Edith Cowan University Research Online

ECU Publications Post 2013

3-31-2021

## Relationships between internal training load in a taper with elite weightlifting performance calculated using different moving average methods

Joseph O. C. Coyne *Edith Cowan University* 

Robert U. Newton Edith Cowan University

G. Gregory Haff Edith Cowan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://ro.ecu.edu.au/ecuworkspost2013

Part of the Sports Sciences Commons

#### 10.1123/IJSPP.2020-0002

Accepted author manuscript version reprinted, by permission, from International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance, 2021, 16(3): 342-352, https://doi.org/10.1123/ijspp.2020-0002. © Human Kinetics, Inc. Coyne, J. O. C., Newton, R. U., & Haff, G. G. (2021). Relationships between internal training load in a taper with elite weightlifting performance calculated using different moving average methods. *International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance, 16*(3), 342-352. https://doi.org/10.1123/IJSPP.2020-0002 This Journal Article is posted at Research Online. https://ro.ecu.edu.au/ecuworkspost2013/10065



#### Relationships Between Internal Training Load In a Taper with Elite Weightlifting Performance Calculated Using Different Moving Average Methods

| Journal:                         | International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Manuscript ID                    | IJSPP.2020-0002.R1  |
| Manuscript Type:                 | Original Investigation  |
| Date Submitted by the<br>Author: | 14-Mar-2020   |
| Complete List of Authors:        | Coyne, Joseph; Edith Cowan University, Centre for Exercise and Sports<br>Science Research<br>Newton, Robert; Edith Cowan University, Centre for Exercise and Sports<br>Science Research<br>Haff, G.; Edith Cowan University, Centre for Exercise and Sports Science<br>Research; Salford University, Directorate of Sport, Exercise, and<br>Physiotherapy |
| Keywords:                        | Monitoring, Simple Moving Average, Exponentially Weighted Moving Average, Periodization, Acute to Chronic Workload Ratio  |
|                                  |   |



- 1 Relationships Between Internal Training Load In a Taper with Elite Weightlifting
- 2 Performance Calculated Using Different Moving Average Methods

tor per period

#### 3 ABSTRACT

4 *Purpose*: A simple and two different exponentially weighted moving average methods 5 were used to investigate the relationships between internal training load (TL) and elite 6 weightlifting performance. *Methods*: Training impulse data (sessional ratings of perceived 7 exertion \* training duration) were collected from 21 elite weightlifters (age  $26.0 \pm 3.2$  years, 8 height  $162.2 \pm 11.3$  cm, body mass  $72.2 \pm 23.8$  kg, previous 12 month personal best total 9  $96.3 \pm 2.7\%$  of world record total) during the eight weeks prior to the 2016 Olympic Games 10 qualifying competition. The amount of training modified or cancelled due to injury/illness 11 was also collected. Training stress balance (TSB) and acute to chronic workload ratio 12 (ACWR) were calculated with the three moving average methods. Along with the amount of modified training, TSB and ACWR across the moving average methods were then 13 14 examined for their relationship to competitive performance. Results: There were no 15 consistent associations between performance and TL on the day of competition. The 16 volatility (standard deviation) of the ACWR in the last 21 days preceding competition was 17 moderately correlated with performance across moving average methods (r=-0.41-0.48, 18 p=0.03-0.07). TSB and ACWR volatility in the last 21 days were also significantly lower 19 for successful performers but only as a simple moving average (p=0.03 and 0.03, g=1.1520 and 1.07 respectively). *Conclusions*: Practitioners should consider restricting change and 21 volatility in an athlete's TSB or ACWR in the last 21 days prior to a major competition. 22 Additionally, a simple moving average seemed to better explain elite weightlifting 23 performance compared to the exponentially weighted moving averages in this investigation. 24

- 25 **KEYWORDS**
- 26 Monitoring, Simple Moving Average, Exponentially Weighted Moving Average,
- 27 Periodization, Acute to Chronic Workload Ratio PLICZ
- 28
- 29

30 INTRODUCTION

31 Training load (TL) monitoring is an associated extension of periodization theory.<sup>1</sup> In 32 practice, methods of monitoring TL can vary considerably depending on the type of sport 33 or activity.<sup>2</sup> Despite this, TL models are commonly computed using training impulse data<sup>2,3</sup>, which is calculated as a product of an intensity factor multiplied by a 34 35 volume/duration factor.<sup>3</sup> An athlete's overall response to training is then modelled as the 36 difference between "fitness" (positive) and "fatigue" (negative) functions.<sup>2,3</sup> Popular 37 simplified extensions of this model has been the development of training stress balance 38 (TSB) and the acute to chronic workload ratio (ACWR).<sup>4,5</sup> These have been calculated 39 using the difference (TSB) or ratio (ACWR) between the simple moving (rolling) averages 40 of TL over acute and chronic periods.<sup>4,5</sup>

41

42 Training load can be described as either internal or external and it is recommended that 43 both these constructs are used to assess the training process.<sup>6,7</sup> There are a number of 44 external TL measures that are common in weightlifting e.g. volume load.<sup>8,9</sup> The use of 45 internal TL measures such as sessional ratings of perceived exertion (sRPE) in 46 weightlifting remain contentious despite recommendations as a primary TL measure<sup>10,11</sup> 47 and its common use in endurance sports.<sup>2</sup> Theoretically, sRPE accounts for the perception 48 of physiological, biomechanical and mental work an athlete completes and any influence 49 of environmental factors inside and outside of training<sup>7</sup> and may be a useful complement 50 for external TL in weightlifting. There appears to be relationships with sRPE and 51 performance in both open (Australian Rules football)<sup>12-14</sup> and closed skill sports (sprinting and distance running).<sup>15-17</sup> However, the evidence for this relationship with performance 52 53 has been presented with a number of different TL derivatives e.g. ACWR, TSB, strain, 54 monotony. One major difference between these variables is that monotony and strain are products of the TL standard deviation.<sup>18</sup> Although relationships with performance have 55 56 not seemed to be examined, previous athlete monitoring research using monotony has 57 suggested relatively less negative training outcomes (i.e. illness) if the TL standard deviation is higher when compared to the weekly TL.<sup>18,19</sup> This is notable considering the 58 59 standard deviation of time series data is considered important in other industries that 60 specialize in forecasting and risk assessment like the financial markets.<sup>20</sup> For instance, in 61 financial analysis, greater volatility of an asset may indicate a greater risk in and higher or 62 lower prices for buying and selling the asset or options for the asset.<sup>20</sup> The time series' 63 standard deviation is commonly referred to as volatility in the financial industry<sup>20</sup> and this 64 term will be used throughout the remainder of the paper.

65

66 There has been debate about the most appropriate moving average methods used to 67 determine acute and chronic TL.<sup>21,22</sup> It is theorised that simple moving averages (SMA) 68 may not account for variations in how TL is accumulated by athletes nor best represent the physiological gain or decay of "fitness" and "fatigue".<sup>21,22</sup> Exponentially weighted moving 69 averages (EWMA) have been recommended as a superior alternative.<sup>21-23</sup> However, like 70 SMA, there are also conceptual issues with EWMA.<sup>7</sup> For instance, the set time constants 71 72 used with EWMA calculations may be problematic as athletes will have individual 73 "fitness" and "fatigue" gain and decay rates.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, there have also been several 74 different EWMA calculations presented in the scientific literature.<sup>14,21</sup> All three of the 75 different calculation methods produce different TL values for acute and chronic periods 76 and it is unclear whether one has a superior relationship to performance. Further debate 77 has also been raised over the use of the ACWR with the main criticism being that the ratio 78 produces a spurious correlation due to mathematical coupling i.e. the numerator (acute TL) 79 is contained in the denominator (chronic TL).<sup>24</sup> However recent publications suggest that 80 any correlations between acute and chronic TL in the ratio may not necessarily be spurious (i.e. misleading) or may be practically unrelated to ACWR's relationships with other 81 82 factors e.g. injury risk.<sup>25,26</sup> Nevertheless, TSB (as it is the difference rather than the ratio 83 between acute and chronic loads) may be preferred over the ACWR for practitioners 84 concerned with these issues.

