# RE-DESIGNING THE INTERACTION OF ROWERS WITH THEIR MENSTRUAL CYCLE **APPENDIX**

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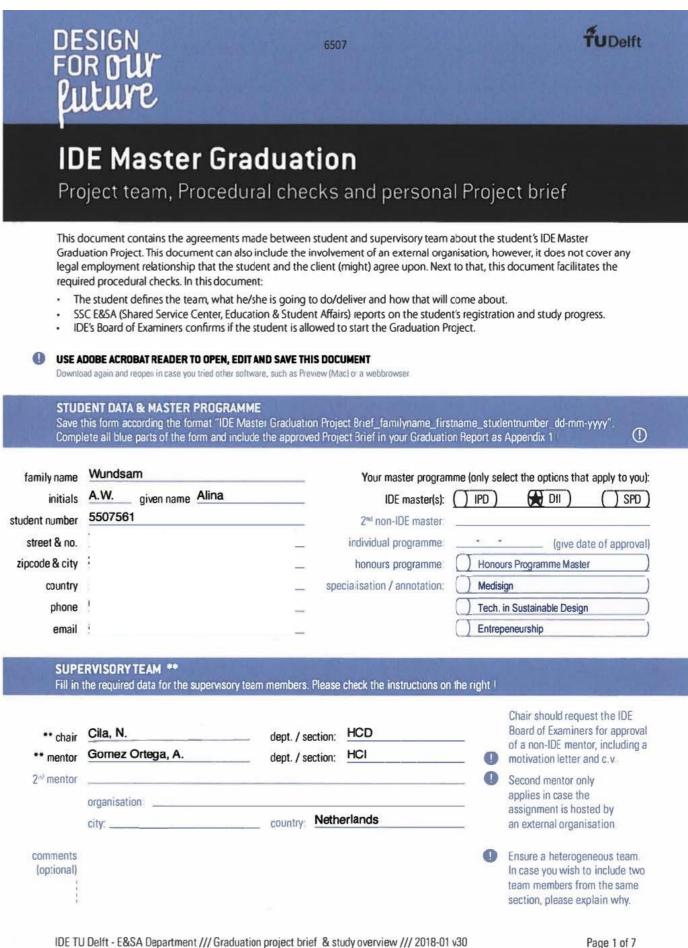
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**WORKSHOP 3** 

11

FINAL CONCEPT

# **PROJECT BRIEF**





### Procedural Checks - IDE Master Graduation

### APPROVAL PROJECT BRIEF

to be filled in by the chair of the supervisory team.

chair	
CHECK STUDY PROGRESS  To be filled in by the SSC E&SA (Shared Service C The study progress will be checked for a 2nd time	Center, Education & Student Affairs), after approval of the project brief by the Chair. The just before the green light meeting.
Master electives no. of EC accumulated in total:  Of which, taking the conditional requirements into account, can be part of the exam programme  List of electives obtained before the third semester without approval of the BoE	30 EC X YES all 1 <sup>st</sup> year master courses passed  NO missing 1 <sup>st</sup> year master courses are:
FORMAL APPROVAL GRADUATION PROJECTO be filled in by the Board of Examiners of IDE TUNext, please assess, (dis)approve and sign this Programme To the Programme	U Delft. Please check the supervisory team and study the parts of the brief marked **.
<ul> <li>Does the project fit within the (MSc)-programme the student (taking into account, if described, activities done next to the obligatory MSc specourses)?</li> <li>Is the level of the project challenging enough the MSc IDE graduating student?</li> <li>Is the project expected to be doable within 10 working days/20 weeks?</li> <li>Does the composition of the supervisory team comply with the regulations and fit the assigning the students.</li> </ul>	A, the pecific Procedure: V APPROVED NOT APPROVED  in for a
name Monique von Morgen	date
IDE TU Delft - E&SA Department /// Graduation production production in the second seco	Student number <u>5507561</u>



# Personal Project Brief - IDE Master Graduation

# Redesigning the way elite athletes interact with their menstrual cycle project title

Please state the title of your graduation project (above) and the start date and end date (below). Keep the title compact and simple. Do not use abbreviations. The remainder of this document allows you to define and clarify your graduation project.

start date 06 - 02 - 2023 end date

### INTRODUCTION \*\*

Please describe, the context of your project, and address the main stakeholders (interests) within this context in a concise yet complete manner. Who are involved, what do they value and how do they currently operate within the given context? What are the main opportunities and limitations you are currently aware of (cultural- and social norms, resources (time, money, ...), technology, ...).

There are more and more women who participate in sports on a professional level. The Olympic games in 1964, in Japan, have been the first ones where almost half of the athletes participating were female. But still, a lot of female athletes train based on what has worked for men. As in many other fields, there is a research data gap because studies of exercise, muscle and cardiovascular physiology are commonly studied on male participants (O'Halloran, 2020). That comes with obvious problems. Not taking the unique biological differences that women experience, including the menstrual cycle and hormonal fluctuations into account. Women's bodies are not simply smaller versions of men's, so it's important that we approach training in a way that acknowledges and accommodates these differences.

Many athletes as well as other women, only have their monthly bleeding in mind when thinking of the menstrual cycle. But compared to men, female bodies go through a series of physiological changes that occur in the female reproductive system in preparation for pregnancy every month (the gross average menstrual cycle takes 28 days). The cycle varies from woman to woman as it is very complex and influenced by a range of lifestyle factors including the age and 'phase of life' and most importantly, the hormones: Hormones are messengers from the body, delivering orders from our organs to our brain (and vice versa) to initiate nearly everything we do. Hormones tell our bodies when to eat, sleep and even when to grow. Next to helping women to get babies they also make us feel happy, in love or sad. The hormonal levels of men are quite stable compared to the ones of women. As these are influenced by the menstrual cycle (Stacy T. Sims, PhD., 2016). A known and talked about effect is fertility and mood, but what is lesser known and even in top sports often overlooked is the number of effects the cycle can have on an athlete's performance, including physical and mental changes. Nevertheless, there are already a few coaches who pay attention to it, such as the Brisbane Lions Australian Football Club, who monitor their players to ensure athletes do not develop relative energy deficiency syndrome. (Mikaeli Anne Carmichael, et al., 2021)

It is important for female athletes to understand their menstrual cycle to train, eat and work with—not against—their natural physiology. Next to the effects on their performance a lot of women are not aware of the potential consequences that ignoring their menstrual cycle has on their health. One phenomenon that is very prevalent in the female athlete group is amenorrhea. Meaning the absence of menstruation. It is known that female athletes under-report menstrual cycle disorders, with a prevalence of up to 40% in some studies. Several studies have reported this is due to the fact, that there is low awareness among female athletes and their trainers or coaches of the potential healthcare risks. (Verhoef et al., 2021)

One example of gender equality in sports can be seen in the training schedule of the Dutch Olympic rowing team, as reported by one of the team's rowers who stated that the current training schedule for female rowers is exactly the same as that of their male counterparts. The team trains without considering the impact of the menstrual cycle on their performance and compared to several other data (like exercise time, heart rate and calories burned) does not track their cycles. This lack of attention is partly due to the fact that the team has coaches and physiotherapists who are not involved in discussions about the female athletes' menstrual cycles and symptoms. Simply because they are primarily men.

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Initials & Name A.W. Wundsam	Student number <u>5507561</u>
Title of Project Redesigning the way elite athletes interact wit	n their menstrual cycle

# **TU**Delft

# Personal Project Brief - IDE Master Graduation

introduction (continued): space for images

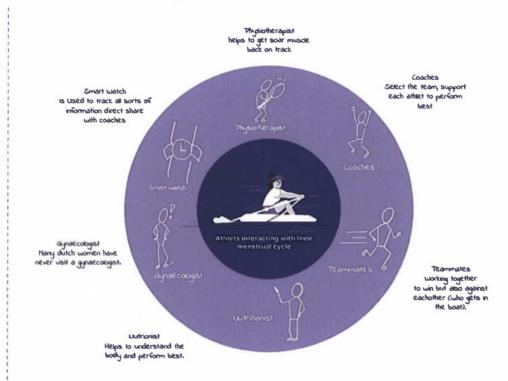


image / figure 1: Stakeholders Map (stakeholders involved in the research)

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# Personal Project Brief - IDE Master Graduation

## PROBLEM DEFINITION \*\*

Limit and define the scope and solution space of your project to one that is manageable within one Master Graduation Project of 30 EC (= 20 full time weeks or 100 working days) and clearly indicate what issue(s) should be addressed in this project

In the world of top sports, much emphasis is placed on tracking various forms of data to share with coaches and be able to create performance analysis. But still, a crucial aspect of women's health is often overlooked: the impact of the menstrual cycle on athletic performance and health. Although research in this field suggests a correlation between the two, the results can be inconsistent due to differences in how each woman reacts to her cycle. As a result, individual needs should be the primary focus.

The menstrual cycle of female athletes is often disregarded due to a lack of awareness. Some athletes and coaches may not realize the significance of the menstrual cycle in relation to performance and health, and may not recognize it as a relevant factor. Additionally, there is still a societal stigma associated with discussing menstrual health, particularly among male coaches, who may feel uncomfortable or embarrassed discussing the topic. Some coaches may also resist incorporating new training methods and technologies that consider the menstrual cycle, as they may prefer traditional approaches or believe that considering the cycle could negatively impact an athlete's mindset.

The outcome of not addressing menstrual issues such as pains, irregular or absent periods is that numerous health problems may be unnoticed. Female athletes who experience these issues are at an increased risk of long-term consequences such as osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, and infertility.

### **ASSIGNMENT \*\***

State in 2 or 3 sentences what you are going to research, design, create and / or generate, that will solve (part of) the issue(s) pointed out in "problem definition". Then illustrate this assignment by indicating what kind of solution you expect and / or aim to deliver, for instance: a product, a product-service combination, a strategy illustrated through product or product-service combination ideas, .... In case of a Specialisation and/or Annotation, make sure the assignment reflects this/these.

Explore the current interaction of female athletes with their menstrual cycle, including any related needs and discomfort. Evaluate the effect of menstruation on athletic performance and overall health. To finally be able to design a solution that improves the relationship of the rowers interact with their cycle.

A crucial aspect of the study is to gain a deeper understanding of current research on the menstrual cycle, including its impact on physical activity and its effects on the mental and physical well-being of women. To accomplish this, it is necessary to engage with experts in the fields of medicine and science.

This research will serve as the foundation for testing the influence of the menstrual cycle on the physical and mental wellbeing on a specific group, the Dutch rowing team. By tracking various indicators (like their mood, cycle and pains) over the course of a month and conducting follow-up session, the team will be able to discuss the results and identify the key issues to address. The aim is to identify patterns and which way the menstrual cycle influences the athletes and their performance. An example could be an increased bodyweight during a specific moment of their cycle leading to the side effect of deducting points from the athletes' performance for the additional weight. By combining qualitative research with a small sample of data I hope the findings will be more convincing for the coaches and create a space to open up a discussion.

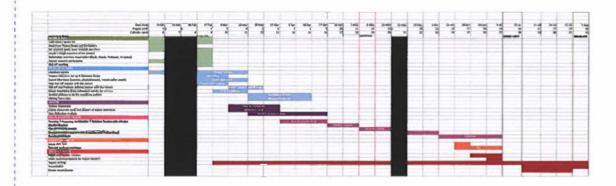
One main part of the graduation project is the design process itself and to facilitate and create a space to open up the conversation about menstruation. Leading to the aim to identify the specific needs of rowing team and co-design a solution that addresses them. Therefor it is still open what the specific final design will be. A possible design outcome could be to identify the most relevant menstrual effects and designing a digital intervention to track these or to trigger conversation starters.

