The authors did a very good job addressing my concerns, and I enjoyed reading the revised manuscript. Please find my comments below.

1. **Intro structure.** I’m satisfied with the current shape of the introduction, but I want to suggest some things. These are not requests but only something to consider. We don’t want to create another example for a popular meme that compares the original paper with the revised one.
   1. I would add the **Pilot Studies** section after the **Literature on Esports Expertise** section. Next, I would add **Present Study** section after the **Pilot Studies.**
   2. Pilot Studies.

* I like the description of Pilot 1.
* I would prefer to have a longer description of Pilot 2 here rather than Tables 2 and 3. I personally prefer the content of appendix 5 than Tables 2 and 3. If I understand it correctly, the pilot studies provide the rationale for some decisions included in the present study, so I would prefer abstract-type paragraphs rather than detailed tables in the introduction.

Ps. The authors wrote: “For the data and detailed results, see Appendix 2 (<https://osf.io/qbd7x/)>.”. Appendix 2 doesn’t include the detailed results – they are in the OSF folder –, thus, the sentence can be misleading.

* I would recommend adding the description of Plot 3 here to show the completeness of pilot studies.
  1. Games description – I would move this section to methods

However, If the authors insist on keeping Tables 2 and 3, I would recommend adding the phrase “daily” to practice (hours), deliberate practice (hours), and physical training (minutes). Furthermore, Table 3 is extremely hard to read, but maybe only for me.

1. **Independent variables.** 
   1. **Naive or General practice.** Please, be consistent with the used labels. In the hypotheses, you used “naive”, whereas in the last sentence of the first paragraph of the independent variables section, you used “general practice”.
   2. **Deliberate Esports Practice (DEP) Instrument.** I needed help understanding the measure as presented in the manuscript, so I let myself create the Table presenting it. If keeping it in the form of the table is only my preference, ignore it.

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| **Table XXX. Deliberate Esports Practice (DEP) Instrument** | | |
| **Introduction to items** | **Item Content** | **Category (code)** |
| The first two activities require *focused attention* and *directly* aim at improving **esports rank/skills**. | Learning *alone* (from guides, videos, streams, replays, etc.)? This does **not** include playing. | Deliberate Practice (DP1) |
| Learning *with others* (getting feedback from teammates or coaches, team discussions, etc.)? This does **not** include playing. | Deliberate Practice (DP2) |
| The next three activities do *not directly* aim at improving **esports rank/skills**. | Physical practice (gym, running, etc.)? | Naive Practice (NP1) |
| Mental practice that is **not** playing (meditation, breathing exercise, etc.)? | Naive Practice (NP2) |
| Relaxing esports activities that are **not** playing (watching streams, discussing the game, etc.) | Naive Practice (NP3) |
| The last activities specifically concern *playing* esports game(s). The first two require *focused attention* and *directly* aim at improving **esports rank/skills**. | Playing with *coaches, team*, or other experts (with tactical communication, reflection, etc.) | Deliberate Practice (DP3) |
| Playing the game *alone* (practicing aim or last-hit, game scenarios/matchups, etc.)? | Deliberate Practice (DP4) |
| The final activity does *not directly* aim at improving **esports rank/skills**. | Routinely playing the game (ranked mode, non-ranked mode, with or without friends, etc.). Please, exclude the hours you reported earlier. | Naive Practice (NP4) |
| *Note.* The questionnaire starts with the question: During the past 12 months of playing [GAME NAME], how many *hours per week* did you spend on the following activities? | | |

1. **The full survey.** I'm not an expert in legal issues, but can we share the content of the items from the original questionnaires (e.g., Short Grit Scale, Duckworth & Quinn, 2009)? I just want to draw attention to this issue.
2. **Design and analysis plan. E1 & E2**: For clarity, I would move “persistence and intelligence” to the same place - both at the end or beginning.