

Impact Factors of Journals in Sport and Exercise Science and Medicine for 2011

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Sports Medicine has resumed its former status in our disciplines as the journal with the highest impact factor (5.1). *Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition* made the most spectacular entry/gain (up from an unofficial 0.5 last year to 2.7). Other gains in excess of 70% from last year were achieved by *Clinics in Sports Medicine* (now 2.4), *International Journal of Sport Nutrition and Exercise Metabolism* (2.2), and *Journal of Leisure Research* (1.5). Noteworthy journals making gains of 30-70% were *British Journal of Sports Medicine* (3.5), *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport* (2.5), and *International Journal of Sports Medicine* (2.4). High flyers making smaller gains were *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise* (4.1), *Exercise and Sport Sciences Reviews* (3.8), and *Scandinavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports* (2.8). Noteworthy small improvements were made by *Journal of Applied Physiology* (4.2), *Journal of Sports Sciences* (1.9), and *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research* (1.8), while there were negligible changes for the two relevant series of *American Journal of Physiology* (4.7, 3.9), *American Journal of Sports Medicine* (3.8), *Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology* (2.8), and *Journal of Biomechanics* (2.5). Notable falls of more than 10% were recorded by *Journal of Athletic Training* (2.0), *The Sport Psychologist* (1.1), and *Journal of Sports Science and Medicine* (<1.0). *International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance* was inexplicably omitted from the official report but has a respectable unofficial factor (1.2). A scheme to make impact factors obsolete by publishing research that conforms with peer-approved proposals seems unlikely to get started. KEYWORDS: citation, publication, research.

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Update Sept 2011: *International Journal of Sport Science and Coaching* has just been awarded its first impact factor, a respectable 1.1.

This article represents my annual summary of the latest impact factors of journals in the disciplines of exercise and sport science and medicine. The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI, a subsidiary of Thomson Reuters) compiles the impact factors and publishes them as Journal Citation Reports each year around June-July. You will need an institutional subscription to access this and other resources at [ISI Web of Knowledge](#).

Table 1 lists the factors of our journals in alphabetical order, while the abstract summarizes changes that are color-coded in the table. The meaning of the impact factor is summarized in the legend of the table, but for an in-depth explanation and critique of the impact factor, start with an [earlier article](#) in this series.

Once again there is no impact factor for the *International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance* in ISI's report, even though this journal has qualified for inclusion for the last three years. As I have a special interest in this journal, I used ISI's database to do the calculation. In 2010 there were 98 citations in all journals to the 82 full articles published in IJSP in 2008 and 2009. The impact factor is therefore $98/82 = 1.2$, a respectable value for a specialty journal in only its sixth year.

In each of these annual updates I try to introduce something new or little known about scientific publishing. [Last year](#) it was the concept of post-publication peer review, according to which practically every article gets published, and the value of the article becomes apparent from the non-anonymous comments posted and from the citations the article ultimately gets in other articles. One year on, [the website](#) of the

publisher promoting this approach still does not feature any journals devoted to sports medicine or science, and I doubt whether there will ever be any. With so much material now available on line, researchers need some kind of pre-publication peer review to winnow out the chaff of studies that should never have been done in the first place.

Which brings me to the new idea for this article, an idea [I promoted](#) on the Sportscience mailing list late last year: peer review of proposals for studies, followed by practically guaranteed publication of studies that conform to their approved proposals. This approach to scientific publication would likely reduce publication bias and solve other problems arising from journals' obsession with inflating their impact factors, from abuse of statistical significance, and from rejection of good research by reviewers who should know better. It turned out

that the Lancet already offers this option for researchers proposing clinical trials, although relatively few have used it in the ~10 years it has been available. I made a serious attempt to get a group of my colleagues interested in establishing a journal based this idea, but in the end even I had doubts when it became apparent that we would have to charge authors at least US\$1000 per article to cover costs, and substantially more than \$1000 unless we did much of the work ourselves without compensation. I have purchased numerous domain names that would be appropriate for the kind of archive of science I had in mind, so if anyone has time or money to pursue this idea further, please [contact me](#).

