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Title: The association between internal and external measures of training load in batsmen and medium-fast bowlers during net-based cricket training.

Submission Type: Original investigation

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1 **ABSTRACT**

2 **Purpose:** To examine the relationship between session Rating of Perceived Exertion (sRPE)
3 and measures of internal and external training load (TL) within cricket batsmen and medium-
4 fast bowlers during net-based training sessions. **Methods:** The internal (heart rate), external
5 (movement demands, Player Load™) and technical (cricket-specific skills) loads of thirty,
6 male cricket players (age: 21.2 ± 3.8 y, height: 1.82 ± 0.07 m, body mass: 79.0 ± 8.7 kg) were
7 determined from net-based cricket training sessions ($n = 118$). The relationships between
8 sRPE and measures of TL were quantified using Pearson's product moment correlations,
9 respective to playing position. Stepwise multiple regression techniques provided key internal
10 and external load determinants of sRPE in cricket players. **Results:** Significant correlations
11 were evident ($r = -0.34 - 0.87$, $P < 0.05$) between internal and external measures of TL and
12 sRPE, with the strongest correlations ($r \geq 0.62$) existing for GPS-derived measures for both
13 playing positions. In batsmen, stepwise multiple regression analysis revealed that 67.8% of
14 the adjusted variance in sRPE could be explained by Player Load™ and high-intensity
15 distance ($y = 27.43 + 0.81 \text{ Player Load}^{\text{TM}} + 0.29 \text{ high-intensity distance}$). For medium-fast
16 bowlers, 76.3% of the adjusted variance could be explained by total distance and mean heart
17 rate ($y = 101.82 + \text{total distance } 0.05 + \text{HR}_{\text{mean}} - 0.48$). **Conclusion:** These results suggest that
18 sRPE is a valid method of reporting TL amongst cricket batsmen and medium-fast bowlers.
19 Position specific responses are evident, and should be considered when monitoring the TL of
20 cricket players.

21

22 **KEY WORDS:** batsman, bowler, internal training load, external training load, GPS

23 INTRODUCTION

24 Within the confines of the high performance team sport environment, as a result of training
25 load monitoring practices, it is common to prescribe more individualised player training
26 programs specific to their respective match demands[1]. As reviewed previously [2, 3] there
27 are numerous methods currently available for monitoring an individual's training load (TL),
28 though these are generally classified as either internal or external in nature[4]. Internal-TL,
29 particularly via Rating of Perceived Exertion (RPE) using Borg's Category Ratio 10 [CR-10]
30 scale, is calculated by multiplying an individual's RPE by the duration of a training session
31 (in minutes) [5]. Research has demonstrated the sRPE method to be a valid indicator of TL
32 when compared to other internal measures across an array of sports and activities [6-10]. In
33 addition to this, the advancements in micro-technology that allow global positioning system
34 (GPS) and accelerometer devices to measure external-TL mean that it is now ubiquitous in
35 many sports. Furthermore, recent studies show evidence of strong relationships between
36 measures of external-TL and sRPE, particularly within field-based team sports [4, 11, 12].

37

38 Training programs are traditionally prescribed on external-TL, as is determined by the work
39 performed by the athlete (ie. distance/speed from GPS devices), while the internal-TL
40 represents the psycho-physiological stress imposed on individual athletes [13]. As noted by
41 Impellizzeri and colleagues [14], the internal load experienced by an athlete is associated
42 with the extent of the external load placed upon them during training or match-play. Recent
43 evidence suggests a system that combines internal- and external-TL measures may be the
44 most appropriate method to holistically quantify TL [11, 15]. By comparison however, the
45 activity profile of cricket players during either training or match-play differs to that of other
46 field based team sports, as typically the durations are much longer and a larger proportion of
47 time is spent performing low-intensity activities ($<3.5 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ and $<75\%$ maximum heart rate

48 [HR_{max}]) [16]. As such it is unclear whether measures of external-TL would be useful when
49 prescribing training sessions based on TL for cricket players, especially given such unique
50 and subtle movement characteristics of the sport and varying positions.