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Title of Project	Redesigning the way elite athletes interact	t with their menstrual cycle	

### **PLANNING AND APPROACH \*\***

Include a Gantt Chart (replace the example below - more examples can be found in Manual 2) that shows the different phases of your project, deliverables you have in mind, meetings, and how you plan to spend your time. Please note that all activities should fit within the given net time of 30 EC = 20 full time weeks or 100 working days, and your planning should include a kick-off meeting, mid-term meeting, green light meeting and graduation ceremony. Illustrate your Gantt Chart by, for instance, explaining your approach, and please indicate periods of part-time activities and/or periods of not spending time on your graduation project, if any, for instance because of holidays or parallel activities.

start date 6 - 2 - 2023 7 - 8 - 2023 end date



The graduation project will take 27 weeks to complete, including 3 weeks of breaks, for the block elective and one holiday after the midterm. During the first term, I will work on the project 4 days a week.

The project is going to involve 6 main activities:

Personal Project Rrief Inc Master Conduction

- 1. The Define & Plan Phase: The goal of this first phase is to set a clear scope and plan for the project as well as planning the research with the participants.
- 2. Research: The second and third phases will utilize the context mapping methodology and methods from creative facilitation. During this time, I will conduct literature research and expert interviews to gain knowledge about the topic and what has already been done in the field. Additionally, I will have a session with the athletes to open up the problem space and define the problem statement. As well as invite the athletes to track their menstrual cycle and symptoms over a month. This activity serves as a sensitization tool, allowing me to get deeper insights in the co-creation session afterwards.
- 3. Analysis: Next to the other phases I will analyze the interviews using context mapping methods and try to visualize
- 4. Ideation & Solution Finding: The athletes and possibly other experts will be invited to participate in an idea finding and solution finding session, leading to prototyping.
- 5. Validation: This is the final phase and will overlap with the prototyping phase, allowing for iteration on the
- 6. Documentation: My plan is to keep my report updated every week. The final weeks of the projects are dedicated to reporting and preparing the final presentation.

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# Personal Project Brief - IDE Master Graduation

## MOTIVATION AND PERSONAL AMBITIONS

Explain why you set up this project, what competences you want to prove and learn. For example: acquired competences from your MSc programme, the elective semester, extra-curricular activities (etc.) and point out the competences you have yet developed. Optionally, describe which personal learning ambitions you explicitly want to address in this project, on top of the learning objectives of the Graduation Project, such as, in depth knowledge a on specific subject, broadening your competences or experimenting with a specific tool and/or methodology, .... Stick to no more than five ambitions.

My motivation for this project comes from a desire to bring attention to a crucial issue that needs more awareness. Our society often overlooks the experiences and needs of half of the population by designing primarily for and by men. Through my graduation project, I aim to make a small impact and challenge these biases.

As a woman, I am also personally interested in learning more about the female body and collaborating with top female athletes to uncover their journey to peak performance.

Further I am curious to learn how to analyze the data effectively and gain new insights from it. As well as pursuing my passion for co-design. I hope to empower the athletes by involving them in the design process, giving them the opportunity to drive the improvement of their training from a bottom up approach.

## References:

Mikaeli Anne Carmichael, Rebecca Louise Thomson, Lisa Jane Moran, Thomas Philip Wycherley, 2021. The Impact of Menstrual Cycle Phase on Athletes' Performance.

O'Halloran, K.D., 2020. Mind the gap: widening the demographic to establish new norms in human physiology. J. Physiol. 598, 3045-3047. https://doi.org/10.1113/JP279986

Stacy T. Sims, PhD., 2016. Roar, How to match your food and fitness to your female physiology for optimum performance, great health, and a strong, lean body for life, The Crown publishing group.

Verhoef, S.J., Wielink, M.C., Achterberg, E.A., Bongers, M.Y., Goossens, S.M.T.A., 2021. Absence of menstruation in female athletes: why they do not seek help. BMC Sports Sci. Med. Rehabil. 13, 146. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13102-021-00372-3

In case your project brief needs final comments, please add any information you think is relevant

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# 1.2 MIDTERM EVALUATION

# The Midterm Evaluation Form

>> Complete the form to prepare for the midterm evaluation, and send it to your supervisors, at least 3 days prior to your midterm evaluation session. <<

Name student	Alina Wundsam
Student number	5507561
Name chair	Cila, N.
Name mentor	Gomez Ortega, A.

# Interim/In-between results

# Short description of realised interim results:

<to be filled in by the student>

During the last months I finished my research phase and defined my design direction. Therefore I conducted and analysed 8 experts interviews. These were the basis for the survey were I was able to proof my assumption that rowers performance is affected by the hormonal cycle. The final activity I did were two workshops with rowers and coaches to coin my design direction.

### Reaction on description interim results:

The supervisory team is happy about the progress of the project, the activities that were conducted and the enthusiasm that the project sparked. We are confident that the project will be completed within the planned timeframe and good results.

<take course's="" learn<="" th="" the=""><th><b>Reflection</b> ning objectives as starting point when reflection</th><th>ting on the topics below &gt;</th></take>	<b>Reflection</b> ning objectives as starting point when reflection	ting on the topics below >
Reflection on quality	<to be="" by="" filled="" in="" student="" the=""> I believe so far I was able to deliver good quality research and build connection to experts that support the graduation project.</to>	<to be="" by="" filled="" in="" supervisory="" team=""> Alina has produced high- quality research through a literature review and close collaboration with different stakeholders. It is important to translate it into the writing of</to>
Reflection on planning	<to be="" by="" filled="" in="" student="" the=""> To be honest I am a bit ahead of my planning as I already conducted the ideation workshop. Of course some adjustments were made to the activities and I am happy with</to>	<to be="" by="" filled="" in="" supervisory="" team=""> So far, the project is on track and Alina has conducted several activities ahead of plan. For the next months is important to also dedicate some time to writing the</to>
Reflection on personal ambitions (if formulated in project brief)	<to be="" by="" filled="" in="" student="" the=""> My ambition was to make an impact for one rower. So I kind of achieved that already but I am very excited to continue and not only understand and point out what the problem is but also to create solutions.</to>	<to be="" by="" filled="" in="" supervisory="" team=""> Alina has a very positive and proactive attitude and is very careful and mindful of how she involves the rowers. The booklet is already a very nice outcome that delivers impact and we encourage her to keep</to>

# 02 INTERVIEWS2.1 QUESTION LIST

# Semi-structured Interview

with Rowing Coach

## Introduction: 2 min

My name is Alina Wundsam and I am a Master's student at the Technical University Delft. Thank you for taking the time.

- Before I start Consent for recording and including in the research
- I just started with my final master project which focuses on the interaction between female rowers and their menstrual cycle, and how to make this part of their training routine. For the moment I am trying to get an overview of the different effects and aspects that the cycle has on the individual athlete.

### Research Goal:

- General: Understand how the rowing coaches see the topic of menstruation affecting the athletes and how they deal with girls having menstrual issues.
- Coaching: Understand how she sees the role of the coach. How the communication amongst the team but also the athletes and health experts is.
- 3. <u>Tracking</u>: What is currently being tracked? What does the routine look like and what are interesting aspects to track about menstruation in her opinion?

# Activity Mindmapping: 20 min

To get a quick overview as our time is limited I would like us to make two quick mindmaps one specific on nutrition and one general on the different aspects where you see an influence of the menstrual cycle and the rower's mental and physical wellbeing.

- Starting with your area of expertise in nutrition and menstrual cycle what are topics that come into your mind?
- In the conversation with the rowers they told me that they are not talking with their coach about their menstrual cycle but with you. Therefore I was wondering about a more general scope. Where do you see an effect of the menstrual cycle on the rower's performance or well-being? This can be for example period pain or lack of motivation.

# **Deepening Questions during Mindmapping:**

Focus Area	Questions
Coaching	Can you briefly introduce yourself, how long have you been coaching?
	☐ What is the role of the coach?

	<ul> <li>How is the communication among coaches? Are you "officially" trained to be a coach? Or do you become a coach based on expertise?</li> <li>Who defines how you should train the rowers?</li> <li>Is there a difference between the way the men and the women train?</li> <li>Are you changing your approach when working with women compared to men?</li> <li>What are the concerns or issues the rowers have when talking to you? Are they also sharing well-being-related things with you?</li> <li>Do you have access to experts when you don't know how to best give advice?</li> <li>How do you get access to information on how to coach? Who do you get that from?</li> </ul>
Menstrual Cycle	<ul> <li>□ Have you ever experienced anyone of the athletes having menstrual issues? With their physical (pain) or with their mental well-being?</li> <li>□ Did anyone ever share complaints about change in eating behavior?</li> <li>□ Did you ever experience that someone was bleeding during a race?</li> <li>□ From your experience when the athletes are having menstrual issues with whom are they talking about it?</li> <li>□ Is there anyone providing them with support?</li> <li>□ If yes what type of support?</li> <li>□ Would you say there is awareness around the topic of the menstrual cycle on the coach level but also on the overall rowing organisational level?</li> <li>□ Do you think the athletes themselves have knowledge and awareness of the impact of the menstrual cycle?</li> <li>□ How would you describe the believes/attitude of the coaches regarding the cycle?</li> <li>□ How can a coach support athletes with menstrual issues?</li> <li>□ Are a lot of athletes using hormonal birth control? What are in your opinion common issues there?</li> <li>□ I was wondering on a systematic and structural level do you see a bias towards women? So for example by men being in hierarchy positions and just not taking differences into account or by the way competitions and rules are made?</li> </ul>
Tracking	<ul> <li>□ What data do you ask the athletes to track?</li> <li>□ Why do you track these data?</li> <li>□ What are you doing with the data?</li> <li>□ How does the tracking work? Is there a routine?</li> <li>□ Which menstrual or well-being data could be in your opinion interesting to track?</li> <li>□ From a designer's perspective is there an opportunity space to redesign the way people track?</li> </ul>

# **Closing Question 8 min**

$\hfill \square$ If you would have a magic stick what would your wish for in this area be?
$\ \square$ Do you have any suggestions for where you see opportunities for
improvement?

	Yes	No
Taking part in the research		
have read and understood the study information, or it has been read to me. I have been able to ask questions about the research, and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.		
I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this study and understand that I can refuse to answer questions and withdraw from the study at any time without having to give a reason.		
I understand that taking part in the study involves an audio-recorded interview and written notes.		
Use of the information in the study		
understand that the information I provide will be used as part of the research for the TU Delft graduation project.		
agree that my information can be quoted in research outputs.	0	

# 2.2 CONSENT FORMS

# **Consent Form**

for the research on rowers interacting with their menstrual cycle.

You are invited to participate in a research study for the graduation project on the interaction of rowers with their menstrual cycle. The study is **conducted by Alina Wundsam from the TU Delft.** 

The purpose of this research study is to explore how the menstrual cycle impacts the physical and mental performance of rowers. To accomplish this, I am trying to understand the rowers' experiences and needs, including how and where the menstrual cycle can be incorporated into their routine.

The interview will take approximately 30 minutes, during which I will ask you to mindmap the various topics and provide insights into your expertise in nutrition and your experience in working with the athletes. These insights will be utilized as a foundation for my research to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the diverse areas in which the menstrual cycle affects athletes.

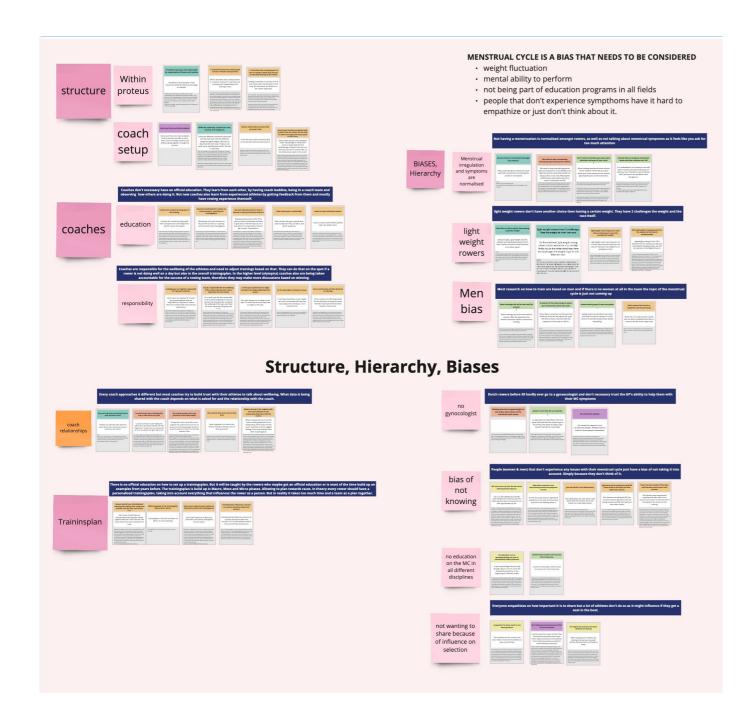
Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary and you can withdraw at any time. You are free to omit any questions. If there is any information that you share during the interview, that you would like me to remove from the research please let me know the latest one week after the interview.

