600**	0.305	0.108	0.494**	-0.161	0.143	0.106	.594**
27	0.347**	.880**	-0.058	-0.088	0.475*	0.156	-0.148	.768**	0.179	0.038	0.34**	0.029	0.278**	-0.001	.773**
5	0.500**	.750**	-0.013	-0.03	0.004	0.451**	0.093	.738**	-0.052	-0.024	-0.045	0.500**	-0.008	0.153	.721**
9	0.669**	.552**	-0.123	0.079	0.040	0.595**	0.12	.539**	-0.129	-0.049	-0.009	0.640**	-0.116	0.198	.519**
10	0.576**	.668**	-0.055	0.062	-0.016	0.507**	0.128	.648**	-0.053	-0.049	-0.067	0.566**	-0.119	0.183	.623**
19	0.651**	.576**	-0.097	0.03	0.022	0.544**	0.143*	.582**	-0.207*	-0.058	0.014	0.551*	-0.076	0.26	.576**
21	0.551**	.696**	-0.02	-0.224**	0.001	0.359**	0.219	.650**	-0.217*	-0.072	-0.076	0.373	0.146	0.393	.627**
25	0.633**	.599**	-0.131	-0.08	0.008	0.377**	0.261**	.614**	-0.224	0.050	-0.124	0.525*	-0.003	0.237	.600**
33	0.644**	.586**	-0.223*	-0.001	0.031	0.395**	0.233**	.598**	-0.324*	0.051	-0.050	0.527*	-0.071	0.270	.564**
2	0.479**	.771**	0.034	-0.171*	-0.036	0.339**	0.162	.751**	-0.130	-0.079	-0.076	0.338	0.098	0.316	.747**
7	0.553**	.694**	0.13	-0.061	-0.251**	0.378**	0.171**	.685**	-0.089	-0.111	-0.203	0.406	-0.08	0.27	.695**
12	0.569**	.676**	0.024	0.260*	-0.159	0.440**	0.215	.592**	-0.090	-0.190	-0.044	0.343	-0.38	0.416	.518**
15	0.140**	.980**	0.108	-0.267**	0.254*	0.155	0.124	.793**	0.095	0.060	0.102	0.111	0.328*	0.291	.772**
17	0.670**	.552**	-0.021	-0.021	-0.137	0.398**	0.263**	.596**	-0.254	-0.179	-0.107	0.352	-0.111	0.497	.508**
20	0.350**	.887**	-0.002	-0.261	0.151	0.067	0.371	.742**	-0.105	0.118	-0.070	0.145	0.229	0.436	.707**
24	0.534**	.715**	0.067	-0.251**	-0.141	0.203	0.323	.668**	-0.112	0.077	-0.297**	0.408**	0.109	0.255	.650**
26	0.549**	.698**	-0.001	0.084	-0.1	0.093	0.543**	.615**	-0.131	0.181	-0.238	0.294	-0.223	0.376	.615**
29	0.239**	.943**	0.098	-0.208	0.108	-0.124	0.482*	.756**	0.108	0.336*	-0.214	0.116	0.169	0.301	.697**
31	0.347**	.880**	-0.011	0.437	-0.107	-0.162	0.68*	.427**	-0.063	0.327	-0.195	0.063	-0.547	0.327	.442**

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4 Note. T= Task-involving; A = Autonomy Support; S = Social Support; E = Ego-involving; C = Controlling. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$