51

52 Given the high technical load specific to cricket and the various playing positions within a
53 single team, the use of external measures based on the technical demands of a specific sport
54 may be one way in which the TL's of athletes could be monitored. Few studies have
55 examined the relationship between sRPE and technical measures of a specific sport, despite
56 the large number of studies which have compared the sRPE derived TL's to common internal
57 (HR) and external (GPS) measures. Recently however, both Lovell et al. [11] and Weaving et
58 al. [15] have reported significant correlations between rugby league specific GPS-derived
59 technical measures, i.e. body load and number of impacts and sRPE during skills-specific (r
60 > 0.24) and skills-conditioning ($r > 0.43$) training sessions. Each respective study provided
61 evidence that the sport specific technical load measures in combination with other internal
62 and external measures of TL accounted for a predominance of the variance in sRPE.
63 Additionally, Murphy et al. [17] recently used shot count and the number of unforced errors
64 as a measure of reporting load amongst tennis players to determine player's concepts of what
65 constitutes sRPE following a training session. Despite suggesting the use of external-TL
66 measures such as shot count may be useful when prescribing unsupervised practice; these
67 same measures were unable to explain the variance in sRPE within junior tennis players.

68

69 Collectively, the above research findings appear to suggest that the use of more sport specific
70 external measures of TL may be unique to each individual sport. In cricket, the training dose
71 of a net-based session is typically dictated by the restrictions of medium-fast bowlers, as

72 evidenced by a number of national organisations limiting the number of deliveries a medium-
73 fast bowler can perform in training [18, 19]. As such, coaching staff are more likely to
74 develop training programs based on this measure of TL load as opposed to internal HR-based
75 or external GPS-derived measures. Accordingly, the purpose of this study was to determine
76 the association between sRPE and previously established measures of internal- and external-
77 TL in cricket, and secondly, to determine what internal and external load markers are
78 determinants of position specific RPE responses in batsmen and medium-fast bowlers during
79 net-based training.

80

81 **METHODS**

82 *Subjects*

83 Thirty elite, male cricket players (age: 21.2 ± 3.8 y, height: 1.82 ± 0.07 m, body mass: $79.0 \pm$
84 8.7 kg; batsmen $n = 10$; medium-fast bowlers $n = 9$) currently all playing at a minimum
85 standard of first-class cricket and with a minimum of 10 years playing experience
86 volunteered to participate in the study. All players provided verbal and written informed
87 consent prior to the commencement of the study. Players were familiarised with Borg's CR-
88 10 RPE scale [20] and the exact procedures of the study prior to data collection. The Ethics
89 Committee of the University of Newcastle granted approval for the study (H-2010-1288).

90

91 *Study Design*

92 Whilst attending a pre-season training camp at the Australian National Cricket Centre the
93 internal- and external-TLs of batsmen and medium-fast bowlers were measured over a period
94 of 12 weeks during typical training sessions. During this time a total of 27 net-based training

95 sessions were completed, with 118 individual sessions being used for analysis. A typical net-
96 based training session was similar to that previously reported in the studies of Vickery et al.
97 [21] and Petersen et al. [22], whereby batsmen batted against medium-fast bowlers (n = 2-3
98 bowlers per net) who rotated between deliveries as opposed to completing 6 ball overs on a
99 turf cricket pitch, which was surrounded by netting. Batsmen batted in pairs and were
100 instructed to rotate the strike by completing a single as typical of match-play, as often as
101 possible during their allotted batting period. When rotating the strike batsmen were
102 encouraged to perform this at typical match intensity. Training sessions were designed to
103 allow players to practice isolated technical aspects of cricket match-play [22]. Players were
104 instructed to train as per the instructions of their coaching staff.

105

106 *Measures of Internal Training Load*

107 *Heart Rate*

108 Heart rate (HR) was collected simultaneously from each player using heart rate monitors
109 (Polar Team² System, Polar Electro Oy, Kempele, Finland) that sampled at 5 s intervals
110 throughout each training session. Due to limitations with the number of HR devices available
111 and restrictions made by coaching staff, the number of participants who wore HR devices
112 varied from 4-10 each session. Heart rate data was stored within the GPS device worn by the
113 player and download using Logan Plus 4.6 software (Catapult Innovations, Scoresby,
114 Australia) following each training session for analysis. As in previous studies [4, 12, 14]
115 mean HR (HR_{mean}), HR_{max} and the amount of time spent above 75% HR_{max} were determined
116 during analysis [17]. Additionally, Edwards TRIMP method [23] for quantifying internal-TL
117 was determined as:

118 Internal-TL = (Zone 1 duration x 1) + (Zone 2 duration x 2) + (Zone 3 duration x 3) + (Zone
119 4 duration x 4) + (Zone 5 duration x 5)

120 where Zone 1 = 50-60% HR_{max}, Zone 2 = 60-70% HR_{max}, Zone 3 = 70-80% HR_{max}, Zone 4 =
121 80-90% HR_{max} and Zone 5 = 90-100% HR_{max}.