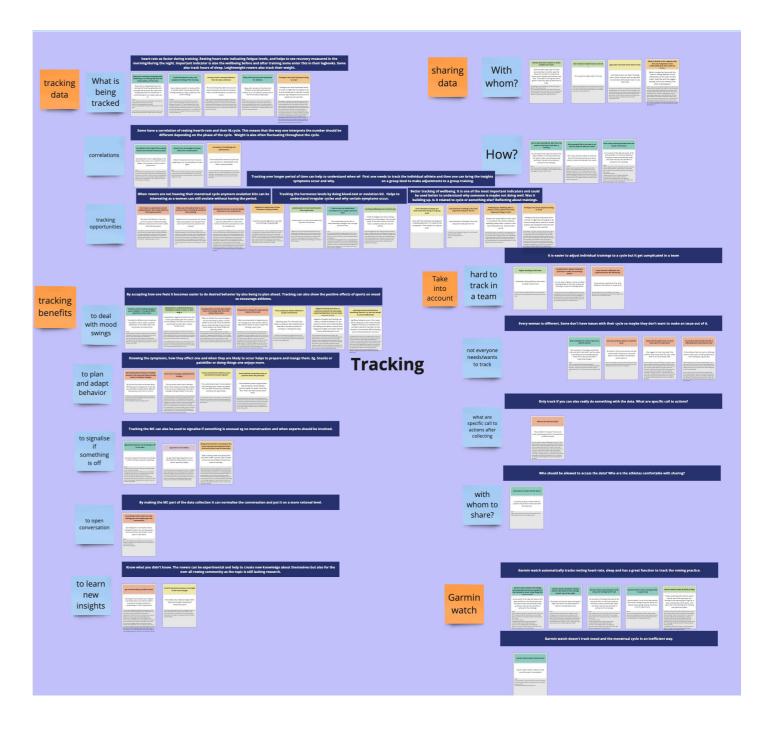
Feel free to contact me Alina Wundsam (a.wundsam@student.tudelft.nl) for answers to pertinent questions about the research and research subjects' rights.

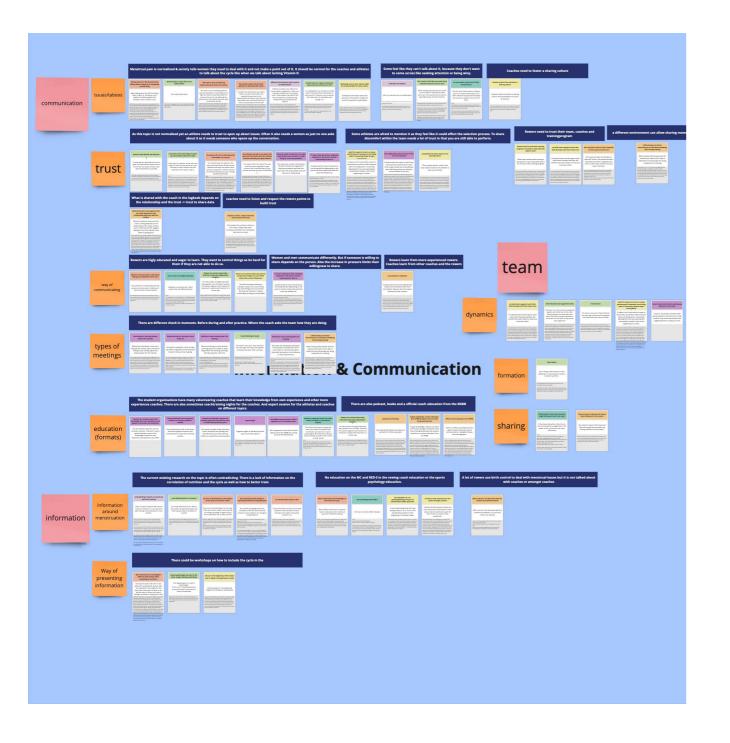
Please sign if you understand this information and consent to participation. Thank you very much for your participation!

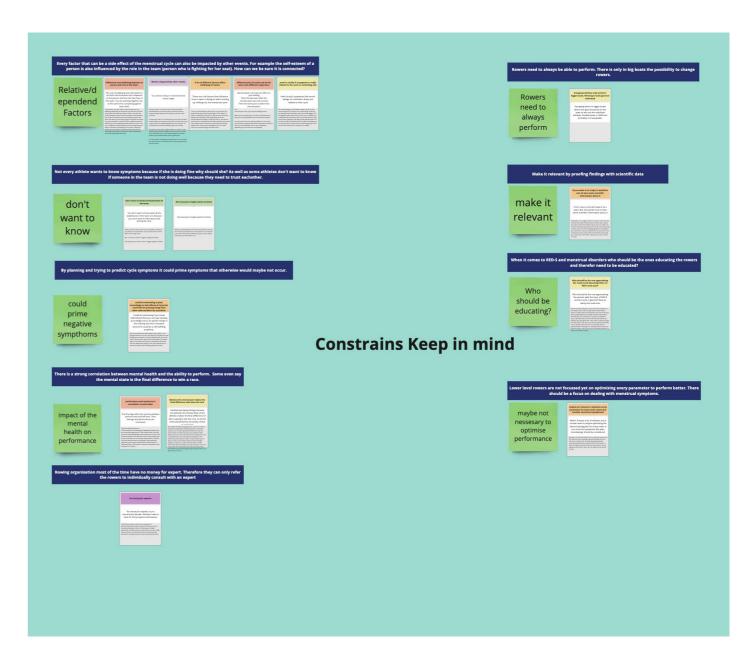
# 2.3 STATEMENT CARDS

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when tacking the cycle into account	When revers would take the mentional cycle into account. They could potentially achieve their lead performance (with a healthy cycle)  to be more healthy  If the private performance is not a healthy cycle)  If the private performance is not be accounted to the reverse the action of the performance is not be accounted to the reverse to the performance is not be action to the reverse to the performance in the performance is not be actioned to the reverse.	There are now technologies being developed that allow to measure harmone being their which why are as the in a size created to be able to rail from measure of Engineers or and are for harmone.  Therefore the size of the size of the size of the size of the measure of Engineers or and are for harmone.  Therefore the size of the si
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Workshops to make it part of	The interviews have shown that there is a bite about (groung the menormal cycle or multiple heart and interviews have about and interviews the service of the service of the service could be a calculated (IMER) professions, services (IMER) professions and the services of	create a sharing sharing senvironment service sharing senvironment service sharing senvironment service sharing senvironment service sharing s
coach, sport doctor, sports psychologist education	Was strated with the property of the property	

# 03 SURVEY3.1 QUESTIONS

# Questionnaire: Influence of the menstrual cycle on your performance as a rower

Topic	Question	Answer Type	
	Are you still actively rowing?	<ul> <li>Yes, I am training weekly</li> <li>Yes, but only in my leisure time</li> <li>No, but I used to be rowing multiple times a week.</li> </ul>	
	Age?	Years	
	Are you currently taking birth control?	Open ended	
	Do you have any official menstrual illnesses (eg. Endrometriosis)	Open ended	0
art A: General lemographics	In which country are you rowing?	Open ended	0
	Which rowing club are you part of?	Open ended	(
	What category are you competing in?	Open ended	(
	Are you a lightweight or an openweight rower?	Select	(
	For how many years have you been rowing?	Number of years	(
	How many times per week do you train?	Select	(
	What menstrual symptoms do you have?	Stomach pains Severe vaginal blood loss Headache Backache Fatigue Nausea/vomiting Fluid retention Painful breasts Stool problems/diarrhea Psychological symptoms (feeling down/depressed) Concentration disorders Water retention other	(
	How many days in total do you experience *symptom* during your menstruation?	Number of days	0
	What intensity score do you give your *symptom* in total?	0-10 (+ explanation scale)	(
	Have you ever cancelled a training because of menstrual symptoms? If yes could you elaborate on it?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	(
	Do you take any medication or use any remedies to manage menstrual cycle symptoms?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	0
	Are you currently taking hormonal birth control to manage physical menstrual symptoms?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	(
	Are you or did experience any side effects due to using hormonal birth control?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>I don't know</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	0
	Is there a period of you menstrual cycle that you feel more or less able to focus during practice?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>I don't know</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	(
	Do you experience any changes in sleep patterns during your menstrual cycle?	<ul> <li>difficulty falling asleep</li> <li>waking up frequently</li> <li>lesser quality of sleep</li> <li>Restless leg syndrome (urge to move)</li> <li>Pain or discomfort during sleep</li> </ul>	0
rt B: Menstrual	Have you ever experienced absent periods due to your training behavior?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>I don't know</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	(
Symptoms	Is there a time of you menstrual cycle that you feel stronger during practice?	Yes I don't know No No Notes	0

# Questionnaire: Influence of the menstrual cycle on your performance as a rower

Topic	Question	Answer Type	
	Is there a time of you menstrual cycle that you feel more or less flexible during practice?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>I don't know</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	
	Do you experience different energy levels due to your menstrual cycle?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>I don't know</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	
	Do you experience a different levels of endurance because of your menstrual cycle?	Yes I don't know No Notes	
	Is there a time of you menstrual cycle that you feel more or less able to focus during practice?	Yes I don't know No Notes	
	Is there a time of you menstrual cycle that you feel lower self esteem?	Yes I don't know No	
	Do you worry about your weight or body composition?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	
	Does your motivation to train change depending on your time of your cycle? If yes, could you elaborate?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>I don't know</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	
	Have you ever felt more annoyed about feedback due to the time of your menstrual cycle?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>I don't know</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	
	Do you think the menstrual cycle is effecting you and your performance as a rower in a psychological way?	Yes I don't know No Notes	
	Do you think the menstrual cycle is effecting you and your performance as a rower in a physical way?	Yes I don't know No Notes	
	Are you tracking your menstrual cycle?	Yes, with a menstruation app (eg Flo, Clue) Yes, with my smart watch (eg Garmin, Apple Watch) Yes, with my physical calendar No I am not Other	
Part C: Tracking	What are you tracking regarding to your menstrual cycle?	Duration of the period Physical symptoms (like pain) Mood Birth control Medications Overall health	
	Have you ever talked to your team mates about your menstruation or menstrual issues?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	
Part D: Communication	Have you ever talked to your coaches about your menstruation or menstrual issues?	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	
Communication	I have experiences a situation where I have not mentioned menstrual pain because I didn't want it to effect the selection process.	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>No</li><li>Notes</li></ul>	
	Have you heard of RED-S (relative energy defistioncy in sport) before?	• Yes • No	
	Thank you for taking the time and sharing your experiences! Is there anything about your experience right now that you would like to change?		
	Do you see an opportunity space for including the menstrual cycle in the sports routine of rowers?	MAKE it less leading!	
	How do you feel about the communication and educating about the menstrual cycle within the rowing organisations?		
	After filling this survey did any experience come to your mind that you would like to share? Maybe elaborating on something you answered before or something you would like to add.		
	Do you have any remarks or feedback for me to take in mind?		

# 3.2 CONSENT FORMS

# **Consent Form**

Break the Taboo!

Research on how the menstrual cycle affects female rowers and their sports routine.

There is still a big research gap on the impact of the menstrual cycle on female athletes. By participating in the research you are contributing to understanding the mental and physical effects of the menstrual cycle on rowers. While every woman's experience is unique, gathering data from many participants will allow us to identify the most prominent factors and raise awareness about important findings.