1 Table 5. Standardized Factor Loadings for First-Order CFA, ESEM and Bifactor-ESEM Solutions of the EDMCQ-C (Group 2)

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Item	First-Order ESEM Solution						B-ESEM Solution					G-Factor	Uniquenesses
	T	A	S	E	C	Uniquenesses	T	A	S	E	C		
1	0.376**	0.182	0.053	-0.079	0.024	.736**	0.313	-0.020	0.091	-0.172	-0.063	0.437	.669**
4	0.354**	0.152	0.11	-0.133**	0.013	.715**	0.264	-0.053	0.167	-0.269	0.006	0.489	.589**
11	0.347**	0.171	0.281**	-0.095*	0.030	.607**	0.438*	0.123	0.212*	-0.163*	0.034	0.361**	.590**
13	0.267**	0.161	0.261**	0.086	-0.056	.748**	0.342	0.062	0.223	-0.011	0.035	0.306*	.734**
18	0.462**	0.088	0.105	-0.169**	0.112*	.654**	0.515**	0.094	0.038	-0.165**	0.009	0.240	.640**
23	0.495**	0.048	0.077	-0.265**	0.111**	.596**	0.514**	0.051	0.069	-0.286**	0.009	0.216	.600**
28	0.502**	0.062	0.09	-0.079	-0.035	.628**	0.505*	-0.044	0.139*	-0.179*	0.02	0.246	.631**
30	0.661**	0.016	-0.086	-0.016	-0.020	.587**	0.585	-0.134	0.008	-0.101	-0.023	0.199	.590**
34	0.536**	-0.001	-0.033	-0.043	-0.122*	.665**	0.546	-0.145	0.064	-0.138	0.005	0.116	.645**
3	0.249**	0.221	0.106	-0.075	0.046	.801**	0.271	0.05	0.116	-0.142	-0.08	0.319	.782**
6	0.195**	0.056	-0.042	-0.027	0.008	.955**	0.182	-0.024	-0.007	-0.048	-0.039	0.087	.955**
16	0.422**	0.198	0.153	-0.057	-0.005	.617**	0.518**	0.039	0.183*	-0.149**	-0.056	0.230	.619**
22	0.354**	0.227*	0.182	0.096*	-0.067	.685**	0.433**	0.003	0.241**	-0.042	-0.055	0.239	.692**
32	0.514**	0.027	0.035	0.079	-0.187**	.657**	0.596**	-0.135	0.148	-0.04	-0.008	0.041	.601**
8	0.225	0.249**	0.251	-0.005	-0.151	.659**	0.362**	-0.028	0.456**	-0.221**	-0.097	0.129	.585**
14	0.253	0.111	0.347	0.081	-0.178*	.656**	0.399**	-0.029	0.483**	-0.13**	0.064	0.069	.580**
27	0.065	-0.015	0.422**	0.130**	-0.152*	.775**	0.244	0.057	0.387	0.009	0.189	-0.014	.751**
5	0.004	-0.086	0.042	0.390**	0.121*	.757**	-0.111	0.005	-0.048	0.362**	0.107	0.290**	.759**
9	-0.05	0.014	-0.007	0.678**	0.043	.491**	-0.209**	-0.079	-0.026	0.570**	0.034	0.362**	.493**
10	0.058	-0.098	-0.086	0.334**	0.276**	.665**	-0.159	-0.025	-0.163	0.319*	0.079	0.415**	.668**
19	-0.088	0.100*	0.052	0.781**	-0.039	.441**	-0.202	-0.085	0.043	0.626**	0.001	0.330**	.449**
21	-0.024	-0.196	0.12	0.249**	0.355**	.622**	-0.201**	0.078	-0.1	0.264**	0.251	0.435**	.622**
25	-0.136*	-0.001	0.072	0.388**	0.289**	.604**	-0.227*	0.132	-0.108	0.419**	0.067	0.375**	.599**
33	-0.176*	0.112	0.051	0.673**	0.049	.485**	-0.240**	0.032	-0.019	0.619**	-0.043	0.304**	.464**
2	0.054	-0.193**	-0.013	0.146*	0.384**	.695**	-0.176**	0.038	-0.158	0.169	0.186	0.429**	.695**
7	0.163	-0.195	-0.164	0.269**	0.290*	.657**	-0.131	-0.069	-0.249**	0.274**	0.137	0.399**	.663**
12	0.117	-0.026	-0.245	0.300**	0.334**	.614**	-0.220**	-0.211	-0.155*	0.168	-0.044	0.576**	.520**
15	0.140*	-0.238	0.315	-0.016	0.218*	.787**	0.138	0.137	0.079	0.007	0.344	0.211	.793**
17	0.033	-0.106	-0.095	0.238**	0.439**	.571**	-0.271*	-0.049	-0.176	0.185	0.118	0.569**	.521**
20	-0.051	-0.081	0.249**	0.055	0.383**	.777**	-0.077	0.215	0.013	0.09	0.190	0.358**	.775**
24	0.014	-0.13	0.009	0.172**	0.410**	.677**	-0.097	0.199	-0.284*	0.318*	0.156	0.343**	.627**
26	-0.070	0.194*	-0.086	0.036	0.617**	.571**	-0.174	0.221	-0.238	0.126	-0.139	0.477*	.601**
29	0.056	0.013	0.173	-0.148**	0.472**	.815**	0.142	0.383	-0.126	0.014	0.073	0.252	.748**
31	0.009	0.413*	-0.27	-0.036	0.555**	.538**	-0.078	0.187	-0.207	-0.027	-0.535	0.472*	.406*

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Note. T= Task-involving; A = Autonomy Support; S = Social Support; E = Ego-involving; C = Controlling. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$

1 Table 5. Standardized Factor Correlations for the CFA (Group 2) and ESEM (Groups 2 and 3) solutions for the EDMCQ-C.

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	Task-involving	Autonomy-supportive	Socially-supportive	Ego-involving	Controlling coaching
Task-involving		.903**	.694**	-.503**	-.409**
Autonomy-supportive	.175 / .317		.840**	-.483**	-.441**
Socially-supportive	.599** / .436	-.029 / .074		-.446**	-.520**
Ego-involving	-.269** / -.252**	-.189 / -.331**	-.245** / -.195		.878**
Controlling coaching	-.222** / -.234**	-.188 / -.237**	-.231* / -.171	.473* / .531**	

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4 *Note.* CFA correlations (above the diagonal) and ESEM correlations (below the diagonal). ESEM correlations for group two to the left and for group three to the right.5 * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$

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