122

123 Each individual's HR_{max} was determined from the HR_{max} achieved prior to exhaustion from
124 the performance of a Yo-Yo Intermittent Recovery Test Level 1 that was completed at the
125 commencement of the training camp.

126

127 *Session-RPE*

128 The perceived intensity of each specific training session was quantified using Borg's CR-10
129 RPE scale [20] for each player following a training session as has been used previously [6, 8,
130 10, 24] . Player's provided separate RPE scores for each of the separate training session
131 sections ie. Batting and bowling. Training load was then calculated by multiplying each
132 player's RPE by the duration (min) of each specific part (i.e. batting and/or bowling) training
133 session [5]. To ensure that consistent ratings of perceived intensity were recorded, as
134 previously reported [24] sRPE scores were recorded 30 min following the conclusion of each
135 separate section of the training session (eg. 30 min following net batting, 30 min following
136 net bowling) to minimise any bias from the final stages of the session. Although as is typical
137 of net-based cricket training, each player was allowed to continue training if they completed
138 their batting and/or bowling session before other players which may have been led to some
139 limitations with regards to data analysis.

140

141 *Measures of External Training Load*

142 *Global Positioning Systems*

143 Similar to recent research [4, 12, 15] the movement patterns of each player during all training
144 sessions were recorded simultaneously via MinimaxX GPS devices (v6.65, Catapult
145 Innovations, Scoresby, Australia) sampling at a frequency of 10 Hz to determine the external-
146 TL of players. As with HR, limitations due to equipment availability and coaching
147 restrictions meant the number of players wearing a GPS device varied from 4-10 per session.
148 Each GPS unit was situated between the shoulder blades of each player using a specially
149 designed harness. Following each training session, data was downloaded to determine
150 measures of external-TL (distance covered [which included distance at a low-intensity: <3.5
151 $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ and high-intensity: $\geq 3.5 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$] [21], movement characteristics and Player Load™) using
152 Logan Plus 4.6 software (Catapult Innovations, Scoresby, Australia). To limit inter-unit
153 variability, each player was fitted with the same GPS device (where possible) during each
154 training session. To ensure spurious information was not included, data was removed when a
155 horizontal dilution of position value of greater than 5 was indicated, or when the number of
156 connected satellites was less than 5 [25].

157

158 *Technical Skill*

159 Recent evidence [17] suggests sports-specific technical skills are associated with athlete's
160 perception of effort ($r = 0.63$), and hence may be an avenue for exploration in cricket
161 environments to determine TL. Consequently, during each net-based training session a fixed
162 video camera (HDV 1080i/mini DV Handycam, Sony, Japan) was placed behind the batsmen
163 (opposite end to where the ball was delivered by bowlers) to record the technical skills of

164 batsmen and bowlers during each net-based training session. Following data collection, the
165 footage was viewed by the lead researcher and notational analysis was used to quantify the
166 volume of the technical skills performed by batsmen (number of balls faced, number of balls
167 hit, number of defensive shots, number of attacking shots) and medium-fast bowlers (number
168 of balls bowled).