85

86 In light of the potential benefits of using sRPE as a method for quantifying TL and the low 87 level of current evidence supporting potential relationships between sRPE and performance 88 in closed skilled sports like weightlifting, further investigation in this area is warranted. 89 As such, the first two aims of this study are to: i) examine whether TL variables were 90 correlated to the performance of elite weightlifters; and ii) determine if meaningful 91 differences existed in the TL variables between higher and lower performers. It was 92 hypothesized that there would be a significant correlation in TL variables with performance 93 along with significant differences between higher and lower performers. The third aim of 94 the investigation was to compare if there was any effect of moving average methods on the 95 statistical analysis. The authors hypothesized that TL derivatives calculated using EWMA 96 would have a greater correlation to performance and better separate higher and lower 97 performing groups than a simple moving average.

- 98
- 99 METHODS

100 Subjects

Twenty-eight elite male (n=13) and female (n=15) weightlifters ( $26.0 \pm 3.2$  years,  $162.2 \pm$ 101 102 11.3 cm,  $72.2 \pm 23.8$  kg, previous 12 month personal best total  $96.3 \pm 2.7\%$  of world record 103 total) from the same national team participated in this 8-week study. The subjects competed 104 across the full range of male and female weight classes in the 2016 Olympic Games (54kg-105 +105kg male, 48kg-+75kg female). Seven subjects were excluded from analysis due to 106 issues with data collection compliance (n=3; all male) or failing to post a competition total 107 i.e. a successful lift in both snatch and clean & jerk (n=4; 3 female and 1 male). The data 108 for this study were initially collected within the athletes' training environment and was 109 released de-identified from the respective National Olympic Committee in this university 110 Approval for this investigation was granted by the approved retrospective study. 111 University Human Ethics Committee (Approval #19521) and conforms to the Code of 112 Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki).

- 113
- 114 Design

115 This investigation was a retrospective observational study design. Internal TL data (sRPE 116 and training duration) were collected from elite weightlifters during the last 8 weeks prior 117 to a major competition that was critical to selection for the 2016 Olympic Games. Illness

118 or injury incidents that caused an athlete to modify technical training or seek medical

- 119 attention were noted throughout the 8-week training period.<sup>27</sup> The correlations between
- acute TL, chronic TL, TSB, ACWR, %INJ and competitive performance were examined.

121 Differences in these TL variables between higher and lower performers and top five and

- 122 bottom five performers were also investigated.
- 123
- 124 Methodology

125 After athlete instruction and familiarisation, sRPE were recorded with the 10-point 126 category ratio scale (CR10) 30-120 minutes after each session<sup>28,29</sup> for the total training 127 session (i.e. technical and non-technical exercises). The sRPE were then multiplied by the 128 total session duration to give training impulse. The following variables were calculated 129 daily from the training impulse data: i) acute TL (7 day average); ii) chronic TL (21 day 130 average); iii) TSB (chronic - acute TL); and iv) ACWR (acute/chronic TL) using 131 established methods<sup>2</sup>. These variables were calculated with SMA, EWMA as per Williams 132 et al (EWMA-W)<sup>21</sup> and EWMA as per Lazarus et al (EWMA-L)<sup>14</sup>) to establish if there was 133 any effect of moving average method on the statistical analysis. These three moving 134 average methods were chosen for analysis as, at least to the author's knowledge, they have 135 been the prevalent methods presented or suggested in literature on TL monitoring.<sup>2,14,21</sup> In 136 regard to the differences between the two EWMA calculations used in this study, the 137 primary difference is the time constant component in the calculation. EWMA-W uses 138 2/N+1 as the time constant whereas EWMA-L uses 1/N with N representing the number 139 of days.<sup>14,21</sup> EWMA-L has been suggested to be a superior alternative to EWMA-W as it 140 gives a weighted average that has the highest correlation with the SMA of time constant 141 days.<sup>14</sup> For example, the 10-day EWMA-L would have the highest correlation with a 10-142 day SMA and lower correlations with 7 and 14 days. However, to the best of the author's 143 knowledge, the two EWMA methods have not been compared with one another with a 144 variable of interest (i.e. performance) and it is debatable as to which one is most appropriate 145 for calculating TL.

146

147 The acute and chronic periods were set at 7:21 days respectively. The determination of 148 period lengths were based on an average fitness time decay constant of 23.2 days in previous research on elite weightlifters.<sup>30</sup> The period length determination was also based 149 on the typical training micro-mesocycle combination used by the weightlifting athletes in 150 this investigation.<sup>7</sup> This was typically a three-week mesocycle with a "moderate, "hard", 151 152 "easy" loading pattern; although there were differences in how technical coaches applied 153 this with individual athletes. Microcycles were generally comprised of two training 154 sessions/day alternated with one training session/day for the first 6 days of the microcycle 155 and a complete rest day on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. Commonly athletes would perform weightlifting 156 technical exercises (e.g. snatch, clean, jerk) followed by strength exercises (e.g. squat, 157 deadlift) and assistance or hypertrophy exercises (e.g. pull ups, lower back exercises) in 158 each training session. Based on exploratory data analysis, acute TL, chronic TL, TSB and 159 the ACWR were then assessed as: i) absolute values, which represented the value on the 160 day of the competition; ii) the value 21 days prior to competition subtracted from the value 161 on the day of the competition (CHANGE21); and iii) the volatility (calculated as the 162 standard deviation) of values in the last 21 days prior to competition (VOL21).

163

164 The last 21 days prior to competition was chosen for the time period of interest based on 165 the results of existing performance modelling research, tapering research and typical taper

166 length of the weightlifting athletes in this investigation.<sup>30,31</sup> The percentage of modified

167 training due to injury/illness compared to total training time was also considered in the last 6 weeks before competition.<sup>27</sup> This percentage of training was based on any injury or 168 illness that affected an athlete's training (e.g. a shoulder injury may have limited exercise 169 170 choice or volume for coaches) or required medical intervention. TL and injury/illness 171 variables were then compared against competition performance results. Performance was 172 defined as the competition results expressed as a percentage of previous 12-month personal 173 best and of the current world record at time of competition from the weightlifters that 174 successfully completed a repetition in both lifts. Athletes were then divided into successful 175 and non-successful groups (n=10 and 8 respectively) and top five and bottom five 176 performance groups. The allocation into either the successful or non-successful groups 177 was determined by whether the athlete produced a competition performance result as 178 percentage of previous 12-month personal best greater or lesser than the smallest 179 worthwhile change threshold. The smallest worthwhile change threshold was defined as 0.2 x standard deviation of complete cohort competition results.<sup>32</sup> Meanwhile, the top 5 180 181 competition performance results as percentage of previous 12-month personal best were 182 allocated to the top five performance group and the bottom 5 competition performance 183 results were allocated to the bottom 5 performance group. There were 3 athletes from the 184 cohort who were not allocated to either group as their competitive results fell inside this 185 threshold.

