

Journal Impact Factors in Sports Medicine and Science for 2014

Will G Hopkins

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College of Sport and Exercise Science, Victoria University, Melbourne 8001, Australia. [Email](#).

Reviewer: Stephen Seiler, University of Agder, Faculty of Health and Sport, Kristiansand 4604, Norway

Exercise and Immunology Review again has the highest journal impact factor (9.9) in the sport and exercise disciplines, but Sports Medicine (5.3) has regained its lead over *Exercise and Sport Sciences Reviews* (4.8). Other top performers were *American Journal of Sports Medicine* (4.7), *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise* (4.5), *British Journal of Sports Medicine* (4.2), *International Review of Sport and Exercise Psychology* (3.4), *Scandinavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports* (3.2), *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport* (3.1), *International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance* (2.7), *Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology* (2.6), *Clinics in Sports Medicine* (2.6), *Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy* (2.4). *International Journal of Sports Medicine* (2.4), *Journal of Sports Sciences* (2.1), and *Human Movement Science* (2.0). Journals with at least a moderate increase (>30%) since last year were *International Review of Sport and Exercise Psychology* (no previous impact factor), *Journal of Sport and Health Science* (no previous impact factor), *Journal of Exercise Science & Fitness*, *Journal of Sport Management*, *International Journal of Performance Analysis in Sport*, *Sociology of Sport Journal*, *Journal of Human Kinetics*, and *Exercise and Immunology Reviews*. Any attempt to eliminate the evil of impact factors by restriction of publication to institutional archives would probably fail.

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 medicine and science. The impact factors are compiled and published around the middle of each year as InCites Journal Citation Reports by Thomson Reuters. You will need an institutional subscription to access this resource.

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 (i.e., excluding more generic biomechanics, physiology and psychology journals). The meaning of the impact factor is summarized in the legend of the table. For a more detailed explanation and critique, see an [earlier article](#) in this series. Read subsequent articles for explanations of related statistics and publication issues, including the [page-rank, cited half-life and immediacy indices](#), the [H \(Hirsch\) index](#), [post-publication peer review](#), [peer-reviewed proposals](#), and [article-influence scores](#).

The publication issue I want to share with

you this year is a utopian vision of science without journals and impact factors as we know them in a climate of manuscript acceptance rather than the prevailing one of manuscript rejection. This new age would begin when administrators of the [top universities](#) decreed that all research articles of their academics would be published only in their own open-access institutional archives. They would make this decree only for the good of science (see below), so it may never happen, but anyway... All other institutions would quickly follow suit. The appropriate scholarly societies would be commissioned (paid) as disinterested third parties to perform non-anonymized peer reviewing. Regardless of the reviewers' recommendations, authors could and usually would opt to publish, provided that the reviewers' final comments and the authors' responses were also published. Most underpowered studies would therefore end up in print, so publication bias would practically disappear. Present-day journals would survive only as archives of their previous articles, but some would become digests, similar to

the [Trends in...](#) series of magazines. [Predatory open-access journals](#) would disappear.

Unfortunately Tomson Reuters would start publishing institutional-archive impact factors. Concerned about attracting good researchers and funding, the universities would publish research only with favorable reviews, and we'd soon be back to where we are now. As suggest-

ed by the reviewer of this article, the impact factor is probably an inevitable evil of the "market economy" we now find in academia. "Thompson Reuters, the top universities, and the publishers are all part of a financial ecosystem that will always reinvent itself in some form or other."

