



## STUDY INFORMATION AND INFORMED CONSENT

### Developing perceptual skills for pitch recognition in baseball

#### Principal Investigator:

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#### Study team:

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Dear Player,

We are a group of researchers from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver (Canada). We are interested in how age and practice shape the visual skills youth athletes develop, particularly in baseball. To help us learn more about these skills and their development, we would like you to complete two tasks. The first is an online survey, to give information on your sport experiences so far with a focus on baseball. We are then asking you to do another online task, this time a couple of “games”, which involve making decisions about various thrown pitches in baseball as well as a game which will give us general information about visual skills when objects (this time non-baseball shapes) are moving.

You have been asked to take part in this study because you are male, aged between 12 years and 21 years, you have at least one season of experience with organized baseball practice, you have normal or corrected (glasses or contacts) vision, no known neurological disorders and no previous experience in a similar study.

The initial survey should take about 15-20 minutes to complete (and you can get parental help here). The other games (baseball and visual object task) should take about 30 minutes in total. You must complete the baseball and visual object tracking task on your own, without parent help in answering (they can help with understanding instructions if needed during the practice phase). You do not have to complete both tasks at once.

Your involvement is voluntary and even if you initially choose to take part in this study you can exit the survey or games at any time without having to give any reason. Should

you just need to pause at any point, there are points in the game where breaks are allowed and you may close the survey and return to it later using the link we e-mailed you. All your responses (even halfway through a page) are automatically saved. Once every year, in the following 3-5 years, we hope to invite you to complete these tasks again. A long-term study such as this will aid our understanding of how and when visual skills develop in youth athletes and potentially guide how we train and assess these skills and assess the benefits of game-training apps.

**As a thank-you for taking part, you will get a \$15 Amazon e-voucher after completing the survey AND the baseball and visual acuity game tasks.**

All responses that you provide will be combined with those of other players who are taking part in this research and will remain confidential. However, researchers are sometimes required to make their data publicly available to anyone who is interested in their study. If the data of this study is to be shared, it **will not** contain any personal information, such as your name, club or team names, or your month/year of birth. Although it is possible for individual players to be identified by their past activities and other questions on their behaviour, this risk is low given that there will be data from approximately 200 or more players in this study. Note that once this data is made publicly available, the information that you have provided cannot be withdrawn or removed.

In accordance with the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), the online survey is administered via the UBC-hosted version of Qualtrics, which is a survey host that is fully compliant with FIPPA legislation, and ensures that the survey data is kept secure and is stored and backed up in Canada. All electronic personal information will be password-protected and encrypted on hard-drives or desktop computers that are locked in the principal investigator's research office at the University of British Columbia. Personal data shall not be made available to anyone other than the researchers involved in this study. The data from the two visual tasks are collected on a software platform called "Gorilla". The Gorilla servers are located in the EU (Republic of Ireland), with some additional services (emailing, error handling) provided by suppliers in the USA. Data stored on the Gorilla platform are not linked to personal information and only contain information about your performance on these tasks which is associated with a unique login code.

Details of this study have already been provided to your parent/guardian. If we were able to contact you through the e-mail of your parent/guardian or through your personal e-mail, then your parent/guardian has provided consent for you to take part in the study (**parental consent is not required for players 16 years or older**). By completing the online survey, you are demonstrating that you wish to take part in the study. If you have any questions or want further information about the study please feel free to email Dr. Nicola Hodges ([nicola.hodges@ubc.ca](mailto:nicola.hodges@ubc.ca)) or Georgia Grieve ([georgia.grieve@ubc.ca](mailto:georgia.grieve@ubc.ca)).

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research

Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at (604) 822-8598 or if long distance e-mail [RSIL@ors.ubc.ca](mailto:RSIL@ors.ubc.ca) or call toll free 1(877) 822-8598.  
Many thanks for taking part!

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