

The *IJSP* Technical Report

One special type of submission for *IJSP* is the technical report. In the first few issues of *IJSP* we have invited some of our colleagues to submit a short 800-word report on a technical issue in their area of expertise. You don't need an invitation, however, to submit a technical report, and the purpose of this editorial is to alert potential authors and readers to this feature. The possible topics for technical reports are as many and varied as the different interests of authors and readers of *IJSP*. To stimulate some ideas for potential submissions I would like to outline some areas of personal interest in the field of sports physiology and performance that could be explored in a technical report. Three areas that come to mind are the quality-assurance issues in an exercise or sports-science laboratory, applications of new technology, and statistical approaches for observational and controlled-trial research data. No doubt readers will have many of their own areas or topics of interest.

Tanner and Gore¹ highlighted several important issues in the quality-assurance area in their technical report in the first issue of *IJSP*. Quality assurance in the sports-science field has probably lagged behind biomedical and pathology laboratories, where strict compliance and accreditation is mandatory rather than optional. A technical report in this area could provide an overview of how an individual sports-science department or laboratory has organized its quality-assurance program. It would be interesting to see how the qualitative and quantitative elements of a quality-assurance program are combined in daily practice.

In the technology area, there is an abundance of new instruments, analyzers, ergometers, and small sensor devices entering the sports-science field. Here, too, there is plenty of opportunity for a technically oriented report detailing the theory, hardware, implementation, reliability and validity, and applications of new technologies. The enormous interest in applications of triaxial accelerometry² and GPS tracking technology³ in the sports-performance area certainly comes to mind. Although these technologies are appearing in many sports, the actual data analysis and the information that can be synthesized and reported to meet the requirements of coaches are still emerging.

In terms of the statistical analysis of sports-performance and physiological data, there are many different approaches. Emerging paradigms of the precision of estimates and magnitudes of effect size were explored by Batterham and Hopkins⁴ in their invited commentary in first issue of *IJSP*. Other possible topics for a technical report in the analysis of experimental and observational data include regression to the mean,⁵ individual responses to training and other interventions,⁶ the important issue of covariate analysis, scaling of data to body size,⁷ and sample-size estimation,⁸ to name but a few. Explaining the background concept and providing real-world examples of these approaches would be useful for the general reader of *IJSP*.

The *IJSP* submission guidelines for a technical report are as follows: a paper describing methodological, technical, or analytical issues of interest to practitioners, researchers, or coaches, limited to 800 words, two tables or figures,

and six references. There is no formal requirement in terms of the format for the *IJSP* technical report. The report can take the form of a simple commentary or, if appropriate, follow the traditional introduction-methods-results-discussion format of original-investigation articles. We're happy to give the authors some flexibility in the structure of submitted technical reports. The editorial board welcomes both submissions of technical reports to *IJSP* and correspondence to the editorial office on how this feature might be developed in future issues of *IJSP*.

David Pyne, Editor

References

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