Table 1. Impact factors (cites per article per year) for sports medicine and science journals based on articles published in 2011 and 2012 that were cited in 2013. 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 Reuters' 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	↑ ≥60%	↑ 30-59%	↑ 10-29%	↑↓ 0-9%	↓ ≥10%
<1.0	ACSM's Health and Fitness Journal		9.9	Exercise and Immunology Review	
4.3	Acta Physiologica Scandinavica		4.8	Exercise and Sport Sciences Reviews	
1.1	Adapted Physical Activity Quarterly			Frontiers in Movement Science and Sport Psychology	
	American Journal of Medicine and Sports		2.3	Gait and Posture	
4.1	American Journal of Physiology - Endo & Metab		1.8	High Altitude Medicine and Biology	
4.0	American Journal of Physiology - Heart & Circ		2.0	Human Movement Science	
4.7	American Journal of Sports Medicine		???	International Journal of Athletic Therapy & Training	
	American Journal of Sports Science			International Journal of Coaching Science	
1.3	Applied Ergonomics			International J of Computer Science in Sport	
2.2	Applied Physiology Nutrition & Metabolism		9.2	International Journal of Epidemiology	
<1.0	Applied Psychological Measurement		<1.0	International Journal of History of Sport	
2.1	Applied Psychology-International Review		0.8	International Journal of Performance Analysis in Sport	
<1.0	Archives of Budo		2.0	International J of Sport Nutrition & Exercise Metabolism	
	Asian Journal of Sports Medicine		<1.0	International Journal of Sport Finance	
<1.0	Aviation Space and Environmental Medicine		???	International J of Sports Marketing & Sponsorship	
2.5	Behavior Research Methods		<1.0	International Journal of Sport Psychology	
<1.0	Biology of Sport		2.4	International Journal of Sports Medicine	
4.2	British Journal of Sports Medicine			International J of Sports Medicine and Sports Sciences	
1.9	Clinical Biomechanics		2.7	International J of Sports Physiology & Performance	
2.0	Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine		<1.0	International J of Sports Science & Coaching	
2.6	Clinics in Sports Medicine			International Quarterly of Sport Science	
1.6	Current Sports Medicine Reports			International Review for the Sociology of Sport	
???	Deutsche Zeitschrift fur Sportmedizin		3.4	International Review of Sport and Exercise Psychology	
	Electromyography and Motor Control		???	International Sportmed Journal	
1.6	Ergonomics			International Sports Journal	
2.3	European Journal of Applied Physiology		<1.0	Isokinetics and Exercise Science	
1.3	European Journal of Sport Science			Japanese Journal of Physical Fitness and Sport	
<1.0	European Review of Aging and Physical Activity		1.4	Journal of Aging and Physical Activity	
	European Sports History Review		1.1	Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis	

1.1	Journal of Applied Behavioral Science		Journal of Sports Traumatology
<1.0	Journal of Applied Biomechanics	1.9	Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research
3.4	Journal of Applied Physiology		Journal of Swimming Research
4.4	Journal of Applied Psychology	<1.0	Journal of Teaching in Physical Education
1.1	Journal of Applied Sport Psychology	<1.0	Kinesiology
1.5	Journal of Athletic Training	1.1	Leisure Sciences
2.5	Journal of Biomechanics	1.1	Leisure Studies
	Journal of Combat Sports and Martial Arts		Measurement in Physical Education & Exercise Science
	Journal of Comparative Physical Education & Sport	<1.0	Medicina dello Sport
1.7	Journal of Electromyography and Kinesiology	4.5	Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise
3.3	Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health		Medicine and Sport Science
	Journal of Exercise Physiology Online	1.5	Motor Control
<1.0	Journal of Exercise Science & Fitness	1.6	Pediatric Exercise Science
<1.0	Journal of Human Kinetics		Pediatric Physical Therapy
	Journal of Human Movement Studies	<1.0	Perceptual and Motor Skills
	Journal of Human Performance in Extreme Environments	<1.0	Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy
	Journal of Human Sport and Exercise		Physical Educator
1.5	Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition	1.4	Physical Therapy in Sport
	Journal of Motor Learning and Development	1.5	Physician and Sportsmedicine
<1.0	Journal of Leisure Research	1.8	Psychology of Sport and Exercise
1.4	Journal of Motor Behaviour	<1.0	Quest
1.8	Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine	1.4	Research in Sports Medicine
2.4	Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy	1.3	Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport
<1.0	Journal of the Philosophy of Sport	3.2	Scandinavian Journal of Medicine & Science in Sports
1.9	Journal of Physical Activity and Health	<1.0	Science and Sports
	Journal of Physical Education, Recreation, & Dance	1.1	Sociology of Sport Journal
4.5	Journal of Physiology		Sport History Review
	Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports	1.3	Sport, Education, and Society
	Journal of Science and Cycling	<1.0	(The) Sport Psychologist
3.1	Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport	<1.0	Sports Biomechanics
2.6	Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology		Sports Exercise and Injury
???	Journal of Sport and Social Issues	5.3	Sports Medicine
	Journal of Sport Behavior		Sports Technology
???	Journal of Sport Economics	<1.0	Sportverletzung-Sportschaden
1.2	Journal of Sport and Health Science	<1.0	Strength and Conditioning Journal
	Journal of Sport History		Women in Sport & Physical Activity Journal
<1.0	Journal of Sport Management		
<1.0	Journal of Sport Rehabilitation		
<1.0	Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness		
<1.0	Journal of Sports Science and Medicine		
2.1	Journal of Sports Sciences		

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