[Reviewer's Commentary](#)

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Table 1. Impact factors (cites per article per year) for sport and exercise science journals based on papers published in 2008 and 2009 that were cited in 2010. Some impact factors are shown as inequalities, to comply with terms of use set by Thomson Reuters. "<1.0" implies a value between 0.1 and 1.0. A journal without an impact factor is not in Thomson Reuter's science or social sciences databases, either because the journal is too new or the factor is too low. Color indicates direction and magnitude of change in impact factor since last year, as follows:

New	↑ ≥70%	↑ 30-69%	↑ 10-29%	↑↓ 0-9%	↓ ≥10%
<1.0	ACSM's Health and Fitness Journal		1.4	Ergonomics	
3.1	Acta Physiologica Scandinavica		2.2	European Journal of Applied Physiology	
1.2	Adapted Physical Activity Quarterly		0.9	European Journal of Sport Science	
	American Journal of Medicine and Sports		1.0	European Review of Aging and Physical Activity	
4.7	American Journal of Physiology - Endo & Metab			European Sports History Review	
3.9	American Journal of Physiology - Heart & Circ		2.4	Exercise and Immunology Reviews	
3.8	American Journal of Sports Medicine		3.8	Exercise and Sport Sciences Reviews	
1.5	Applied Ergonomics		2.3	Gait and Posture	
2.2	Applied Physiology Nutrition & Metabolism		2.2	High Altitude Medicine and Biology	
1.1	Applied Psychological Measurement		2.0	Human Movement Science	
2.8	Applied Psychology-International Review			International Journal of Coaching Science	
	Asian Journal of Sports Medicine			International Journal of Computer Science in Sport	
0.9	Aviation Space and Environmental Medicine		5.8	International Journal of Epidemiology	
2.4	Behavior Research Methods			International Journal of History of Sport	
<1.0	Biology of Sport			International Journal of Performance Analysis in Sport	
3.5	British Journal of Sports Medicine		2.2	International J of Sport Nutrition & Exercise Metabolism	
2.0	Clinical Biomechanics		1.0	International Journal of Sport Psychology	
2.1	Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine		2.4	International Journal of Sports Medicine	
2.4	Clinics in Sports Medicine		1.2	International J of Sports Physiology & Performance	
1.1	Current Sports Medicine Reports		1.1	International J of Sports Science and Coaching	
	Deutsche Zeitschrift fur Sportmedizin		<1.0	International Review for the Sociology of Sport	
	Electromyography and Motor Control		<1.0	International Sportmed Journal	

	International Sports Journal		
<1.0	Isokinetics and Exercise Science	1.9	Journal of Sports Sciences
<0.1	Japanese Journal of Physical Fitness and Sport		Journal of Sports Traumatology
1.8	Journal of Aging and Physical Activity	1.8	Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research
1.1	Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis		Journal of Swimming Research
1.7	Journal of Applied Behavioral Science	<1.0	Journal of Teaching in Physical Education
1.1	Journal of Applied Biomechanics	0.5	Kinesiology
4.2	Journal of Applied Physiology	<1.0	Leisure Sciences
4.0	Journal of Applied Psychology		Leisure Studies
1.3	Journal of Applied Sport Psychology		Measurement in Physical Education & Exercise Science
2.0	Journal of Athletic Training	<1.0	Medicina dello Sport
2.5	Journal of Biomechanics	4.1	Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise
	Journal of Comparative Physical Education & Sport		Medicine and Sport Science
2.4	Journal of Electromyography and Kinesiology	1.2	Motor Control
3.0	Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health	1.1	Pediatric Exercise Science
	Journal of Exercise Physiology Online		Pediatric Physical Therapy
<1.0	Journal of Exercise Science & Fitness	<1.0	Perceptual and Motor Skills
<1.0	Journal of Human Kinetics		Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy
	Journal of Human Movement Studies		Physical Educator
	Journal of Human Performance in Extreme Environments	1.1	Physical Therapy in Sport
2.7	Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition		Physician and Sportsmedicine
1.5	Journal of Leisure Research	2.2	Psychology of Sport and Exercise
1.7	Journal of Motor Behaviour	<1.0	Quest
2.0	Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine		Research in Sports Medicine
2.5	Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy	1.2	Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport
<1.0	Journal of the Philosophy of Sport	2.8	Scandinavian Journal of Medicine & Science in Sports
	Journal of Physical Education, Recreation, & Dance	<1.0	Science and Sports
5.1	Journal of Physiology	<1.0	Sociology of Sport Journal
	Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports		Sport History Review
2.5	Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport	0.9	Sport, Education, and Society
2.8	Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology	1.1	(The) Sport Psychologist
<1.0	Journal of Sport and Social Issues	0.8	Sports Biomechanics
	Journal of Sport Behavior		Sports Exercise and Injury
<1.0	Journal of Sport Economics	5.1	Sports Medicine
	Journal of Sport History		Sports Technology
0.8	Journal of Sport Management	<1.0	Sportverletzung-Sportschaden
<1.0	Journal of Sport Rehabilitation		Strength and Conditioning
<1.0	Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness	<1.0	Strength and Conditioning Journal
<1.0	Journal of Sports Science and Medicine		Women in Sport & Physical Activity Journal

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