Participation in the study involves completing an **online questionnaire** that will take **approximately 5-10 minutes**. The survey covers menstrual symptoms, tracking, and communication, and is entirely voluntary. You have the **freedom to withdraw or discontinue participation at any time** without providing a reason.

This study is part of a **TU Delft Graduation project from Alina Wundsam**. The data will be used as a base for redesigning the way the menstrual cycle is addressed in the rowing training. Significant findings might also be shared with rowing associations.

As with any online activity, the risk of a breach is always possible. To the best of our ability your answers in this study will remain confidential. We will minimize any risks by **collecting the data anonymously** and storing the data on the TU Delft servers.

We appreciate your time and willingness to contribute to opening up the conversation around female health. By clicking through the survey you agree to participate voluntarily.

Don't hesitate to contact us for any further questions or feedback:
Alina Wundsam
a.wundsam@student.tudelft.nl
Alejandra Gomez
A.GomezOrtega@tudelft.nl

# 3.2 CONSENT FORMS

Please tick the appropriate boxes to continue to confirm agreement	Yes	No
Taking part in the research		
I have read and understood the study information, or it has been read to me. I have been able to ask questions about the research, and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.		
I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this study and understand that I can refuse to answer questions and withdraw from the study at any time without having to give a reason.		
I understand that taking part in the study involves an online questionnaire and data will be collected anonymously.		
I understand that the information I provide will be used as part of the research for the TU Delft graduation project and for potential reports.		

# 3.3 INVITATION

Let's talk about it! Research on how the menstrual cycle affects female rowers and their sports routine.



Survey for the coaches:

Let's talk about it!

Do you think men and women should train the same way?

Because this is what most of the current research suggest. But women are not just small

There is still a big research gap on the impact of the menstrual cycle on female athletes. By taking part in this research you are helping to gain a better understanding of how well-being and health are addressed by coaches in the rowing field. As well as where potential touchpoints can be for opening up the conversation.

The survey will take no more than 5 minutes and all data will be collected anonymously.

https://tudelft.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_8cC AvfS2hd4f4Z8

Link to the survey:

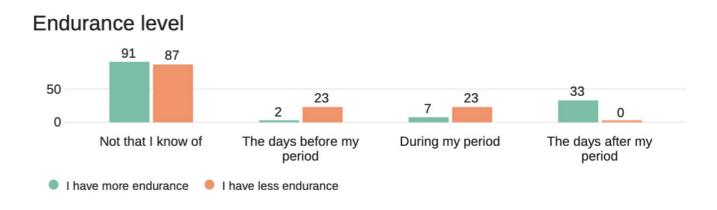
Help breaking the taboo! Take the survey about rowers and their menstrual cycles.

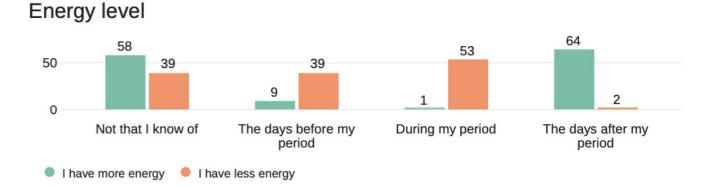


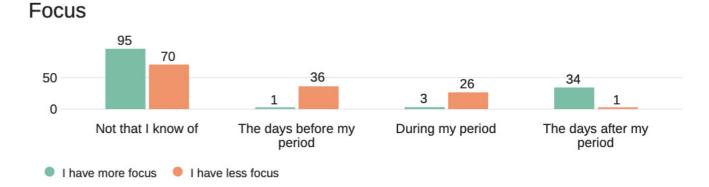
Do you think men and women should train the same way? Because this is what most of the current research suggest. But women are not just small men. There is still a big research gap on the impact of the menstrual cycle on female athletes. By taking 5-10 minutes to participate in the survey you are contributing to understanding the mental and physical effects of the menstrual cycle on rowers. While every woman's experience is unique, gathering data from many participants will allow us to identify the most prominent factors and raise awareness about important findings. Link to the survey: https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/fo rm/SV\_9zE0HjXARMxTTfM

# RESEARCH RESULTS ON SYMPTOMS, OPPORTUNITIES **AND CONSTRAINTS**

# 4.1 SURVEY RESULTS





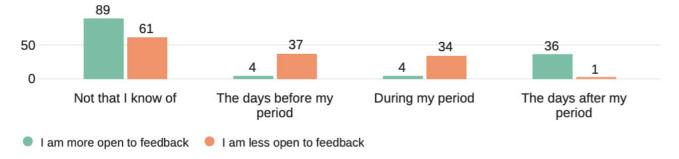


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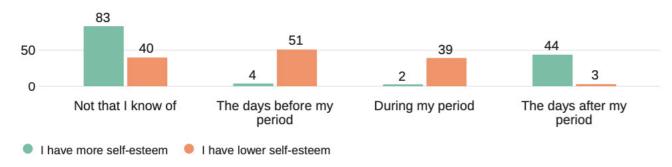
# Flexibility



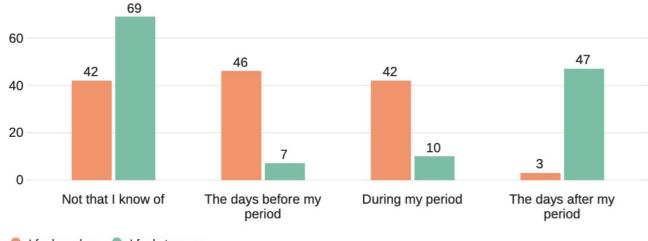
# Openess to feedback



# Self-esteem

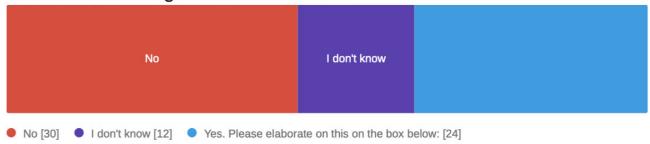


# Stronger/Weaker



I feel weaker
 I feel stronger

# Q32 - Was there a time when you were training and didn't have menstrual bleeding? - Selected Choice



# Q32 3 TEXT - Yes. Please elaborate on this on the box below: - Text

Yes. Please elaborate on this on the box below: - Text

I'm taking the pill until I start bleeding, but the bleedings have happened less frequently since I started rowing

I may not understand the question correctly but I am not continously on my period so I also train when I do not have menstrual bleeding

When I was a light ladies rower for a year, I did not menstruate for about 10 months

Than afterwards it starts bleeding.

Op een gegeven moment was ik zo erg afgevallen voor licht roeien dat ik niet meer ongesteld werd

A long time while losing weight i did not have menstrual bleeding so i had to put on some weight amd now i do again

Stomach pain was too much

In my first year when I started rowing (17 years old), I didn't get my period during the competitive season until summer where we started training less

when I was like 15 and just started getting my period it was very irregular sometimes skipping months at a time (I was already rowing 5-7 times a week at the time)

I did not eat enough so i lost my period for a year while i was training

When I was rowing lightweight and lost too much weight

Not completely without bleeding, but one day of a few drops

Alle dagen dat ik niet ongesteld ben

In the weeks not being on my period?

I was a lightweight for 2 years and stopped menstruating for a few months after losing weight, it did come back though

For two months or so

Period completely disappeared, so no bleeding would take place for like 6 months

Always. If I train more than 6 times a week and/or are below 61kg. Thus basically 3 out of my 4 years of rowing

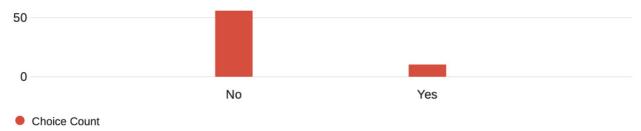
Ik heb een spiraal

During half a year I stopped with the pill and my menstruation also disappeared. In consultation with my GP I started taking the pill again to have menstrual bleeding.

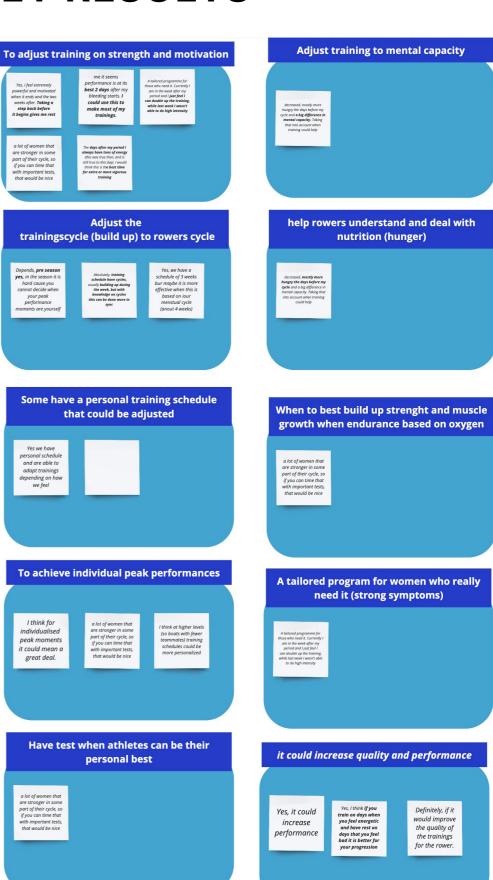
# - Do you see a gynaecologist?