186 187

#### 188 Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using statistical software (R statistics package, 189 190 https://www.r-project.org) or purposefully designed Excel spreadsheets (Microsoft 191 Corporation, Washington, U.S.). All data were analysed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation 192 (SD). Pearson's correlation analyses with 95% confidence intervals were used to 193 determine if there were any linear relationships between the TL variables calculated with 194 the different moving average methods and competition performance and also between 195 percentage of total training modified due to injury and illness and competition 196 performance. R-z transformations were also applied to determine if there were any 197 significant differences between correlations with performance amongst the various moving 198 average methods. Differences between groups were expressed relative to the total cohort 199 as a beta percentage (e.g. successful group – non-successful group / total cohort) to account 200 for subjects within the smallest worthwhile change thresholds and the national team's 201 normal training practice. If the different groups' TL and injury/illness variables were 202 normally distributed, an independent student's t-test or Welch's t-test was used based on 203 F-test results. If the different groups' TL and injury/illness variables were not normally 204 distributed, log transformation of the particular variable<sup>32</sup> and visual inspection of log-205 transformed QQ plots were applied before using the appropriate t-test based on variance 206 testing. Outliers were inspected and were excluded only if they were results of errors in 207 data collection. The alpha level for significance was defined as  $p \le 0.05$ . For normally 208 distributed variable comparison, effect sizes (Hedge's g) were also calculated and 209 interpreted. If variable data were non-normal, the difference between the two log-210 transformed values were converted to Hedge's g for comparison.<sup>33</sup> These effect sizes were then interpreted as per the recommendations of Hopkins et al with g < 0.19 defined as 211 212 trivial, 0.2-0.59 as small, 0.6-1.19 as moderate, 1.2-1.99 as large and >2 as very large.<sup>32</sup>

Cumming estimation plots were also applied to help visualize differences between groups.<sup>34</sup> In these plots, the raw data is plotted on the upper axes and each mean difference is plotted on the lower axes as a bootstrap sampling distribution. Mean differences are depicted as dots and 95% confidence intervals are indicated by the ends of vertical error bars.

218

219 RESULTS

A total of 1278 training sessions were included in the present analysis. The subject's competition results as percentages of previous 12-month personal best and of the current world record at time of competition along with percentage of total training modified due to injury and illness are presented in Table 1.

- 224
- 225 226

#### TABLE 1 ABOUT HERE

227 The average TSB and ACWR were  $20.1 \pm 82.1$  and  $0.93 \pm 0.26$  (SMA),  $-40.6 \pm 78.8$  and 228  $1.25 \pm 0.49$  (EWMA-W), and  $-80.1 \pm 69.0$  and  $1.57 \pm 0.57$  (EWMA-L) over the eight 229 weeks. There were significant differences in performance between both successful and 230 non-successful as well as top 5 and bottom 5 groups. In the last 6 weeks preceding 231 competition, the successful and top five performance groups had a lower amount of training 232 modifications due to injury and illness when compared to the non-successful (18%) and 233 bottom five performance groups (22%). However, there were no significant differences 234 and only small effect sizes for the differences in percentage of total training modified due 235 to injury and illness. The three moving average methods for TSB and ACWR were all 236 significantly different from one another (p < 0.001, g = 0.07 - 0.3).

237

Correlations between performance and the different acute and chronic internal TL variables are presented in Table 2. The correlations between performance and the percentage of training modified due to injury and illness were also small and non-significant. The correlations between the SMA and the two EWMA methods variables were very large (r=0.73-77, p<0.001). The correlation between the two EWMA methods for chronic – acute TL and ACWR were very large to nearly perfect (r=0.87 and 0.98 respectively, p<0.001).

- 245
- 246
- 247

Following the correlation analysis, the cohort was divided into successful and nonsuccessful along with top five and bottom five performance groups. Acute, chronic, TSB and ACWR as SMA for successful and non-successful performance groups are presented in Figure 1A-C. These same variables for the top five and bottom five performance groups are displayed in Figure2A-C.

 TABLE 2 ABOUT HERE

- 253
- 254FIGURE1A-C ABOUT HERE255FIGURE 2A-C ABOUT HERE
- 256

The differences between higher and lower performing groups and top five and bottom five performance groups are presented in Table 3 and Table 4 respectively. Between the high and lower performing group, there was a significant difference between VOL21 TSB and
ACWR variables as SMA. Between the top five and bottom five performance groups, there
were also significant differences between CHANGE21 TSB and ACWR variables as SMA.
The mean differences between successful and non-successful groups in TSB and ACWR
as SMA are also shown in Cumming estimation plots (Figures 3A-B). There were no
significant differences between groups when using the two EWMA methods.

- 265
- 266 267

268

#### TABLE 3 AND TABLE 4 ABOUT HERE FIGURE 3A-B ABOUT HERE

#### 269 DISCUSSION

270 Our first hypothesis was that there would be significant correlations between sRPE TL and 271 performance in addition to significant differences in the same variables between higher and 272 lower performers. Several sRPE TL variables were moderately correlated to performance 273 and differentiated between higher and lower performers. These correlations were present 274 even when analysing the data with different moving average methods. In particular, 275 performance was significantly correlated with TSB and ACWR CHANGE21 as SMA (r=-276 0.49 and 0.43, p=0.02 and 0.05). Competitive performance was also significantly 277 correlated with ACWR VOL21 in the two EWMA methods (r=-0.48 and -0.43 p=0.03 and 0.05; for interest SMA ACWR VOL21 r=-0.41 and p=0.07)). There were no significant 278 279 differences between the moving average methods for correlations with performance when 280 examined with r-z transformation. As such, a lower magnitude of change and volatility in 281 the ACWR preceding competition seem to be moderately correlated to increased 282 competitive performance.

283

284 Examining the differences between higher and lower performing groups, CHANGE21 and 285 VOL21 TSB and the ACWR as SMA appeared to distinguish between higher and lower 286 performing groups. The TSB and ACWR VOL21 as SMA were significantly lower in the successful group (p=0.03 and 0.03, g=0.32 and 1.07). Although these VOL21 differences 287 288 were not significant when comparing the top five and bottom five performances 289 (potentially due to sample size), there was a moderate effect size for both (g=0.91 and 290 1.16). Further, the TSB and ACWR CHANGE21 as SMA were significantly lower in the 291 top five versus bottom five performances (p=0.04 and 0.05, g=1.43 and 1.33). It is notable 292 that the two EWMA methods did not demonstrate any significant differences between 293 groups. This is in opposition to our second hypothesis that TL variables calculated using 294 EWMA would better separate higher and lower performing groups than a SMA.

295

296 There were no consistent relationships between performance and absolute TL variables on 297 the day of competition. This raises the consideration that planning training around having 298 an optimal level of internal TL at competition (e.g. TSB of 90 arbitrary units or an ACWR 299 of 0.6) may not be as important as minimizing change and/or volatility of these measures 300 in the competition taper. However, it should be mentioned that the subjects in this study 301 were from the same national team who all trained together at the same set times with very 302 similar training methods. Absolute values for TL measures may have a performance 303 relationship when comparing groups that are not from the same team or do not train in a 304 similar fashion. Based upon this, more research is warranted in different sports and different teams on the relationship between levels of TL variables on the day of competitionand performance.