169

170 *Statistical Analyses*

171 Pearson's product moment correlation was used to calculate the association between
172 measures of internal- and external-TL. Only those correlations that were statistically
173 significant ($P < 0.05$) were reported. Similar to previous research [12] ratio measures for 90%
174 limits of agreement were also calculated using a customised spreadsheet [26]. Correlation
175 coefficients categories were to quantify the strength of the association based on Hopkins [27]
176 (trivial= 0-0.1, small= 0.1-0.3, moderate= 0.3-0.5, large= 0.5-0.7, very large= 0.7-0.9, almost
177 perfect= 0.9-1). Using both internal and external measures of TL, stepwise multiple
178 regression was used to determine a predictive equation for sRPE. Additionally, for each
179 playing position, partial correlations, standardized coefficients, and level of significance were
180 reported for sRPE. Collinearity tolerance statistics established correlations between predictor
181 variables, where values $< .10$ were considered beyond an acceptable tolerance level and
182 removed from the model. All statistical analyses were completed using SPSS (v. 22, IBM
183 Corporation, Somers, New York, USA) with the level of statistical significance set at $P < 0.05$.
184 As in Scott et al. [4] the amount of data available from individual players was a limitation of
185 the study design and as such the following correlation coefficients reflect the relationship
186 between measures of TL from the pooled data, rather than the mean of intra-subject
187 correlations.

188

189 RESULTS

190 Measures of internal- and external-TL are presented in Table 1. Mean and 90% confidence
191 intervals of correlation coefficients between the measures of internal- and external-TL and
192 sRPE shown in Figure 1 for (a) batsmen and (b) medium-fast bowlers, respectively. Mean
193 duration of individual batting sessions was 21 ± 10 min (range: 13 - 61 min), whereas mean
194 duration for medium-fast bowling sessions was 28 ± 13 min (range: 13 - 72 min). Across
195 each of the playing positions, the mean sRPE TL for individual sessions were: batsmen $82 \pm$
196 39 Arbitrary Units (AU) (range: 43 - 179 AU) and medium-fast bowlers 124 ± 57 AU (range:
197 $44 - 279$ AU) (Table 1). Heart rate based internal measures of TL within batsmen showed a
198 small negative correlation with sRPE ($r = -0.28 - -0.24$, $P < 0.05$); whereas, moderate
199 correlations between external-TL and sRPE within batsmen were evident ($r = -0.34 - 0.47$, P
200 < 0.02) (Figure 1a). Specifically, measures of external-TL associated with physical demands
201 (distance covered, number of efforts, player load) demonstrated large to very large
202 correlations with sRPE ($r = 0.60 - 0.74$, $P < 0.01$) (Figure 1a). Alternatively, technical skill
203 (number of balls faced, hit and defensive shots played) displayed moderate negative
204 correlations with sRPE ($r = -0.34 - -0.33$, $P < 0.02$) (Figure 1a). In regards to medium-fast
205 bowlers, a small negative correlation existed between HR_{mean} and sRPE ($r = -0.29$, $P < 0.02$),
206 with all other measures of internal-TL not significantly associated ($P > 0.05$) (Figure 1b).
207 Moderate to very large correlations ($r = -0.54 - 0.87$, $P < 0.01$) were evident between all
208 measures of external-TL and sRPE (Figure 1b). Notably a moderate negative correlation was
209 seen between work-to-rest ratio and sRPE ($r = -0.54$, $P < 0.01$). Additionally, the number of
210 balls bowled demonstrated a strong association with sRPE ($r = 0.68$, $P < 0.01$,) (Figure 1b).

211

*****INSERT TABLE 1 AROUND HERE*****

212

*****INSERT FIGURE 1 AROUND HERE*****

213 The results of the stepwise multiple regression analysis are presented in Table 2. A total of
214 67.8% of the adjusted variance in batsmen's sRPE could be explained by Player Load™ and
215 the total distance covered performing at a high-intensity ($y = 27.43 + 0.81 \text{ Player Load}^{\text{TM}} +$
216 $0.29 \text{ High-intensity distance}$; adjusted $R^2 = 0.68$; $F = 54.76$; $P < 0.001$). The collinearity of
217 this equation was acceptable for both variables with tolerance levels of 0.530. In regards to
218 the medium-fast bowlers, total distance and HR_{mean} accounted for 76.3% of adjusted variance
219 in sRPE ($y = 101.82 + \text{Total distance } 0.05 + \text{HR}_{\text{mean}} -0.48$; adjusted $R^2 = 0.76$; $F = 100.97$; P
220 < 0.001). Similar to batsmen, the collinearity of this equation was acceptable for both
221 variables with a tolerance level of 0.979.