# Q32 - Have you heard of RED-S (relative energy deficiency in sport) before?



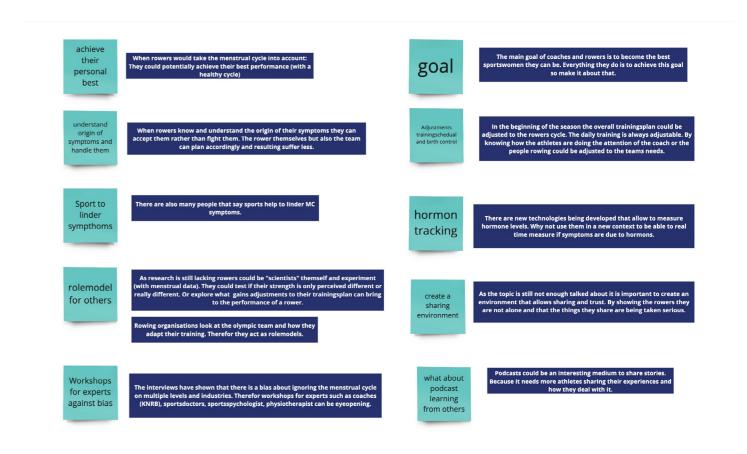
# OPPORTUNITIES BASED ON SURVEY RESULTS



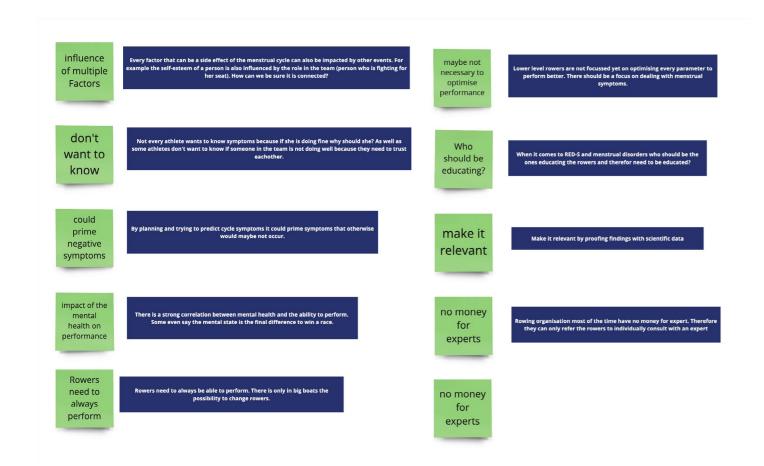
# CONSTRAINTS BASED ON SURVEY RESULTS



# 4.2 OPPORTUNITIES BASED ON INTERVIEW RESULTS

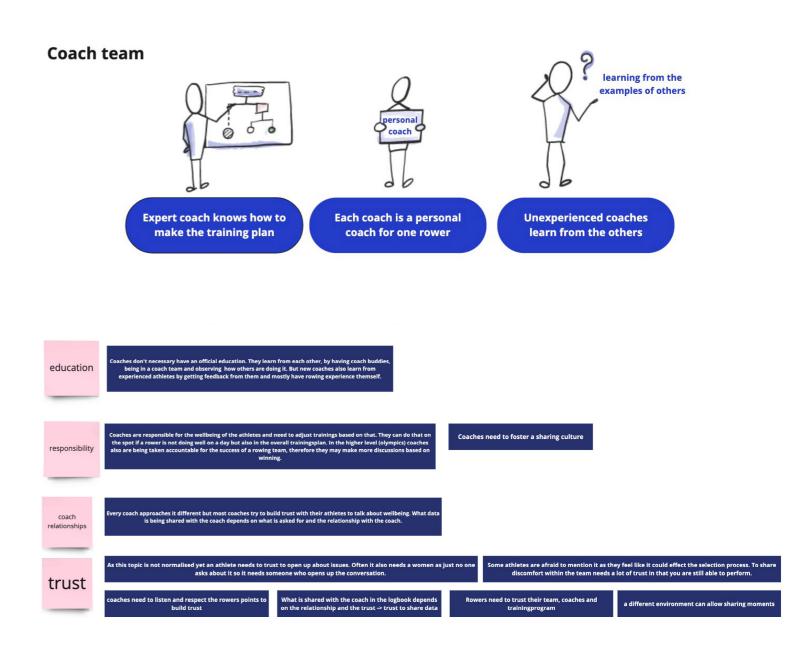


# 4.2 CONSTRAINTS BASED ON INTERVIEW RESULTS

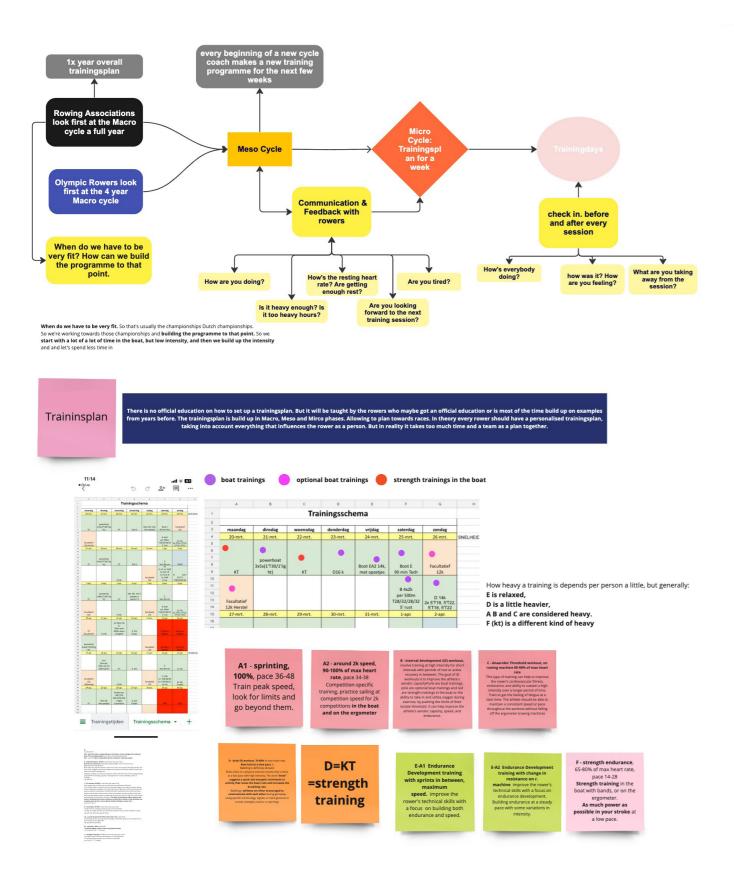


# 05 RESEARCH RESULTS ON CONTEXT

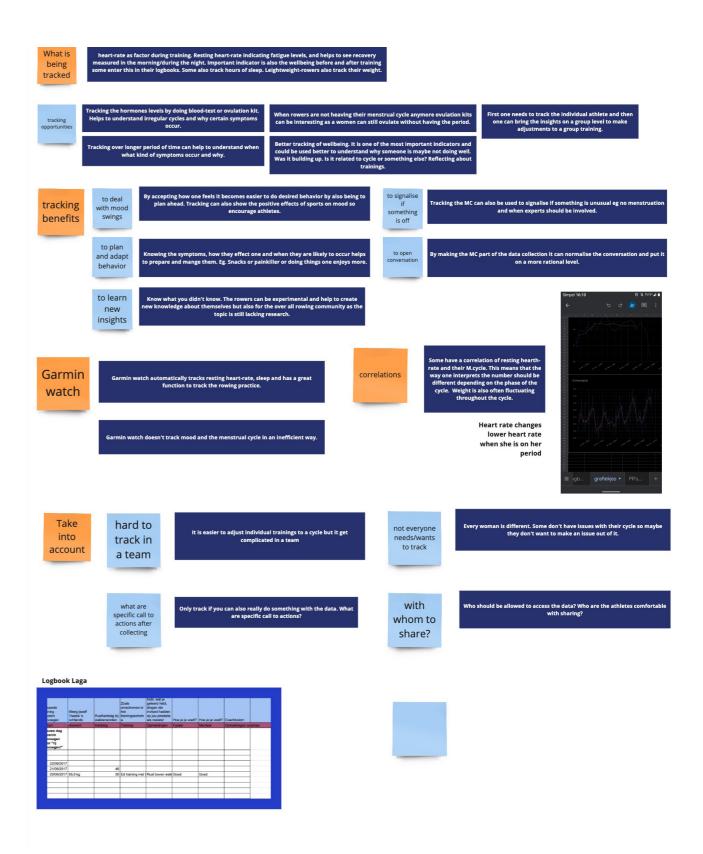
# 5.1 COACHES



# 5.2 TRAINING PLAN



# 5.3 TRACKING



# 06 1&2 WORKSHOPS6.1 AGENDA

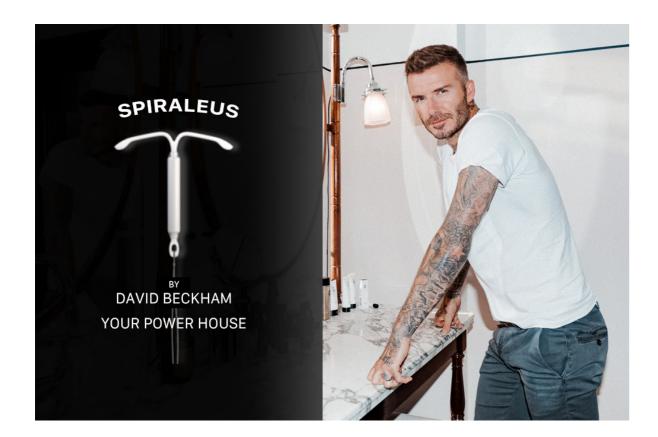
# **WORKSHOP 1:** EXPLORING THE PROBLEM SPACE

ACTIVITY	GOAL	TIME	REFLECTION
Introduction  to the graduation the team the booklet & research the workshop	To provide the participants with an overview of the survey results and emphasize the importance of the topic. The aim is to motivate them to actively participate and inspire a shift in the current training approach.	15 MIN	Despite providing them with the booklet, it was important to briefly explain the insights to the participants. However, adding interactive elements could enhance their engagement.
Ice Breaker	Get to know everyone and what they want out of the Session.	5 MIN	
Purge: Flower Association	Get all out that is already on their minds regarding training and hormonal cycle.		Went well. Helped to set the scene. But for the next time, I could come back to it or make use of the things written down in one way or another.
How would the training/ communication look like if the menstrual cycle would be part of it?	Participants are divided into two groups: one explores and mapped communication aspects, the other focuses on training. These were then discussed from a new perspective by considering how they would differ when the menstrual cycle would be taken into account. Vote on a matrix for the most impactful and feasible changes.	10 MII	It was good to let them first define the categories without knowing that they have to look at them from a different perspective. Hard to not get lost in the discussion. Maybe instead of my prompts, it would have been better to let them close their eyes and guide them through a story/scenario. Next time better timing to ensure to include all the categories. Could have been more speculative
Emma Q&A Session	Since I am not a medical professional, the aim was to answer their questions and provide valid recommendations.	15 MIN	Really great to have Emma there. Perhaps next time, it would be helpful to inform participants in advance about the opportunity to ask her questions.
HMW-Questions	Frame the problem statements to solve for the next workshop.	10 MIN	We ran out of time. Ended up with a couple of questions. Definitely plan more time for closing discussion.

# WORKSHOP 2: CREATING IDEAS

	GOAL	TIME	REFLECTION
Introduction  • to the graduation  • the team  • the booklet & research  • the workshop	To inform them about the survey results and the relevance of the topic. Motivate them to participate and change the current way of training.	15 MIN	It was relevant to show the survey results as I guess a lot haven't read the booklet and might now be more curious to check it out again. Next time I should ask them to briefly introduce themselves when I introduced the team.
Post-It Race	Get the creative mind activated. Set the tone for the session -> all about creating ideas.	10 MIN	Worked extremely well. Rowers like competitions!
Reframe the problem	The group should make the HMW question their own to solve.	5 MIN	Was really good to look at the question all together to see if everyone has an understanding and change some of the wording. Didn't take long but had an impact.
Idea sketching	The goal was to come up with ideas and build upon them. Everyone started with an A3 sheet to sketch a first idea and then it was past on.	3 MIN/ ROUND	This worked really well. Some people (non designers) even dared to sketch. Good base to let them individualy think of an idea and then discuss
Idea presentation & voting	The participants presented their initial idea to the group. Afterwards the idea with the most potential was selected.	5 MIN	Really good to be able to ask follow-up questions on the ideas and clarify what people meant.
Emma Q&A Session	As I am not a medical aspect the goal was to give the particpants the opportunity to ask questions.	15 MIN	Great to have Emma there.  Maybe next time inform participants even before the workshop that they get the chance to ask her questions.
WWWWWH - Questions	Define criteria for the idea to work out.	15 MIN	Interesting to discuss and helped a lot to make the ideas more specific and see if they are feasible.