307

308 The comparison of the different moving average methods was designed to improve our 309 understanding of the most suitable methods for TL calculation. There were significant 310 differences between TSB and the ACWR calculated using the SMA, EWMA-W and 311 EWMA-L. The very large correlations between SMA and both EWMA-W and EWMA-L 312 (r=0.73-0.77) were greater than those presented in contemporary research on the topic<sup>23</sup>. 313 The nearly perfect linear correlations and low magnitudes of effect between the two 314 EWMA methods show that these methods may be interchangeable provided practitioners 315 understand how to interpret any differences. Although all calculation methods showed some significant correlation with performance, the SMA was also the only method that 316 317 demonstrated significant differences (p < 0.05) between successful and non-successful 318 groups. This finding is interesting when compared to previous research that determined 319 the sensitivity of EWMA-W to likelihoods of injury was superior to SMA.<sup>23</sup> A potential 320 explanation for this difference may be previous research examined likelihood of injury 321 instead of performance and used external TL measures instead of internal TL measures in 322 their analysis. This previous research also employed logistic regression models to create 323 likelihoods of injury instead of comparing against actual injury incidents. There is very 324 little research comparing EWMA to SMA and both have theoretical concerns. However, 325 if applying the principle of parsimony (Occam's razor)<sup>35</sup> to help decide between moving 326 average methods, SMA may be a superior alternative as it is a simpler for practitioners to 327 apply. In this study, it appeared more sensitive to performance than the EWMA variations. 328 However, further research is warranted in order to fully understand moving average 329 methods impact on TL variables, their appropriateness in different sports and use with 330 internal/external TL constructs. This would also include if other moving average methods 331 (e.g. double exponential smoothing) may be more appropriate than those presented in this 332 investigation.

333

334 Limitations of this investigation include the sole use of sRPE TL measures without any 335 comparison with an external TL measure. As mentioned in the methods section, we were 336 unable to use external TL measures (i.e. volume load, reps, sets, or intensity) due to the 337 respective National Olympic Committee not consenting to record or release this data for 338 any form of publication. Another potential limitation of this investigation was the 339 requirement that subjects post a competition total (i.e. a successful lift in both snatch and 340 clean & jerk) to be included in analysis. This excluded four subjects from the analysis that 341 may have strengthened/weakened any results. These subjects were excluded from analysis 342 due to methodological (i.e. calculating correlations with percentage of 12-month personal 343 best competition total is skewed if only one lift is completed) and conceptual issues with 344 determining in which group these athletes should be assigned due to potential confounding 345 factors. Finally, due to the number of subjects, the specific context of this investigation 346 and not having repeated measures of performance over time, practitioners should interpret 347 this investigation's findings and level of evidence as a case study that may only be 348 applicable for weightlifting athletes. More research is needed in other elite populations on 349 the relationship between internal TL and performance.

350

#### 351 PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

352 Based on the outcomes of this study we suggest that a large amount of change or volatility 353 in internal TL TSB or ACWR during the competition taper was detrimental to performance, 354 at least when calculated using SMA. This suggests that large changes in internal TL TSB 355 or ACWR should be avoided in the 21 days before competition. This would seem 356 important for both technical coaches and other staff (e.g. strength & conditioning coaches) 357 involved in training and taper planning before competition to consider. Practitioners may 358 use different moving average methods to calculate internal TL however the SMA is a 359 simpler method and appeared to better explain performance in this study. Lastly, the 360 application of this data to other sports besides weightlifting requires further consideration.

361

#### 362 CONCLUSIONS

- 363 The change and volatility of the TSB and ACWR in the taper were moderately correlated
- to performance and also differentiated between higher and lower performers in this
- 365 cohort of elite weightlifters. The correlation results were present when analysing the data
- 366 with all three different moving average methods. However, the simple moving average
- 367 was the only training load calculation method that demonstrated a significant difference
- 368 between higher and lower weightlifting performance. There were no consistent
- 369 relationships between performance and the TSB or ACWR on the day of competition in
- this group of elite weightlifters; regardless of moving average method used. Although
- training load monitoring with sRPE can be applied to a number of sports, it remains to be
- 372 seen whether there are similar relationships with performance in other sports. Further, in

elen

- this investigation, calculating training load with a simple moving average seemed to
- better explain performance compared to the exponentially weighted moving averages.
- 375

376 ACKNOWLDGEMENTS

JC drafted the initial concept and all authors contributed to drafting, critical revision and
 approval of the final manuscript. Thank you to Aaron Coutts and Sophia Nimphius for
 advice and feedback on the theory and methods applied in this investigation. There was
 no additional financial or material support.

- 381
- 382 SUPPLEMENTAL FILE
- 383 A supplemental file is provided with the code in R for all of the statistical methods provided
- in this response.

for per peries

#### REFERENCES

- 1. Cunanan AJ, DeWeese BH, Wagle JP, et al. The General Adaptation Syndrome: A foundation for the concept of periodization. *Sports Med.* 2018;48(4):787-797.
- 2. Bourdon PC, Cardinale M, Murray A, et al. Monitoring athlete training loads: Consensus statement. *Int J Sports Physiol Perform*. 2017;12(Suppl 2):161-170.
- 3. Banister EW, Calvert, T.W., Savage, M.V. and Bach, T.M. A Systems Model of Training for Athletic Performance. *Aust J Sci Med.* 1975(7):57-61.
- 4. Allen H, Coggan, A. *Training and Racing With A Powermeter*. 2nd ed. Boulder, CO: Velopress; 2010.
- 5. Hulin BT, Gabbett TJ, Blanch P, Chapman P, Bailey D, Orchard JW. Spikes in acute workload are associated with increased injury risk in elite cricket fast bowlers. *Br J Sports Med.* 2014;48(8):708-712.
- 6. Impellizzeri FM, Marcora SM, Coutts AJ. Internal and external training load: 15 years on. *Int J Sports Physiol Perform*. 2019;14(2):270-273.
- 7. Coyne JOC, Gregory Haff G, Coutts AJ, Newton RU, Nimphius S. The Current State of Subjective Training Load Monitoring—a Practical Perspective and Call to Action. *Sports Med Open.* 2018;4(1):58.
- 8. Bompa TaH, G.G. *Periodization: Theory and methodology of training*. Fifth ed. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics; 2009.
- 9. Scott BR, Duthie GM, Thornton HR, Dascombe BJ. Training monitoring for resistance exercise: Theory and applications. *Sports Med.* 2016;46(5):687-698.
- 10. Drew MK, Finch CF. The relationship between training load and injury, illness and soreness: A systematic and literature review. *Sports Med.* 2016;46(6):861-883.
- 11. McLaren SJ, Macpherson TW, Coutts AJ, Hurst C, Spears IR, Weston M. The relationships between internal and external measures of training load and intensity in team sports: A meta-analysis. *Sports Med.* 2018;48(3):641-658.
- 12. Aughey RJ, Elias GP, Esmaeili A, Lazarus B, Stewart AM. Does the recent internal load and strain on players affect match outcome in elite Australian football? *J Sci Med Sport*. 2016;19(2):182-186.
- 13. Graham SR, Cormack S, Parfitt G, Eston R. Relationships between model predicted and actual match performance in professional Australian Footballers during an in-season training macrocycle. *Int J Sports Physiol Perform.* 2017:1-25.
- Lazarus BH, Stewart AM, White KM, et al. Proposal of a Global Training Load Measure Predicting Match Performance in an Elite Team Sport. *Front Physiol.* 2017;8:930.
- 15. Wallace LK, Slattery KM, Coutts AJ. A comparison of methods for quantifying training load: relationships between modelled and actual training responses. *Eur J Appl Physiol.* 2014;114(1):11-20.
- 16. Wood RE, Hayter S, Rowbottom D, Stewart I. Applying a mathematical model to training adaptation in a distance runner. *Eur J Appl Physiol.* 2005;94(3):310-316.
- 17. Suzuki S, Sato T, Maeda A, Takahashi Y. Program design based on a mathematical model using rating of perceived exertion for an elite Japanese sprinter: a case study. *J Strength Cond Res.* 2006;20(1):36-42.
- 18. Foster C. Monitoring training in athletes with reference to overtraining syndrome. *Med Sci Sports Exerc.* 1998;30(7):1164-1168.