222

*****INSERT TABLE 2 AROUND HERE*****

223

224 **DISCUSSION**

225 This study aimed to determine the relationship between measures of internal- and external-TL
226 and sRPE amongst cricket batsmen and medium-fast bowlers. As in recent previous research
227 in tennis as well as field based team sports such as rugby and football [11, 14, 17, 24, 28], the
228 current research reported strong relationships between GPS-derived measures of load and
229 sRPE within both playing positions. However, HR-based measures of internal-TL typically
230 demonstrated weaker relationships with sRPE within both playing groups in the current
231 study. Also unique to this study was the use of cricket-specific skills as a measure of
232 external-TL, which indicated a moderate to strong relationship with sRPE dependent upon
233 playing position. The findings suggest that a collective of TL measures best explains sRPE

234 amongst cricket players, and it was interesting that the inclusion of cricket-specific skills was
235 not observed.

236

237 With the exception of HR_{mean} (batsmen: $r = -0.28$; medium-fast bowlers: $r = -0.29$), the
238 present results showed no significant correlation between any measures of HR and sRPE
239 (HR_{max} , percentage time $>75\%HR_{\text{max}}$ and Edwards' TRIMP) for either playing position. As
240 stated above, this contrasts with previous research that has reported strong relationships
241 between HR measures and sRPE in field based team sports [1, 12, 28]. For example,
242 Impellizeri and colleagues [14] found large to very large correlations ($r = 0.50 - 0.85$)
243 between sRPE and measures of HR amongst young soccer players when performing a soccer-
244 specific training program. More recently, Lovell et al. [11] reported moderate to large
245 correlations ($r = 0.45 - 0.75$) between sRPE as a measure of TL and Banister's TRIMP
246 across a range of rugby league training activities amongst professional players. The weak
247 correlation between sRPE and HR-based measures of load in the present study may be
248 explained by the unique nature of cricket training, especially given such large proportions of
249 time are spent performing low-intensity activities, particularly compared to the more likely
250 higher-intensity sessions undertaken by the football codes [21, 29]. Previous research within
251 cricket [21, 30, 31] highlights that despite the intermittent nature of net-based training, a large
252 percentage of time is spent at an intensity below $75\%HR_{\text{max}}$ during net-based cricket training
253 sessions (batsmen: $43 \pm 38\%$; medium-fast bowlers: $48 \pm 37\%$). Given Edwards' TRIMP
254 method places a greater weighting on more intense activity when calculating internal-TL, this
255 may explain the lower correlation when compared to other team sports requiring longer
256 periods at higher intensities [32, 33]. Surprisingly though, the current results demonstrated a
257 negative correlation for HR_{mean} and sRPE for both playing positions. As such, alternative
258 methods other than those based on internal measures (HR, sRPE) may be required to monitor

259 the TL of cricket batsmen and medium-fast bowlers. As sRPE includes the duration of the
260 training session it is possible that the considerable portion of time spent at low-intensities
261 invokes low cardiovascular load, yet can amplify the calculated TL. This suggests that
262 coaches who develop net-based training sessions which are designed based around internal
263 measures of TL may need to consider this information regarding the cardiovascular responses
264 of cricket players. The limited relationship which exists between internal-TL and sRPE
265 amongst cricket batsmen and medium-fast bowlers suggests that external measures may
266 possibly have a stronger relationship with sRPE.

267

268 Similar to recent studies [4, 11, 12] strong correlations were present between sRPE and
269 measures of external-TL. Specifically for batsmen, large correlations existed between sRPE
270 and total distance ($r = 0.74$), total low-intensity distance ($r = 0.74$) and Player LoadTM ($r =$
271 0.73). Further, moderate correlations were observed between sRPE with total high-intensity
272 distance ($r = 0.62$) and the number of high-intensity efforts ($r = 0.60$). As in previous studies,
273 weaker correlations were reported with an increase in running speed [4, 11], however as in
274 the current study, these correlations were still considered moderate to large ($r \geq 0.43$). Due to
275 the limited movement that occurs when batting in the nets (as highlighted by the proportion
276 of low-intensity activity in Table 2), it is not surprising that the strongest relationship existed
277 between movement performed at low speeds and sRPE within batsmen. A similar result
278 occurred with medium-fast bowlers, with large correlations existing between sRPE and all
279 GPS-derived external measures of load ($r = 0.76 - 0.87$) apart from work-to-rest ratio
280 ($r = -0.58$). Although still largely low-intensity activity, the increased proportion of high-
281 intensity activity performed by medium-fast bowlers during net-based training explains the
282 greater correlation to sRPE than when compared to batsmen. In regards to work-to-rest ratio,
283 a high ratio (more time between high- and low-intensity efforts) is likely to result in a lower