# 6.2 MATERIAL WORKSHOP 1

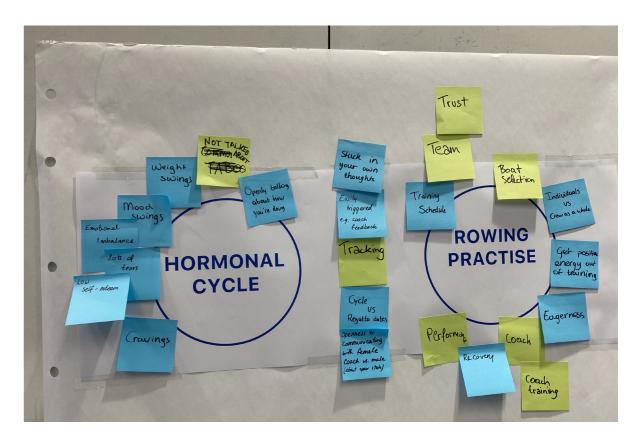


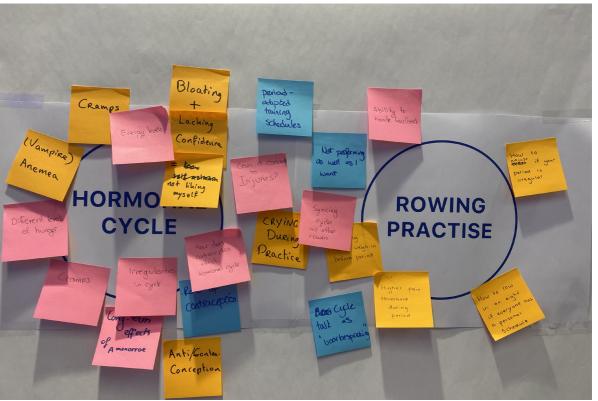
# 6.2 MATERIAL WORKSHOP 2

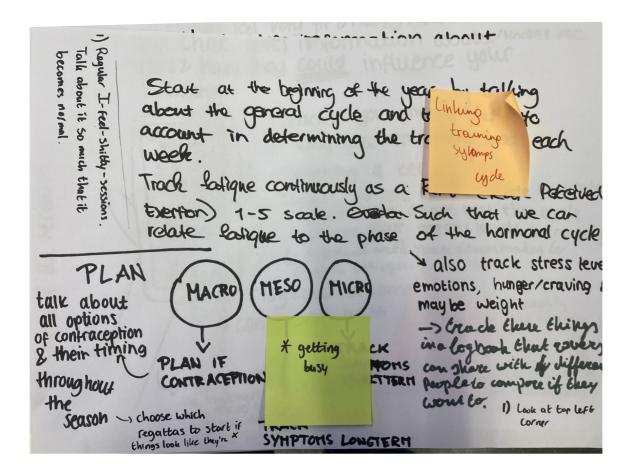
Maka it	WOLLK OWNS	
viake it	your own:	
cycle a	s a factor to he ersonal best an	e the hormonal lp rowers reach d gain a competitive
Make i	your own:	

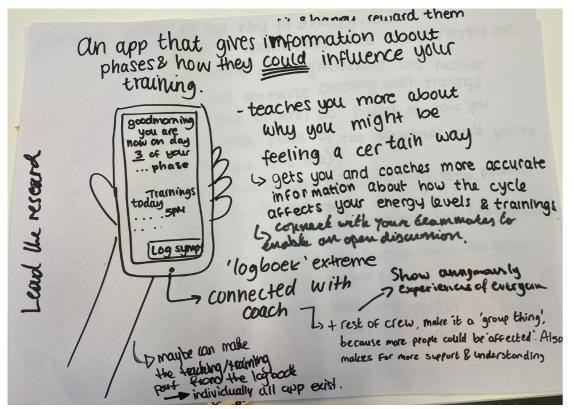
# 6.2 MATERIAL WORKSHOP 2 6.3 OUTCOME

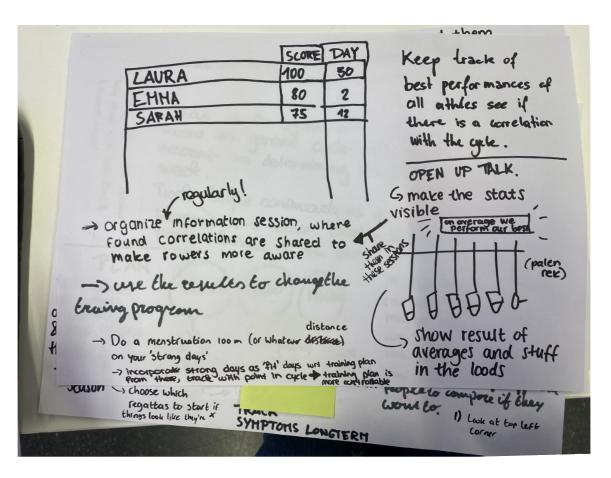
WHO?	WHAT?	WHERE?
Who is involved? Who needs to be on board?	What needs to be done for this idea to work? What are success requirements?	Where is the idea taking place? Where is taken place? Or where is placed?
WHEN?	WHY?	HOW?
When should we do it? How often? Every training or in the beginning of the year?	Why should we create this idea? What value does it bring?	How can we implement the idea?

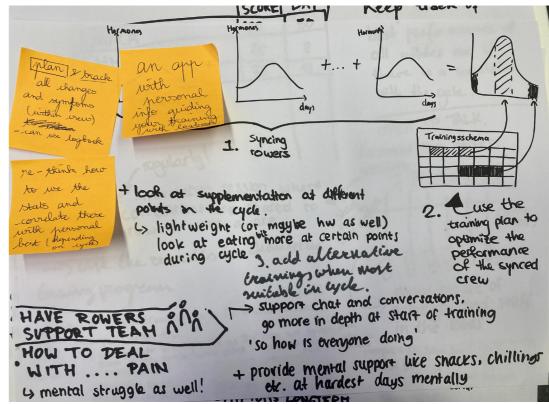


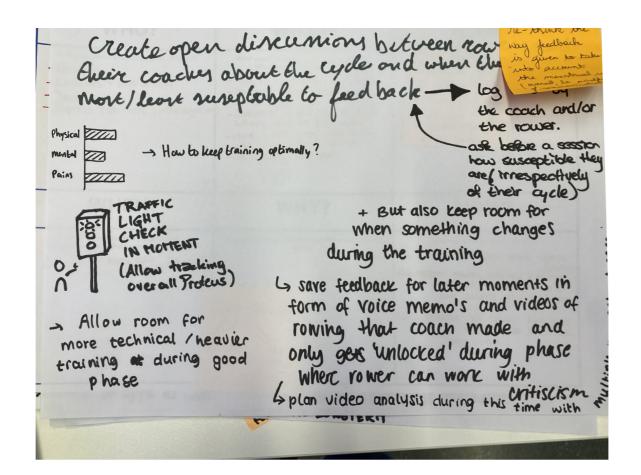






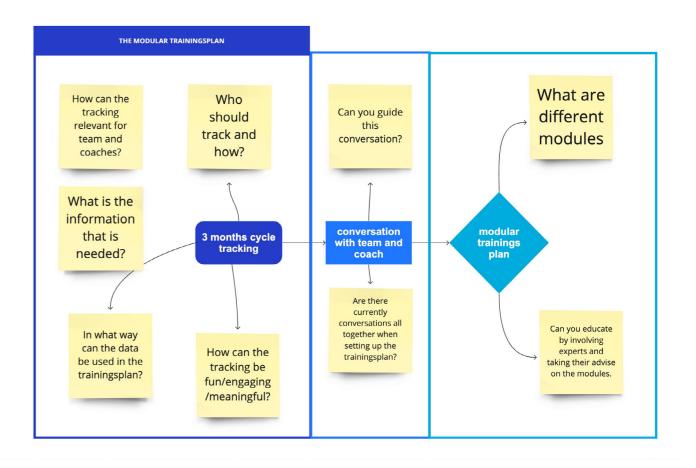






WHO?	WHAT?	WHERE?
Who is involved? Who needs to be on board?	What needs to be done for this idea to work? What are success requirements?	Where is the idea taking place? Where is taken place? Or where is placed?
<ul><li>Rowers</li><li>Coaches</li><li>Crew as a whole</li></ul>	Redesigning the log-book in an app. Collect data insights of the cycle. <u>Data loggin system with:</u> • Today I had this training and it was  • The day of the cycle  • Performance: Today I feel exceptionally stong ect.	In an app. Currently everything is collected in spread sheets. They "take a lot". An app could also give insights back to the coach and athlete.
WHEN?	WHY?	HOW?
When should we do it? How often? Every training or in the beginning of the year?  Daily, but once every two days might also be ok. In the end the more data the better.  Things like resting heart rate preferable every day.  How did a training go could be done less frequently.	Why should we create this idea? What value does it bring?  1. To give the rower insights into her performance in relationship to her cycle.  2. To give coaches/science as a whole data to recognise patterns.  3. To give crewmates means to support eachother.	How can we implement the idea?  Hire an app developer  Or improvements to an excisting app

WHO?	WHAT?	WHERE?
<ul> <li>Who is involved? Who needs to be on board?</li> <li>Rowers</li> <li>Coaches</li> <li>Prof coach</li> <li>Team mates</li> <li>Experts (Sportarts, gynocologistm, nutritionist)</li> </ul>	What needs to be done for this idea to work? What are success requirements?  Talk to experts to get information Let rowers track cycle + sympthoms for 3 months Individual rowers will learn what is best for their bodies Will follow by a talk with coach and teammates Modular Micro trainings plans	Where is the idea taking place? Where is taken place? Or where is placed?  When schedules are being arranged.
WHEN?	WHY?	HOW?
When should we do it? How often? Every training or in the beginning of the year?  • Off-season (summer break) tracking the cycle of rowers.  • That is the basis for a discussion and adaptation of the modular plan.	Why should we create this idea? What value does it bring?  To really make an impact for the rowers training you should not only track another factor but you really need to change something in the training.  Also every rower should have a personalised schedule but it is really complicated to allign and no tools for that yet.	In off season rowers track cycle + sympthoms Pre-season: Rowers, coaches and experts discuss effects of cycle and possible trainings tweaks Race season: All rowers feel their bests because they know their cycles.



# The 3 months tracking before the trainings-period starts

### Goal:

1) To help the rower understand if their menstrual cycle has an impact of their performance?

2) See if rower has specific symptoms effecting their trainings?

3) See if rower has menstrual cycle irregularities.

### Motivation for the rower:

Help the rower understand themselves better and how they can perform in a best way.

Help connect to themselves. As well as to why they sometimes maybe don't perform and on sometimes really good.

Get a more personalised trainingsplan

### Abilitie

What are abilities they have during holiday period are they still training?

### ggers

What are abilities they have during holiday period are they still training?

### Outcome for coaches to personalise trainings-plans and include the cycle differences

### Goal:

1) To visualise the outcome in a way that helps the coaches to take their rower individual needs into account
2) Help coaches detect rowers who experience menstrual irregularities and start a discussion

### Motivation for the coaches:

Their goal is to create a safe environment for rower to share. By making it part of their routine it because less of a taboo topic. As well as it has the potential to help coaches find new ways to let rowers perform/train better.

### Abilities

The outcome of a team should be like a heath map showing already correlations of the teams data.

It is already challenging for the coaches to make the agendas so the design needs to be helpful not hindering

### Triggers

The trigger is to be defined.



# 6.4 REFLECTION

# WORKSHOP 1: OVERALL REFLECTION:

The first workshop was as a good starting point to understand the dynamics between rowers and coaches

and initiate a discussion on the topic. It became evident that there is a significant need to educate people on this subject, as most participants had limited knowledge.

Next time, I would allocate more timefordiscussionandencourage even more speculative thinking. While the prompts generated laughter, they didn't sufficiently stimulate participants to envision a world where the menstrual cycle is experienced by everyone, including men. It

might be more effective to incorporate roleplay or guided scenarios. During the workshop, I participated in one group, which allowed me to contribute to the discussion, but I felt like I missed out on the insights from the other group. Next time, I will either avoid having multiple groups or find better ways to document

the discussions. The timing was also not ideal, as it was challenging to navigate conversations and everyone the space to



share as it is such a sensitive topic.

Overall it was a good workshop. The result was that communication is the essence of everything and that adapting the training to an individual level, is challenging but would be needed.





# WORKSHOP 2: OVERALL REFLECTION & RESULTS:

I am really happy with the outcome of the session. For this workshop, I had enough time upfront to prepare the room and already felt more comfortable presenting my findings. The Post-it race worked out well because of the competitive element. For the next workshop, it would be nice to



relate all activities in a way to rowing. To make the participants engage and relate more. As always, there is never enough

time. But the ideas that came out are a good starting point for me to define my design direction. I also believe I can now always get back to the rowers and coaches who participated. Because the final design, especially when it goes into the topic area of training plans need to be cocreated with coaches, athletes and in consultation with other experts.

