

## The Impact-Factor Olympics for Journals in Sport and Exercise Science and Medicine

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Sportscience 16, 17-19, 2012 (sportsci.org/2012/wghif.htm)

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This year's gold medalist amongst the sport and exercise science and medicine journals competing for the highest impact factor was again *Sports Medicine* (now on 5.2), but *Exercise and Sport Sciences Reviews* (4.5) has now taken the silver ahead of last-year's runner-up, *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise* (4.4). Other finalists included *British Journal of Sports Medicine* (4.1), *American Journal of Sports Medicine* (3.8), and *Journal of Applied Physiology* (3.7). Semi-finalists were led by *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport* (3.0), *Scandinavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports* (2.9), *Exercise and Immunology Reviews* (2.8), *Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology* (2.7), *International Journal of Sports Medicine* (2.4), *European Journal of Applied Physiology* (2.2), *Applied Physiology Nutrition and Metabolism* (2.1), and *International Journal of Sport Nutrition and Exercise Metabolism* (2.0). The most noteworthy performers in the heats were *International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance* (1.8, up by a spectacular 130%) and the little known *Archives of Budo* (1.2, up by a similar 140%), while the *Journal of Sports Sciences* (1.9) is languishing at this level and may need a new coach. Several new journals have appeared in the preliminary rounds (<1.0), including *International Journal of History of Sport*, *International Journal of Sport Finance*, and *International Journal of Sports Marketing and Sponsorship*. KEYWORDS: citation, publication, research.

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This article represents my annual summary of the latest impact factors of journals in the disciplines of sport and exercise 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 the most noteworthy performers in the journals specializing in our disciplines. 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.

*International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance* needs special mention for its spectacular leap to the level of the heats of the competition. This journal made its entry to ISI's

report last year on 0.8, although it had been omitted initially. In the interim I had calculated its impact factor as 1.2, using the citation statistics at ISI's own Web of Science database. I don't think I made a mistake, so I suspect ISI does not follow its own rules when computing the impact factor; for example, it may discount citations in some low-level journals. Regardless, IJSP's increase is phenomenal, and now "my friends... don't have to worry about committing professional suicide by publishing in [what was previously seen as] a 'weak' journal", to quote a personal communication from Stephen Seiler (University of Agder, Norway).

This year I have no new citation statistics to introduce to you, and there has been little progress with the idea I floated last year for peer-review of proposals followed by practically guaranteed publication of studies that conform to their approved proposals. My colleagues can see the merit, but none of us has had the time to fully develop and sell the idea to our journals.