- 19. Putlur P, Foster C, Miskowski JA, et al. Alteration of immune function in women collegiate soccer players and college students. *Journal of Sports Science & Medicine*. 2004;3(4):234-243.
- 20. Black F, and Scholes, M. The pricing of options and corporate liabilities. *J Political Econ.* 1973;81(4):637-659.
- 21. Williams S, West S, Cross MJ, Stokes KA. Better way to determine the acute:chronic workload ratio? *Br J Sports Med.* 2016;51(3):209.
- 22. Menaspà P. Are rolling averages a good way to assess training load for injury prevention? *Br J Sports Med.* 2017;51(7):618-619.
- 23. Murray NB, Gabbett TJ, Townshend AD, Blanch P. Calculating acute:chronic workload ratios using exponentially weighted moving averages provides a more sensitive indicator of injury likelihood than rolling averages. *Br J Sports Med.* 2016;51(9):749.
- 24. Lolli L, Batterham AM, Hawkins R, et al. Mathematical coupling causes spurious correlation within the conventional acute-to-chronic workload ratio calculations. *Br J Sports Med.* 2017.
- 25. Windt J, Gabbett TJ. Is it all for naught? What does mathematical coupling mean for acute:chronic workload ratios? *Br J Sports Med.* 2018.
- 26. Coyne JOC, Nimphius S, Newton RU, Haff GG. Does mathematical coupling matter to the Acute to Chronic Workload Ratio? A case study from elite sport. *Int J Sports Physiol Perform.* 2019:1-8.
- 27. Raysmith BP, Drew MK. Performance success or failure is influenced by weeks lost to injury and illness in elite Australian Track and Field athletes: a 5-year prospective study. *J Sci Med Sport*. 2016;19(10):778-783.
- 28. Christen J, Foster C, Porcari JP, Mikat RP. Temporal robustness of the session rating of perceived exertion. *Int J Sports Physiol Perform*. 2016;11(8):1088-1093.
- 29. Foster C, Florhaug JA, Franklin J, et al. A new approach to monitoring exercise training. *J Strength Cond Res.* 2001;15(1):109-115.
- Busso T, Hakkinen K, Pakarinen A, Kauhanen H, Komi PV, Lacour JR. Hormonal adaptations and modelled responses in elite weightlifters during 6 weeks of training. *Eur J Appl Physiol Occup Physiol.* 1992;64(4):381-386.
- 31. Bosquet L, Montpetit J, Arvisais D, Mujika I. Effects of tapering on performance: a meta-analysis. *Med Sci Sports Exerc.* 2007;39(8):1358-1365.
- 32. Hopkins WG, Marshall SW, Batterham AM, Hanin J. Progressive statistics for studies in sports medicine and exercise science. *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*. 2009;41(1):3-12.
- 33. Rosenthal R. Parametric measures of effect size. In: Cooper H, Hedges, L.V., ed. *The Handbook of Research Synthesis*. New York, NY: Sage; 1994.
- 34. Cumming G, Calin-Jageman R. *Introduction to the New Statistics: Estimation, Open Science, and Beyond.* Routledge; 2016.
- 35. Gauch HJC, H.J. Jr. *Scientific Method in Practice*. Cambridge University Press; 2003.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of elite weightlifters' competition results and modified training due to injury and illness prior to a qualifying competition for the 2016 Olympic Games.

|         | п  | %12PB          | р      | $\boldsymbol{g}$ | %WR            | р      | g    | %INJ            | р    | g    |
|---------|----|----------------|--------|------------------|----------------|--------|------|-----------------|------|------|
| OVERALL | 21 | $99.1 \pm 3.0$ |        |                  | $95.4 \pm 3.5$ |        |      | $34.8 \pm 41.5$ |      |      |
| S       | 10 | $101 \pm 1.7$  |        |                  | $97.7 \pm 2.8$ |        |      | $28.1 \pm 41.0$ |      |      |
| NS      | 8  | $96.1 \pm 1.7$ | 0.00** | 3.03             | $93.3 \pm 3.2$ | 0.01** | 1.40 | $46.1 \pm 48.9$ | 0.47 | 0.24 |
| TOP5    | 5  | $103 \pm 1.5$  |        |                  | $99.5 \pm 1.6$ |        |      | $16.2 \pm 20.6$ |      |      |
| BOT5    | 5  | 95.1 ± 1.3     | 0.00** | 4.93             | $93.2 \pm 2.6$ | 0.00** | 2.61 | $38.1 \pm 51.3$ | 0.48 | 0.20 |

Note: OVERALL – complete cohort, S – successful performance group, NS – non-successful performance group, TOP5 – top five performance group, BOT5 – bottom five performance group, n – number of subjects, %12PB – percentage of 12 month personal best total, %WR – percentage of world record total, %INJ – percentage of training affected by injury in last 6 weeks, g – Hedge's effect size, \* - p>0.05, \*\*p>0.01, p>0.001\*\*\*

Human Kinetics, 1607 N Market St, Champaign, IL 61825

2

|              | SMA                 |       | EWMA                 | - <i>W</i> |              | EWMA-L              |       |               |  |  |
|--------------|---------------------|-------|----------------------|------------|--------------|---------------------|-------|---------------|--|--|
|              | r [95% CI]          | р     | r [95% CI]           | р          | SMA<br>R-z p | r [95% CI]          | р     | SMA R-<br>z p |  |  |
| ABSOLUTE     |                     |       |                      |            |              |                     |       |               |  |  |
| Acute TL     | 0.18 [-0.27, 0.57]  | 0.43  | 0.11 [-0.33, 0.52]   | 0.63       | 0.83         | 0.11 [-0.34, 0.52]  | 0.64  | 0.83          |  |  |
| Chronic TL   | 0.01 [-0.42, 0.44]  | 0.97  | 0.08 [-0.36, 0.49]   | 0.73       | 0.83         | 0.06 [-0.38, 0.48]  | 0.80  | 0.88          |  |  |
| TSB          | -0.27 [-0.63, 0.19] | 0.24  | -0.07 [-0.49, 0.37]  | 0.77       | 0.54         | -0.12 [-0.53, 0.33] | 0.59  | 0.64          |  |  |
| ACWR         | 0.19 [-0.27, 0.57]  | 0.42  | 0.01 [-0.42, 0.44]   | 0.96       | 0.59         | 0.02 [-0.42, 0.44]  | 0.95  | 0.61          |  |  |
| CHANGE21     |                     |       |                      |            |              |                     |       |               |  |  |
| Acute TL     | 0.39 [-0.05, 0.70]  | 0.08  | 0.35 [-0.09, 0.68]   | 0.12       | 0.89         | 0.31 [-0.14, 0.65]  | 0.17  | 0.78          |  |  |
| Chronic TL   | -0.03 [-0.45, 0.41] | 0.90  | 0.24 [-0.21, 0.61]   | 0.29       | 0.41         | 0.14 [-0.31, 0.54]  | 0.55  | 0.61          |  |  |
| TSB          | -0.49 [-0.76, 0.07] | 0.02* | -0.36 [-0.68, 0.09]  | 0.11       | 0.63         | -0.34 [-0.67, 0.11] | 0.13  | 0.59          |  |  |
| ACWR         | 0.43 [-0.01, 0.72]  | 0.05* | 0.33 [-0.12, 0.67]   | 0.14       | 0.73         | 0.42 [-0.01, 0.72]  | 0.06  | 0.97          |  |  |
| <i>VOL21</i> |                     |       |                      |            |              |                     |       |               |  |  |
| Acute TL     | -0.28 [-0.63, 0.17] | 0.22  | -0.22 [-0.59, 0.24]  | 0.34       | 0.85         | -0.17 [-0.56, 0.29] | 0.47  | 0.73          |  |  |
| Chronic TL   | 0.04 [-0.40, 0.47]  | 0.86  | -0.05 [-0.48, 0.39]  | 0.81       | 0.79         | 0.28 [-0.17, 0.64]  | 0.21  | 0.46          |  |  |
| TSB          | -0.34 [-0.67, 0.10] | 0.13  | -0.30 [-0.65, 0.16]  | 0.19       | 0.89         | -0.31 [-0.65, 0.14] | 0.17  | 0.92          |  |  |
| ACWR         | -0.41 [-0.71, 0.03] | 0.07  | -0.48 [-0.75, -0.06] | 0.03*      | 0.79         | -0.43 [-0.73, 0.00] | 0.05* | 0.94          |  |  |