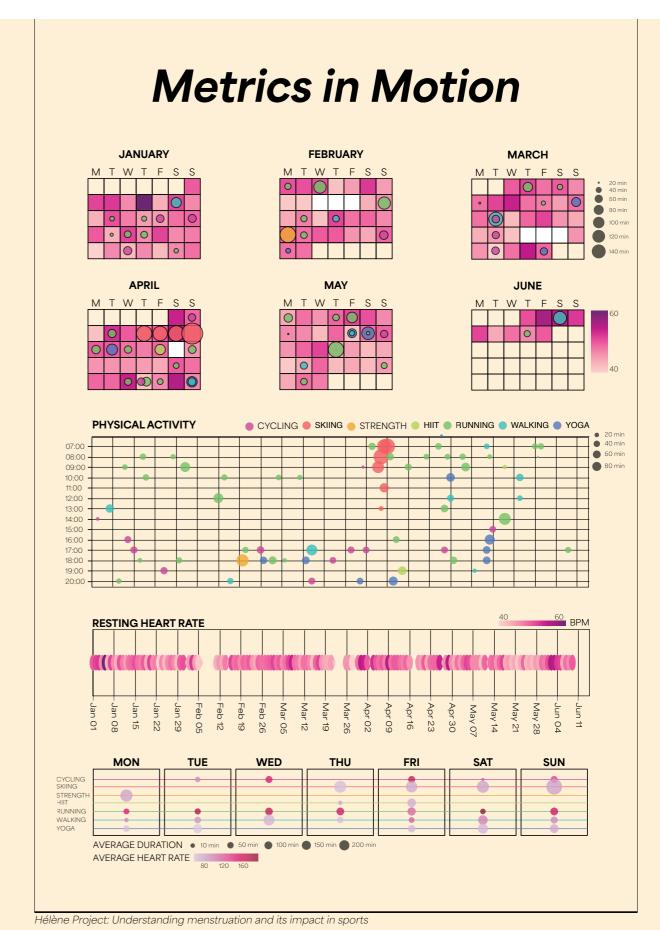
During the second workshop, multiple ideas were generated, with two ideas ultimately selected. The first idea addresses the limitations of the existing logbook, which only allows for training information to be recorded in an Excel sheet. It lacks the inclusion of menstrual cycle information and has significant potential for optimization. As an App it should enhance

rowers' self-understanding and provide a better tool for tracking their training. The second idea emphasizes the importance of not only tracking the menstrual cycle but also incorporating it into the rower's training plan. This involves creating a modular training plan based on individualized needs. Rowers would track their cycles for three months, resulting in a personalized plan that adjusts to their unique needs. This approach would transform the way coaches and rowers interact and plan together.

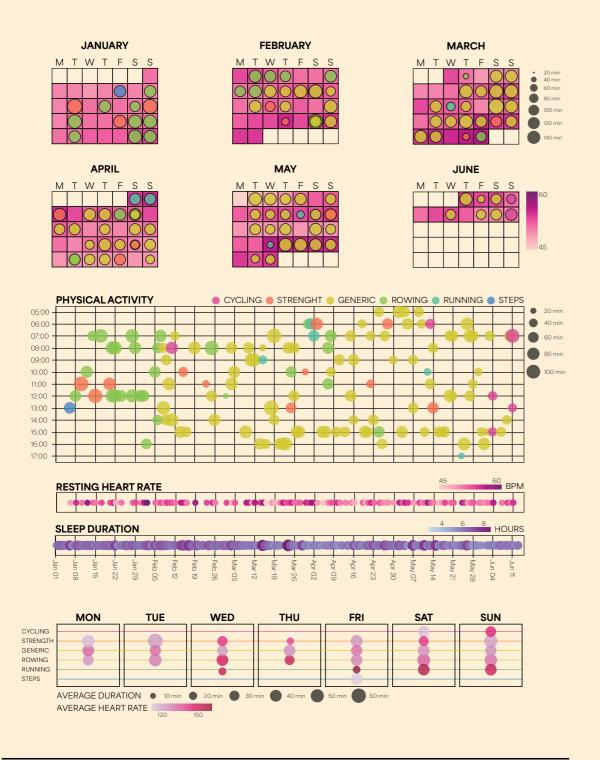
The workshop materials and defined solutions can be found in the appendix section page....



# 7.1 LOGBOOK DATA VISUALISATIONS

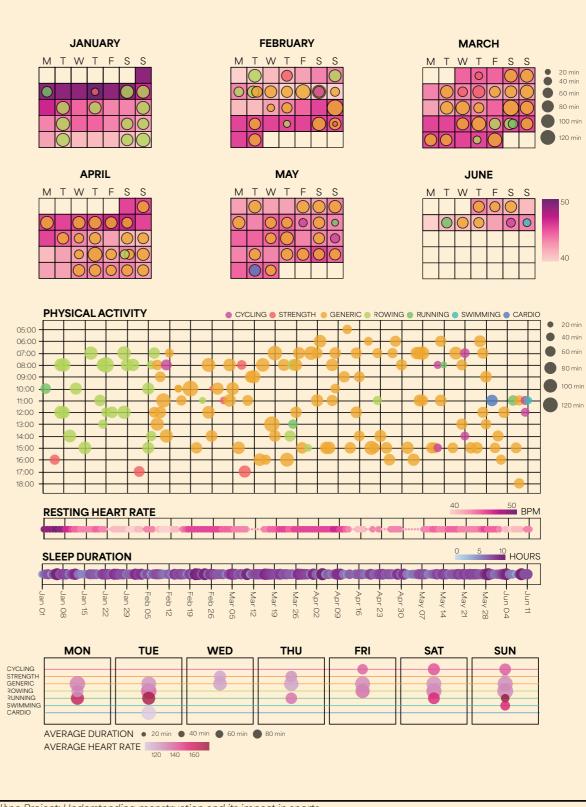


# **Metrics in Motion**



Hélène Project: Understanding menstruation and its impact in sports

# **Metrics in Motion**



Hélène Project: Understanding menstruation and its impact in sports

# 7.2 SESSION MATERIAL

# REFLECTION MY PERSONAL DATA Can you identify any training patterns in your weekly routine? Take a moment to review your logbook and see if you notice any trends in how you felt on those specific days. MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN These days I prefer to train because....

	REFLECTION  MY PERSONAL DATA							
I experience t	I experience these menstrual cycle symptoms							
	Psychological symptom	Water retention	Stomach pain	Fatigue	Back pain	Painful breasts	Others:	
	Have you noticed any fluctuations in your data or do you perceive changes throughout the different phases of your menstrual cycle?  I feel, experience,							
THE DA	YS BEFOR	E	THE	PERIOD		THE	E DAYS A	FTER
I feel, experie	nce,		E	Va	Ifee	el, experience	,	

# 7.2 SESSION MATERIAL

viteri riock at my data, it reers ince a	here is a correlations between my performance and my menstrual cycle, such as
When I look at my data, I notice patte	erns of peaks or lows in performance during specific weeks, particularly during
hese might be influenced by	
	between performance and cycle would you like to learn more about? wn metrics to track, what would you name them? For example, my pain metrics. ur personal metrics.
Switzerland USA EU UK Brasil China	
South Korea Japan South Africa	

	SHARING MY PERSONAL DAT	ra (F)			
would describe the relationsh		WITH MY PERSONAL COACH			
Training & Needs	y coach should have knowledge a	about and I wouldn't mind sharing  Communication			
☐ My Training History	☐ My Injuries History	☐ My Communication Preferences			
☐ My Performance Data	☐ My Medical Conditions	(eg. prefered way of getting feedback,)  What I find annoying			
☐ My Rowing Goals	☐ The current phase of my				
	menstrual cycle.	When to (not) contact me & how			
☐ My Other Personal Goals	menstraar cycle.				
<ul><li>☐ My Other Personal Goals</li><li>☐ My Strength &amp; Weaknesses</li></ul>	☐ Irregularities or absence of my	☐ How I like to receive help with my training			
	☐ Irregularities or absence of my menstrual bleeding	<ul> <li>☐ How I like to receive help with my training</li> <li>☐ My preferred help with personal problems</li> </ul>			
☐ My Strength & Weaknesses	☐ Irregularities or absence of my menstrual bleeding ☐ My menstrual cycle symptoms	<ul> <li>☐ How I like to receive help with my training</li> <li>☐ My preferred help with personal problems (eg. menstrual cycle sympthoms, stress,)</li> </ul>			
☐ My Strength & Weaknesses☐ What Gives Me Energy	☐ Irregularities or absence of my menstrual bleeding	<ul> <li>☐ How I like to receive help with my training</li> <li>☐ My preferred help with personal problems</li> </ul>			

# 7.2 SESSION MATERIAL

	THE IDEAL  COACH RELATIONS	HIP			
an ideal scenario the relations	hip between a coach and a rower is	MY PERSONAL COACH			
	a coach should have knowledge ab				
Training & Needs	Health	Communication			
□ Training History	☐ Injuries History	Her Communication Preferences			
☐ Performance Data	☐ Medical Conditions	(eg. prefered way of getting feedback,)			
☐ Rowing Goals	☐ The current phase of her	<ul><li>☐ What she find annoying</li><li>☐ When to (not) contact her &amp; how</li><li>☐ Her preferred help with training</li></ul>			
☐ Other Personal Goals ☐ Strength & Weaknesses ☐ What Gives her Energy ☐ What Drains her Energy ☐ Academic Commitments	menstrual cycle.  ☐ Irregularities or absence of her				
	☐ Her menstrual cycle symptoms	(eg. menstrual cycle sympthoms, stress,)			
	☐ Her use of contraceptives	☐ Other			
	(eg. exam periods)	☐ Red-S and other female health relates illnesses			
(eg. exam perious)					

# 08 TRACKING EXPLORATION SESSION

# HOW WOULD A CHILD TRACK A PERSONAL FACTOR?

## INTENTION

The aim behind incorporating the perspective of a child was to explore tracking behavior without the constraints imposed by society. During the discussion, the focus was on how children often struggle to articulate their feelings due to limited language skills. Instead, they express themselves through actions like acting out, crying, or creating art. Understanding the psychology of a child becomes intriguing when observing their choices among a box of toys, as it can reveal insights into their current needs.

# **RESULTING IDEAS**

# **CHECK-IN MOMENTS ITEM BOX**

Transform the current check-in moments for rowers by allowing them to select an item that represents their needs rather than using words to communicate how they are doing. As some individuals may find it challenging to immediately open up verbally, the chosen item can serve as a tool to initiate conversations and encourage coaches to ask follow-up questions to dive deeper.

# **RESULTING IDEAS**

# **DRAWING CANVAS**

Instead of requiring rowers to write their answers, they can express their needs and experiences through drawing on a wall or canvas. This approach recognizes that discussing the menstrual cycle may be challenging, as language may be lacking, similar to children. This activity can also be conducted within a team setting to explore potential correlations among the members.

# **JENGA TOWER**

Children enjoy playing with blocks, so why not track each day of the cycle by selecting a block that represents specific symptoms or insights to track? As the cycle progresses, rowers can build their tower using these blocks. At the end of the cycle, they can reflect on the tower's composition and dismantle it, similar to a game of Jenga.



# HOW WOULD AN ARTIST TRACK A PERSONAL FACTOR?

### INTENTION

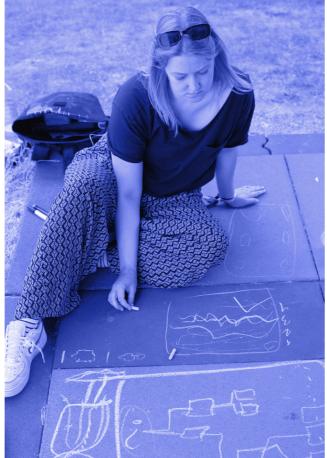
The perspective of the artist was intended to inspire more visual or creative outcomes. The discussion to this question was that artists often develop a distinct personal style, and the more they create, the clearer the patterns of their style become.

# **RESULTING IDEAS**

# **BUILDING A SCULPTURE**

Similar to an artist shaping a clay sculpture, the rower can incorporate this concept into their tracking process. Each day of the menstrual cycle, the rower adds a piece of clay to the sculpture. As the cycle progresses, the sculpture takes shape and evolves. Once the cycle is complete, the sculpture serves as a tangible representation of the process. The rower can reflect on the journey and gain insights from observing the sculpture's form and composition. Just as an artist gains insight into their style through continuous creation, tracking the menstrual cycle requires multiple iterations to observe individual patterns. It becomes a motivating and ongoing process of sculpting to understand the unique patterns and rhythms of the cycle.





# HOW WOULD A MONK TRACK A PERSONAL FACTOR?

## INTENTION

The aim behind selecting the perspective of a monk was to encourage the perspective of mindfulness and spirituality.