284 perceptual response due to the increased recovery time, which likely explains the negative
285 correlation to sRPE. Based on this, coaches may consider decreasing the work-to-rest ratio if
286 wanting to increase the resulting TL of medium-fast bowlers during a net session. Regardless
287 of playing position, GPS-derived external measures appear to correlate to sRPE during
288 cricket training, highlighting that measures of external-TL may prove more useful for cricket
289 coaches when monitoring the loads of batsmen and medium-fast bowlers when compared to
290 internal measures. Unlike that of previous research [12, 15], this study found stronger
291 relationships between external measures of TL and sRPE as opposed to internal-TL
292 measures.

293

294 A new finding from this study was the relationships observed between cricket-specific skills
295 and sRPE. Specifically, the number of balls faced and hit by batsmen during a net session
296 demonstrated a moderate but negative correlation ($r = -0.34$ and -0.33 , respectively) with
297 sRPE. Houghton et al. [31] reported a general increase in batsmen's RPE with an increase in
298 the number of balls faced during a simulated batting innings. However, this finding included
299 the physical work that accompanied each shot during the simulation and therefore not
300 unsurprisingly, an increase in physical work was evident alongside in the increase in
301 perceived intensity. In the current study however, it was unclear as to why sRPE and the
302 number of balls faced by batsmen shared a negative association. This conceptually differs to
303 the study of Lovell et al. [11], where a positive relationship was reported between a skill-
304 specific external measure of load (impacts) and sRPE. Within the current study it is possible
305 this negative relationship may reflect that the more balls faced during net-training results in
306 longer sessions and less movement, hence the lower RPE is a by-product of more time in the
307 nets and reduced total and high-intensity movements [34]. In regards to medium-fast bowlers,
308 a large correlation ($r = 0.68$) was reported between the number of balls bowled and sRPE.

309 This is not surprising as completing a greater number of deliveries will lead to greater high-
310 intensity running for the run up of each delivery as well as lengthen the duration of the
311 training session. Consequently, the inverse relationship between technical activity and sRPE
312 may suggest alternate, if not expanded methods of TL monitoring are required. Therefore,
313 although it is common practice for net sessions to be based around the technical load of
314 medium-fast bowlers [18, 19], coaches need to consider the playing position when
315 developing training sessions which are based around the volume of technical skills
316 performed.

317

318 Similar to recent studies by Lovell et al. [11] and Murphy et al. [17], the use of a multiple
319 stepwise regression in the current study shows a combination of load and intensity measures
320 may explain more of the variance in sRPE than individual measures of load. Unlike these
321 previous studies, the results of the multiple stepwise regression analysis differed depending
322 on the playing position. For batsmen, Player LoadTM and distance covered at a high-intensity
323 contributed to 67.8% of the adjusted variance for sRPE. Although unexpected, the inclusion
324 of distance covered at a high-intensity and Player LoadTM to explain the variance in batsmen
325 sRPE suggests that the movement characteristics (e.g. running between the wickets and small
326 movements in various directions whilst batting as opposed to remaining stationary during net-
327 sessions) are influential in the perceived intensity of batsmen.

328

329 Meanwhile for the medium-fast bowlers, 76.3% of the variance in sRPE could be explained
330 by total distance and HR_{mean}. These results suggest that within batsmen only external
331 measures of TL account for the variance within sRPE, whereas within medium-fast bowlers it
332 is a combination of internal- and external-TL measures. Interestingly within both playing

333 positions, the external measures of TL specific to technical skill did not account for any
334 variance using this analysis. Therefore, these results would suggest that a combination of
335 internal- (HR-based) and external-TL (GPS-derived and skill-specific) measures account for
336 sRPE within cricket players during net-based training sessions, although this is somewhat
337 position specific. It should be noted that these results are specific to batsmen and medium-
338 fast bowlers during net-based cricket training. Although other methods of training are
339 currently used for skill development and physical conditioning in the sport of cricket such as
340 small-sided games or conditioning based exercises, this study was limited to net-based
341 training sessions due to time and player access restrictions. Future research should consider
342 the training loads of each playing position associated with a variety of training methods
343 which are utilised by current cricket coaches