## Table 2. Correlations between different internal training load variables and performance for elite weightlifters at a qualifying competition for the 2016 Olympic Games.

Note: ABSOLUTE - the value on the day of the competition, CHANGE21 - the value 21 days prior to competition subtracted from the value on the day of the competition, VOL21 - the volatility (standard deviation) of values in the last 21 days prior to competition, TL - training load, TSB - training stress balance; ACWR - acute to chronic workload ratio, SMA - simple moving average, EWMA-W - exponentially weighted moving averages as per Williams et al <sup>26</sup>, <math>EWMA-L - exponentially weighted moving averages as per Lazarus et al <sup>19</sup>, \* - p>0.05

| - |
|---|
|   |
| - |
| • |
| , |
| ~ |

|              | SMA   |   |       |       |                  |   |                 | EWMA-W |      |      | EWMA-L  |                  |       |      |      |  |
|--------------|---|---|-------|-------|------------------|---|-----------------|--------|------|------|---|------------------|-------|------|------|--|
|              | NS  | S   | β%    | р     | $\boldsymbol{g}$ | NS  | S               | β%     | р    | g    | NS  | S                | β%    | р    | g    |  |
| ABSOLUTE     |   |   |       |       |                  |   |                 |        |      |      |   |                  |       |      |      |  |
| Acute TL     | 159 ±<br>101                                    | $\begin{array}{c} 156 \pm \\ 101 \end{array}$   | -1.5  | 0.84  | 0.12             | 153 ±<br>85.3                                   | 138 ±<br>85.7   | -10.2  | 0.58 | 0.16 | 201 ±<br>86.8                                 | 186 ±<br>93.9    | -7.3  | 0.74 | 0.16 |  |
| Chronic TL   | $\begin{array}{c} 272 \pm \\ 108 \end{array}$   | 255 ±<br>107                                    | -6.4  | 0.74  | 0.15             | 235 ±<br>89.1                                   | 221 ±<br>91.3   | -6.0   | 0.74 | 0.15 | 246 ±<br>88.3                                 | 237 ±<br>77.3    | -3.6  | 0.82 | 0.10 |  |
| TSB          | 113 ±<br>90.7                                   | 98.6±<br>45.5                                   | -14.4 | 0.63  | 0.24             | 81.8 ±<br>44.5                                  | 83.4 ± 30.7     | -2.0   | 0.64 | 0.04 | 45.3 ± 48.5                                   | 51.1 ±<br>37.1   | 12.5  | 0.78 | 0.13 |  |
| ACWR         | $0.60 \pm 0.25$                                 | $\begin{array}{c} 0.57 \pm \\ 0.16 \end{array}$ | -4.1  | 0.80  | 0.12             | $0.64 \pm 0.15$                                 | 0.59 ± 0.12     | -7.8   | 0.46 | 0.34 | $0.82 \pm 0.15$                               | 0.75 ± 0.15      | -7.8  | 0.40 | 0.39 |  |
| CHANGE21     |   |   |       |       |                  |   |                 |        |      |      |   |                  |       |      |      |  |
| Acute TL     | -223 ± 181                                      | $\begin{array}{r} -170 \pm \\ 107 \end{array}$  | -26.1 | 0.45  | 0.35             | -254 ± 183                                      | -187 ± 125      | -30.5  | 0.36 | 0.42 | -178 ± 126                                    | -144 ± 103       | -20.8 | 0.54 | 0.28 |  |
| Chronic TL   | -74.2 ± 59.0                                    | -99.7 ±<br>83.1                                 | 28.4  | 0.48  | 0.33             | $-106 \pm 83.3$                                 | -94.3 ±<br>85.6 | -11.8  | 0.77 | 0.13 | -14.4 ± 42.0                                  | $-17.5 \pm 60.5$ | 21.5  | 0.91 | 0.05 |  |
| TSB          | 149 ±<br>155                                    | 70.3 ±<br>77.1                                  | -69.3 | 0.18  | 0.63             | 148 ±<br>114                                    | 92.2 ±<br>67.1  | -46.1  | 0.21 | 0.59 | $\begin{array}{r} 163 \pm \\ 101 \end{array}$ | 126 ± 58.7       | 24.8  | 0.34 | 0.44 |  |
| ACWR         | -0.46 ± 0.44                                    | -0.36 ± 0.25                                    | -24.0 | 0.56  | 0.27             | -0.50 ± 0.12                                    | -0.44 ± 0.09    | -13.2  | 0.60 | 0.24 | $-0.62 \pm 0.22$                              | -0.55 ± 0.18     | -12.5 | 0.47 | 0.34 |  |
| <i>VOL21</i> |   |   |       |       |                  |   |                 |        |      |      |   |                  |       |      |      |  |
| Acute TL     | 93.5 ±<br>65.1                                  | 74.5 ±<br>33.0                                  | -22.4 | 0.93  | 0.04             | 94.9 ±<br>59.7                                  | 82.1 ±<br>31.3  | -14.4  | 0.94 | 0.01 | 65.1 ±<br>44.4                                | 60.8 ± 23.8      | -0.07 | 0.71 | 0.26 |  |
| Chronic TL   | 35.1 ±<br>18.2                                  | 39.2 ± 23.4                                     | 11.0  | 0.69  | 0.18             | 42.6 ± 28.2                                     | 43.8 ±<br>17.9  | -3.0   | 0.91 | 0.05 | $20.0 \pm 11.0$                               | $23.9 \pm 10.2$  | 18.1  | 0.44 | 0.36 |  |
| TSB          | 80.0 ± 53.5                                     | 44.4 ±<br>27.4                                  | -56.6 | 0.03* | 1.15             | 57.1 ±<br>33.6                                  | 42.3 ± 21.0     | -29.3  | 0.27 | 0.52 | $53.3 \pm 36.3$                               | 44.2 ± 18.0      | -18.8 | 0.94 | 0.16 |  |
| ACWR         | $\begin{array}{c} 0.25 \pm \\ 0.10 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 0.16 \pm \\ 0.06 \end{array}$ | -46.2 | 0.03* | 1.07             | $\begin{array}{c} 0.19 \pm \\ 0.05 \end{array}$ | 0.16 ± 0.03     | -0.15  | 0.16 | 0.72 | $0.19 \pm 0.07$                               | 0.17 ± 0.05      | -8.9  | 0.59 | 0.25 |  |

Table 3. The differences in internal training load variables between successful and non-successful performances at a qualifying competition for the 2016 Olympic Games in elite weightlifters.