During the discussion, it was highlighted that when a monk communicates with a higher power, it creates a non-judgmental space where individuals can freely express their thoughts and concerns. Monks also incorporate movement into their routines.

# **RESULTING IDEAS**

# THE CANDLE LAMP

A rower can have a dedicated candle lamp that they speak to every day, sharing the information they wish to track. The lamp would be equipped with Al language recognition technology to convert speech input into text and organize the data accordingly.

## MOVEMENT-BASED TRACKING

Monks utilize specific movements to establish a deeper connection with themselves and handle symptoms. The concept would involve using body recognition technology to identify these specific movements, which serve as indicators to track. Instead of the rowers having to write down their input, they would incorporate it into their stretching or warm-up routines. For instance, if a rower experiences stomach pain, they can perform a movement that helps alleviate the pain, thereby tracking it.

# HOW WOULD A CRIMINAL TRACK A PERSONAL FACTOR?

## INTENTION

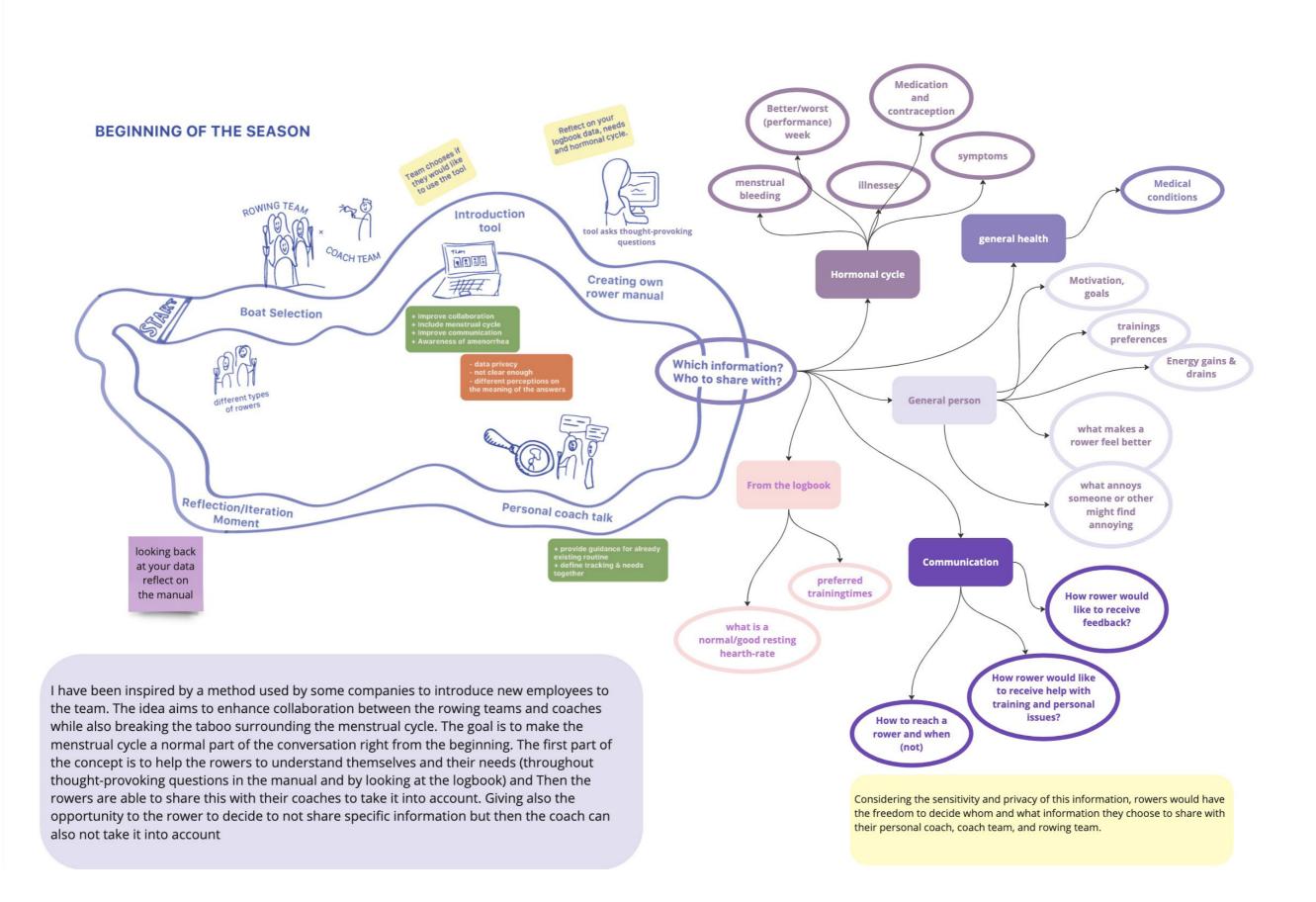
The aim behind the criminal role was to encourage fun and playful ideas. During the discussion, it was noted that criminals often have a trusted inner circle and create specific rules for communication, particularly when discussing sensitive topics. If criminals were to track something on a daily basis, it should be in a way that releases frustration or allows for discretion.

# **RESULTING IDEAS**

# THE PILL BOX

Criminals might rely on pills to enhance their performance. They can track their well-being by using a box with a designated pill for each day. If they need assistance to perform, they can take a specific pill to, for example, relieve pain. This tracking concept could be adapted for rowers as well. They can create their own personalized treatment box with items representing various symptoms to track. The box would be equipped with sensors to monitor when an item is removed. Alternatively, the box could serve as a collection box, representing the menstrual cycle. Each compartment of the box would correspond to a day of the cycle, and instead of taking a pill, the rower would add an item symbolizing the factor they wish to track.

# 09 OTHER CONCEPTS



# 09 OTHER CONCEPTS

# **Phygital tracking game**



# The individual tower

The phygital game allowes the individual rowers to track their personal wellbeing over the time of their cycle. Every day the rower selects a building block representing their mood or another factor (asked in an abstract way.) Building a tower throughout their menstrual cycle. This is done in a physical way as it allows the individual to deeper connect with themself and doesn't incentivise and rely on smart phone use.

# **Phygital tracking game**

# The collective city

The individual towers of the rowers (and maybe the coach as well) from the team are in real time visualised and updated on a website. This allows the team to see the overall cycle status and wellbeing status.



# 10 WORKSHOP 3

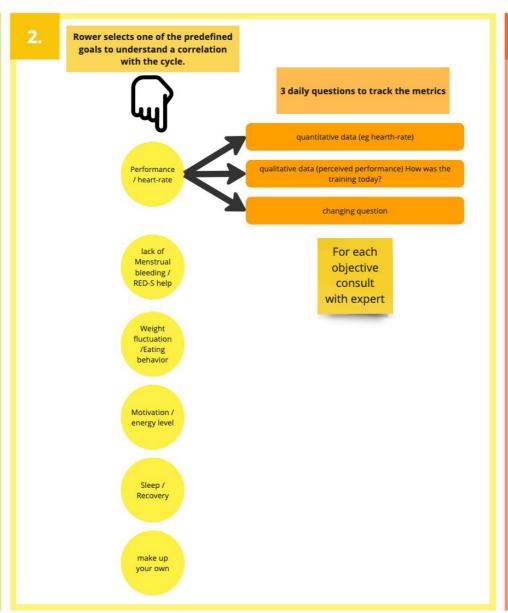
# **WORKSHOP 3:** FINAL DESIGN CONCEPT

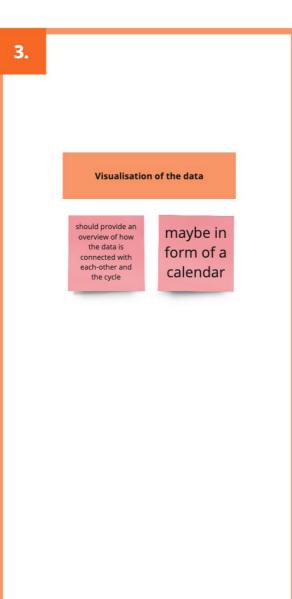
ACTIVITY	GOAL	TIME	REFLECTION
Introduction	The introduction aimed to motivate the participants and encourage them to generate ideas for desired changes or improvements that would make their lives easier and more enjoyable.	5 MIN	
Ice Breaker: Circle of Support	The Ice-Breaker activity acted as a means to directly delve into the topic. Participants shared their personal perspective on how the menstrual cycle affects them and something new they had learned from the individual sessions.	10 MIN	Providing everyone with the opportunity to speak up from the beginning was valuable. Since most participants did not have a design background and were not accustomed to rapid thinking and openly sharing their thoughts, I had to ask several questions to facilitate the process.
Brainstorming on the analogies	To ensure the final concept builds upon prior research, analogies were used to prompt the brainstorming session. The aim was to generate ideas that incorporate the prior identified design features.	8 MIN/ ROUND	Using analogies in the design process is familiar to designers but less so for others. I was glad to have prepared simple questions, such as asking about hobbies or daily routines, to explore the rowers' routines.
Clustering & voting with different heads	All the findings were put together aiming to form ideas out of them. To not forget the perspective of new rowers and coaches all the rowers had a "different head/role" to discuss which are the best ideas.	15 MIN	Initially, I expected many ideas, but the outcome was diverse aspects needing formation. Creating clusters and giving them titles formed a cohesive concept.
Storyboard	The final activity of creating a storyboard enabled us to specify precise elements such as timing, location, and target group. Additionally, it helped consolidate all the ideas into a cohesive concept.	25 MIN	This step was essential to refocus on the main goal of the session to generate a specific concept. Recording the session was valuable as it captured interesting details that came up during the conversation.

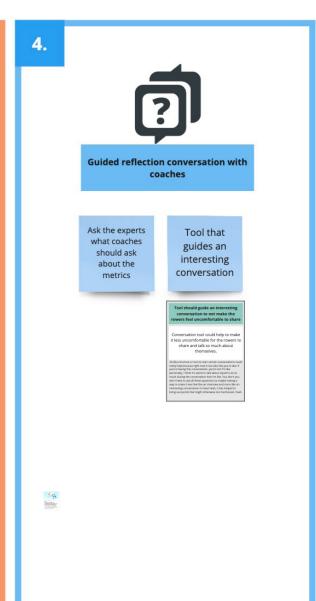
# 11 FINAL CONCEPT

# **GOAL**

- Help rower to gain an understanding of one individual factor to become a better athlete. Providing a reflections on how the cycle affects her
   Provide a space for rowers and coaches to talk and support those that need help.
   By providing a guide for the conversation.
- Education Video why is relevant to take the menstrual cycle into account and use the design introduce the 6 tracking goals and what one can learn from them EMMA RED-S about the individual aspects







# Video Preparation for goal setting

Goal behind video

Clarify why should they participate?

coaches should know the training history, rowing goals, academic commitments and personal goals. But some specific questions like what gives or takes energy might be hard to answer for a rower.

are suppose to feel but after entering the data it could indicate eg don't worry it could be because of...

The main goal of coaches and rowers is to become the best sportswomen they can be. Everything they do is to achieve this goal so make it about that.

Adress in the design

# First years should have rather a urrent check and track how they are

a lot and undergo a bit of a shock as a lot of rowers haven't been so active before. Therefore coaches should ask them to track the changes.

# coach should ask if rowers want to

Coach should ask rowers if they would like to have the conversation without forcing it

# There needs to be a reflection ment in the first meeting to have a look at data & the last year

there is no refelction of last year yet so if you don't have the same coaches they miss relevant information like ionjury history they should relfelcz

can adjust training

# Tracking

Goal behind the tracking

# how to track

Adress in the design

# when

keep motivating



# Visualisation





She has an indicator of a red fine where the control of the contro











connect to other things



Put the tracking data in correlation with the videos cacches make tracking allows her to understand the full picture when looking at the video coaches make and that mostly the coaches make and that mostly the coaches and that mostly the coaches and that mostly the coaches and the coach







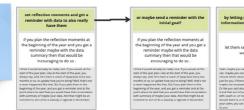
# **Individual Rower Reflection**











Adress in the design









# **Coach Rower Reflection Moment**

