Table 1. Impact factors (cites per article per year) for sport and exercise science and medicine journals based on papers published in 2009 and 2010 that were cited in 2011. Some impact factors are shown as inequalities, to comply with terms of use set by Thomson Reuters. "???" indicates a possible inadvertent omission of the journal from the databases. "<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                    |          | 6.4      | International Journal of Epidemiology                    |        |
| 3.1  | Acta Physiologica Scandinavica                       |          | <1.0     | International Journal of History of Sport                |        |
| 1.5  | Adapted Physical Activity Quarterly                  |          |          | International Journal of Performance Analysis in Sport   |        |
|      | American Journal of Medicine and Sports              |          | 2.0      | International J of Sport Nutrition & Exercise Metabolism |        |
| 4.8  | American Journal of Physiology - Endo & Metab        |          | <1.0     | International Journal of Sport Finance                   |        |
| 3.7  | American Journal of Physiology - Heart & Circ        |          | <0.1     | International J of Sports Marketing & Sponsorship        |        |
| 3.8  | American Journal of Sports Medicine                  |          | 1.0      | International Journal of Sport Psychology                |        |
| 1.4  | Applied Ergonomics                                   |          | 2.4      | International Journal of Sports Medicine                 |        |
| 2.1  | Applied Physiology Nutrition & Metabolism            |          | 1.8      | International J of Sports Physiology & Performance       |        |
| 1.5  | Applied Psychological Measurement                    |          | <1.0     | International J of Sports Science & Coaching             |        |
| 1.5  | Applied Psychology-International Review              |          | <1.0     | International Review for the Sociology of Sport          |        |
| 1.2  | Archives of Budo                                     |          | <1.0     | International Sportmed Journal                           |        |
|      | Asian Journal of Sports Medicine                     |          |          | International Sports Journal                             |        |
| 0.9  | Aviation Space and Environmental Medicine            |          | <1.0     | Isokinetics and Exercise Science                         |        |
| 2.1  | Behavior Research Methods                            |          | ???      | Japanese Journal of Physical Fitness and Sport           |        |
| <1.0 | Biology of Sport                                     |          | 2.1      | Journal of Aging and Physical Activity                   |        |
| 4.1  | British Journal of Sports Medicine                   |          | 1.2      | Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis                     |        |
| 2.1  | Clinical Biomechanics                                |          | 1.2      | Journal of Applied Behavioral Science                    |        |
| 2.1  | Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine                   |          | <1.0     | Journal of Applied Biomechanics                          |        |
| 1.6  | Clinics in Sports Medicine                           |          | 3.7      | Journal of Applied Physiology                            |        |
| 1.1  | Current Sports Medicine Reports                      |          | 4.3      | Journal of Applied Psychology                            |        |
| <1.0 | Deutsche Zeitschrift fur Sportmedizin                |          | 1.6      | Journal of Applied Sport Psychology                      |        |
|      | Electromyography and Motor Control                   |          | 1.8      | Journal of Athletic Training                             |        |
| 1.4  | Ergonomics   |          | 2.4      | Journal of Biomechanics                                  |        |
| 2.2  | European Journal of Applied Physiology               |          |          | Journal of Comparative Physical Education & Sport        |        |
| 1.0  | European Journal of Sport Science                    |          | 2.0      | Journal of Electromyography and Kinesiology              |        |
| ???  | European Review of Aging and Physical Activity       |          | 3.2      | Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health             |        |
|      | European Sports History Review                       |          |          | Journal of Exercise Physiology Online                    |        |
| 2.8  | Exercise Immunology Review                           |          | <1.0     | Journal of Exercise Science & Fitness                    |        |
| 4.5  | Exercise and Sport Sciences Reviews                  |          | <1.0     | Journal of Human Kinetics                                |        |
|      | Frontiers in Movement Science and Sport Psychology   |          |          | Journal of Human Movement Studies                        |        |
| ???  | Gait and Posture                                     |          |          | Journal of Human Performance in Extreme Environments     |        |
| 1.8  | High Altitude Medicine and Biology                   |          |          | Journal of Human Sport and Exercise                      |        |
| 1.8  | Human Movement Science                               |          | 1.6      | Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition |        |
|      | International Journal of Athletic Therapy & Training |          | <1.0     | Journal of Leisure Research                              |        |
|      | International Journal of Coaching Science            |          | 1.6      | Journal of Motor Behaviour                               |        |
|      | International Journal of Computer Science in Sport   |          | 2.1      | Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine         |        |

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|------|--|------|--|
| 3.0  | Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy     | 1.5  | Motor Control  |
| <1.0 | Journal of the Philosophy of Sport                   | 1.7  | Pediatric Exercise Science                           |
|      | Journal of Physical Education, Recreation, & Dance   |      | Pediatric Physical Therapy                           |
| 4.7  | Journal of Physiology                                | <1.0 | Perceptual and Motor Skills                          |
|      | Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports           |      | Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy                |
| 3.0  | Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport             |      | Physical Educator                                    |
| 2.7  | Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology             | 1.0  | Physical Therapy in Sport                            |
| 1.1  | Journal of Sport and Social Issues                   | 1.0  | Physician and Sportsmedicine                         |
|      | Journal of Sport Behavior                            | 1.9  | Psychology of Sport and Exercise                     |
| <1.0 | Journal of Sport Economics                           | <1.0 | Quest  |
|      | Journal of Sport History                             | 1.5  | Research in Sports Medicine                          |
| <1.0 | Journal of Sport Management                          | 1.5  | Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport            |
| 1.1  | Journal of Sport Rehabilitation                      | 2.9  | Scandinavian Journal of Medicine & Science in Sports |
| <1.0 | Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness      | <1.0 | Science and Sports                                   |
| <1.0 | Journal of Sports Science and Medicine               | <1.0 | Sociology of Sport Journal                           |
| 1.9  | Journal of Sports Sciences                           |      | Sport History Review                                 |
|      | Journal of Sports Traumatology                       | <1.0 | Sport, Education, and Society                        |
| 1.8  | Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research        | 1.0  | (The) Sport Psychologist                             |
|      | Journal of Swimming Research                         | <1.0 | Sports Biomechanics                                  |
| 1.0  | Journal of Teaching in Physical Education            |      | Sports Exercise and Injury                           |
| <1.0 | Kinesiology  | 5.2  | Sports Medicine                                      |
| 1.6  | Leisure Sciences                                     |      | Sports Technology                                    |
| <1.0 | Leisure Studies                                      | <1.0 | Sportverletzung-Sportschaden                         |
|      | Measurement in Physical Education & Exercise Science | <1.0 | Strength and Conditioning Journal                    |
| <1.0 | Medicina dello Sport                                 |      | Women in Sport & Physical Activity Journal           |
| 4.4  | Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise          |      |  |
|      | Medicine and Sport Science                           |      |  |

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Published July 2012

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