Note: ABSOLUTE - the value on the day of the competition, CHANGE21 - the value 21 days prior to competition subtracted from the value on the day of the competition, VOL21 - the volatility (standard deviation) of values in the last 21 days prior to competition, TL - training load, TSB - training stress balance; ACWR - acute to chronic workload ratio, SMA - simple moving average, EWMA-W - exponentially weighted moving averages as per Williams et al <sup>26</sup>, EWMA-L - exponentially weighted moving averages as per Lazarus

et al <sup>19</sup>, S – successful performance group, NS – non-successful performance group,  $\beta$ % - beta percentage difference, p – p-value, g – Hedge's effect size, \* - p>0.05

For peer Peuriew

|              | <u>-</u>        |   |        |       |      | I               |   |        | _     |      | 1               |   |       |      |      |  |
|--------------|-----------------|---|--------|-------|------|-----------------|---|--------|-------|------|-----------------|---|-------|------|------|--|
|              |                 |   | SMA    |       |      |                 | -   | EWMA-W | ,<br> |      | EWMA-L          |   |       |      |      |  |
|              | BOT5            | TOP5  | β%     | р     | g    | BOT5            | TOP5  | β%     | р     | g    | BOT5            | TOP5  | β%    | р    | g    |  |
| ABSOLUTE     |                 |   |        |       |      |                 |   |        |       |      |                 |   |       |      |      |  |
| Acute TL     | 184 ±<br>117    | 191 ±<br>131                                    | 4.1    | 0.93  | 0.05 | 178 ±<br>98.0   | 164 ±<br>116                                    | -9.0   | 0.84  | 0.11 | 224 ±<br>97.9   | 212 ±<br>123                                    | -5.6  | 0.88 | 0.09 |  |
| Chronic TL   | 294 ±<br>109    | 265 ±<br>125                                    | -10.5  | 0.71  | 0.22 | 256 ±<br>95.7   | 242 ±<br>116                                    | -5.8   | 0.84  | 0.12 | 261 ±<br>89.0   | 249 ±<br>92.1                                   | -4.4  | 0.85 | 0.11 |  |
| TSB          | 109 ±<br>91.3   | 74.1 ±<br>19.0                                  | -34.5  | 0.44  | 0.42 | 78.1 ± 41.3     | $\begin{array}{c} 78.0 \pm \\ 28.7 \end{array}$ | -0.0   | 1.00  | 0.00 | 36.9 ± 48.0     | 37.3 ± 47.1                                     | 0.7   | 0.99 | 0.01 |  |
| ACWR         | $0.62 \pm 0.25$ | 0.66 ± 0.17                                     | -6.9   | 0.77  | 0.17 | $0.67 \pm 0.15$ | $0.62 \pm 0.17$                                 | -7.9   | 0.64  | 0.27 | 0.85 ± 0.16     | $\begin{array}{c} 0.81 \pm \\ 0.21 \end{array}$ | -5.3  | 0.73 | 0.20 |  |
| CHANGE21     |                 |   |        |       |      | $\bigcirc$      |   |        |       |      |                 |   |       |      |      |  |
| Acute TL     | -277 ± 185      | -123 ± 135                                      | -76.0  | 0.17  | 0.85 | -304 ± 192      | -161 ± 154                                      | -64.6  | 0.23  | 0.74 | -203 ± 136      | -118 ± 135                                      | -52.4 | 0.35 | 0.56 |  |
| Chronic TL   | -67.8 ± 57.3    | -93.0 ± 113                                     | 28.1   | 0.67  | 0.26 | -113 ± 89.1     | -71.7 ± 117.5                                   | -40.5  | 0.55  | 0.35 | -6.5 ± 41.9     | -1.9 ±<br>85.5                                  | -32.4 | 0.92 | 0.06 |  |
| TSB          | 210 ±<br>147    | 30.1 ± 61.2                                     | -158.8 | 0.04* | 1.43 | 192 ±<br>113    | 88.8 ±<br>71.5                                  | -84.5  | 0.12  | 0.97 | 196 ±<br>104    | 116 ±<br>64.8                                   | -54.3 | 0.18 | 0.83 |  |
| ACWR         | -0.65 ± 0.26    | $-0.24 \pm 0.28$                                | -99.9  | 0.05* | 1.33 | -0.60 ± 0.16    | -0.41 ± 0.25                                    | 41.1   | 0.28  | 0.35 | -0.74 ± 0.18    | -0.52 ± 0.22                                    | -37.4 | 0.20 | 0.95 |  |
| <i>VOL21</i> |                 |   |        |       |      |                 |   |        |       |      |                 |   |       |      |      |  |
| Acute TL     | 110 ±<br>74.0   | 65.1 ±<br>20.6                                  | -53.6  | 0.25  | 0.66 | 109 ±<br>65.1   | 76.4 ±<br>19.7                                  | -37.2  | 0.33  | 0.55 | 75.7 ± 48.0     | 56.4 ±<br>19.4                                  | -31.0 | 0.43 | 0.47 |  |
| Chronic TL   | 34.5 ± 16.0     | $38.1 \pm 30.1$                                 | 9.6    | 0.82  | 0.13 | 48.4 ± 29.5     | 42.2 ± 19.1                                     | -14.7  | 0.70  | 0.22 | 22.4 ± 10.2     | 28.1 ± 12.1                                     | 26.4  | 0.44 | 0.46 |  |
| TSB          | 91.6 ±<br>66.9  | $\begin{array}{r} 40.7 \pm \\ 23.6 \end{array}$ | -81.0  | 0.15  | 0.91 | $66.2 \pm 38.6$ | 39.7 ±<br>16.6                                  | -52.6  | 0.20  | 0.80 | 64.3 ±<br>39.5  | 39.0 ±<br>9.4                                   | -51.7 | 0.23 | 0.69 |  |
| ACWR         | $0.24 \pm 0.09$ | $\begin{array}{c} 0.14 \pm \\ 0.06 \end{array}$ | -50.1  | 0.08  | 1.16 | 0.19 ± 0.06     | $0.15 \pm 0.02$                                 | -25.8  | 0.19  | 0.95 | $0.22 \pm 0.06$ | 0.16 ± 0.04                                     | -38.0 | 0.12 | 1.35 |  |

Table 4. The differences in internal training load variables between the top 5 and bottom 5 performances at a qualifying competition for the 2016 Olympic Games in elite weightlifters.