344

345 **PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS**

- 346 • The use of sRPE appears to be a suitable tool for monitoring the TL of cricket
347 batsmen and medium-fast bowlers with the addition of other internal and external
348 measures for monitoring TL.
- 349 • Coaches may need to reconsider only using of cricket-specific measures of skill
350 volume, such as medium-fast bowler's ball count, in monitoring the TL of cricket
351 players during net-based training sessions. A combination of both internal, GPS
352 derived-external and cricket-specific measures of skill may be more superior to
353 monitor TL.
- 354 • The data suggests the GPS-derived (external) information proves the most useful and
355 suitable for coaches for the determining of position specific TL during net-based

356 training sessions. This would minimise the amount of information required and
357 therefore impeding less on player's practice time.

- 358 • As sRPE can be explained by varying internal and external measures of TL, coaches
359 need to consider playing position when deciding upon which TL measure to use when
360 developing net-based training sessions and monitoring cricket players. This would
361 allow for more specific information to be gathered by coaches which in turn would
362 help in the development of more individualised net-based training programs.

363

364 **CONCLUSION**

365 This study supports the use of sRPE as a measure of TL as it was demonstrated that sRPE is
366 highly correlated with external-TL measures, particularly those derived from GPS devices in
367 cricket batsmen and fast-bowlers. However, this was not the case with HR-derived internal-
368 TL measures, which is likely explained by the intermittent nature and greater proportion of
369 low-intensity activity of cricket players during training activities. It was also evident that
370 technical skill external measures of TL were correlated to sRPE to varying levels depending
371 on playing position. Additionally, this study also showed that a number of factors could be
372 used to predict sRPE as opposed to only relying on one internal or external measure of TL,
373 although these factors differ between playing position. Overall the results of this study
374 provide cricket coaches with information regarding the use of load monitoring during net-
375 based cricket training sessions.

376

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460

461

Table 1. Internal and external measures of training load (mean \pm SD) of batsmen and medium-fast bowlers during net-based training sessions.

	Batsmen (n = 24)	Medium-Fast Bowler (n = 18)
Duration (min)	21 \pm 10	28 \pm 13
HR _{mean} (b \cdot min ⁻¹)	145 \pm 18	149 \pm 16
HR _{max} (b \cdot min ⁻¹)	171 \pm 21	186 \pm 19
% Time >75% HR _{max}	46 \pm 37	46 \pm 31
Edward's TRIMP (AU)	60 \pm 48	109 \pm 139
Total Distance (m)	421 \pm 420	2181 \pm 1066
Relative Distance (m \cdot min ⁻¹)	16 \pm 11	76 \pm 16
Distance at LI (m)	404 \pm 394	1508 \pm 730
Distance at HI (m)	14 \pm 35	657 \pm 356
# HIE	9 \pm 15	88 \pm 37
Peak Speed (m \cdot s ⁻¹)	2.6 \pm 1.8	6.2 \pm 1.7
Work:Rest Ratio (1:x)	189 \pm 472	7 \pm 8
PlayerLoad TM	68 \pm 35	150 \pm 72
# Balls Faced	68 \pm 17	
# Balls Hit	56 \pm 15	
# Defensive Shots	18 \pm 6	
# Attacking Shots	39 \pm 14	
# Balls Bowled		30 \pm 10

HR = heart rate; LI = low-intensity; HI = high-intensity; # = number of

Table 2. Partial correlations, standardised coefficients (β) and level of significance (P) for predictors of sRPE within batsmen and medium-fast bowlers.

	Partial Correlation	β	P
<i>Batsmen sRPE</i>			
Player Load TM	0.649	0.651	0.000
Total Distance			
HI Total Distance	0.296	0.236	0.035
LI Total Distance			
# HIE			
HR _{mean}			
# Balls Faced			
# Balls Hit			
<i>Medium-Fast Bowlers sRPE</i>			
Player Load TM			
Total Distance	0.868	0.866	0.000
HI Total Distance			
LI Total Distance			
# HIE			
Work:Rest Ratio			
HR _{mean}	-0.248	-0.143	0.025
# Balls Bowled			

HR = heart rate; LI = low-intensity; HI = high-intensity; # = number of