Note: ABSOLUTE - the value on the day of the competition, CHANGE21 - the value 21 days prior to competition subtracted from the value on the day of the competition, VOL21 - the volatility (standard deviation) of values in the last 21 days prior to competition, TL - training load, TSB - training stress balance; ACWR - acute to chronic workload ratio, SMA - simple moving average, EWMA-W - exponentially weighted moving averages as per Williams et al <sup>26</sup>, EWMA-L - exponentially weighted moving averages as per Lazarus

et al <sup>19</sup>, S – successful performance group, NS – non-successful performance group,  $\beta$ % - beta percentage difference, p – p-value, g – Hedge's effect size, \* - p>0.05

For peer Peview

### FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1A-C. A comparison of internal training load variables between successful and non-successful performances at a qualifying competition for the 2016 Olympic Games in elite weightlifters.

NOTES: NS - non-successful group, S - successful group, AU - arbitrary units, TSB - training stress balance, ACWR - acute to chronic workload ratio

Figure 2A-C. A comparison of internal training load variables between the top five and bottom five performances at a qualifying competition for the 2016 Olympic Games in elite weightlifters.

NOTES: NS - non-successful group, S - successful group, AU - arbitrary units, TSB - training stress balance, ACWR - acute to chronic workload ratio

Figure 3A-B. Cumming estimation plots of (A) Training stress balance and (B) Acute to chronic workload ratio differences as simple moving averages between successful and non-successful performances at a qualifying competition for the 2016 Olympic Games in elite weightlifters.

NOTES: NS - non-successful group, S - successful group, ABSOLUTE - the value on the day of the competition, CHANGE21 - the value 21 days prior to competition subtracted from the value on the day of the competition, VOL21 - the volatility (standard deviation) of values in the last 21 days prior to competition, TSB - training stress balance, ACWR - acute to chronic workload ratio, AU - arbitrary units



224x118mm (96 x 96 DPI)



230x118mm (96 x 96 DPI)



225x128mm (96 x 96 DPI)



226x120mm (96 x 96 DPI)



226x127mm (96 x 96 DPI)



224x123mm (96 x 96 DPI)



Figure 3A.

296x209mm (150 x 150 DPI)



Figure 3B.

296x209mm (150 x 150 DPI)

```
#load required packages
library(tidyverse)
library(dplyr)
library(ggplot2)
library(cocor)
library(corrplot)
library(corrr)
library(car)
library(dabestr)
library(GGally)
library(Hmisc)
library(readxl)
library(cowplot)
library(pwr)
library(ggpubr)
library(psych)
library(lattice)
library(mbir)
#import data
wl desc <- read excel("~/Desktop/PhD ECU [ACU]/Weightlifting Success/Weightlifting IL
R.xlsx'', sheet = "desc")
wl tl21 <- read excel("~/Desktop/PhD ECU [ACU]/Weightlifting Success/Weightlifting IL
R.xlsx'', sheet = "tl21")
wl compl <- read excel("~/Desktop/PhD ECU [ACU]/Weightlifting Success/Weightlifting IL
R.xlsx'', sheet = "tl")
                                                   Zien
View(wl desc)
View(wl tl21)
View(wl compl)
#get data for overall stats
#apply multi.sapply function for descriptive stats
multi.sapply <- function(...) {</pre>
 arglist <- match.call(expand.dots = FALSE)$...
 var.names <- sapply(arglist, deparse)</pre>
 has.name <- (names(arglist) != "")
 var.names[has.name] <- names(arglist)[has.name]</pre>
 arglist <- lapply(arglist, eval.parent, n = 2)
```

result <- sapply(arglist, function (FUN, x) sapply(x, FUN, na.rm=T), x)

x <- arglist[[1]] arglist[[1]] <- NULL

return(result)

Ş

colnames(result) <- var.names[-1]

```
#get mean/sd for overall cohort
overall wl <- multi.sapply(wl compl[,2:13], mean, sd)
overall wl
#get correlations between moving average methods
movAv corData <- wl compl[c(4:5, 8:9, 12:13)]
movAv cor <- corr.test(movAv corData, alpha=0.05, ci=T)
print(movAv cor, short=F)
#get data for group stats
#include change function
change \leq- function(x){
last(x)-first(x)
wl data1 <- wl tl21 %>%
 group by(id) %>%
 summarise(abs raA = last(raA),
      abs raC = last(raC),
      abs raCA = last(raCA),
      abs raACWR = last(raACWR),
      change raA = change(raA),
      change raC = change(raC),
      change raCA = change(raCA),
                                            erer
R
      change raACWR = change(raACWR),
      vol raA = sd(raA),
      vol raC = sd(raC),
      vol raCA = sd(raCA),
      vol raACWR = sd(raACWR))
wl data2 <- wl tl21 %>%
 group by(id) %>%
 summarise(abs ewma1A = last(ewma1A),
      abs ewmalC = last(ewmalC),
      abs ewma1CA = last(ewma1CA),
      abs ewmalACWR = last(ewmalACWR),
      change ewmalA = change(ewmalA),
      change ewmalC = change(ewmalC),
      change_ewma1CA = change(ewma1CA),
      change ewmalACWR = change(ewmalACWR),
      vol ewma1A = sd(ewma1A),
      vol ewma1C = sd(ewma1C),
      vol ewma1CA = sd(ewma1CA),
      vol ewmalACWR = sd(ewmalACWR),
      abs ewma2A = last(ewma2A),
      abs ewma2C = last(ewma2C),
```

```
abs ewma2CA = last(ewma2CA),
      abs ewma2ACWR = last(ewma2ACWR),
      change ewma2A = change(ewma2A),
      change ewma2C = change(ewma2C),
      change ewma2CA = change(ewma2CA),
      change ewma2ACWR = change(ewma2ACWR),
      vol ewma2A = sd(ewma2A),
      vol ewma2C = sd(ewma2C),
      vol ewma2CA = sd(ewma2CA),
      vol ewma2ACWR = sd(ewma2ACWR),
      abs strain = last(strain),
      abs mono = last(mono),
      change strain = change(strain),
      change mono = change(mono),
      mean strain = mean(strain),
      mean mono = mean(mono))
wl data <- left join(wl data1, wl data2, by="id")
wl data <- left join(wl data, wl desc, by="id")
wl data \leq- wl data[,1:49]
wl data <- wl data %>%
 mutate(beta abs raA = abs raA/mean(abs raA),
    beta abs raC = abs raC/mean(abs raC),
    beta abs raCA = abs raCA/mean(abs raCA),
    beta abs raACWR = abs raACWR/mean(abs raACWR),
    beta change raA = change raA/mean(change raA),
    beta change raC = change raC/mean(change raC),
    beta change raCA = change raCA/mean(change raCA),
    beta change raACWR = change raACWR/mean(change raACWR),
    beta vol raA = vol raA/mean(vol raA),
    beta vol raC = vol raC/mean(vol raC).
    beta vol raCA = vol raCA/mean(vol raCA),
    beta vol raACWR = vol raACWR/mean(vol raACWR),
    beta abs ewmalA = abs ewmalA/mean(abs ewmalA),
    beta abs ewmalC = abs ewmalC/mean(abs ewmalC),
    beta abs ewmalCA = abs ewmalCA/mean(abs ewmalCA),
    beta abs ewma1ACWR = abs ewma1ACWR/mean(abs ewma1ACWR),
    beta change ewmalA = change ewmalA/mean(change ewmalA),
    beta change ewmalC = change ewmalC/mean(change ewmalC),
    beta change ewma1CA = change ewma1CA/mean(change ewma1CA),
    beta change ewmalACWR = change ewmalACWR/mean(change ewmalACWR),
    beta vol ewma1A = vol ewma1A/mean(vol ewma<math>1A),
    beta vol ewmalC = vol ewmalC/mean(vol ewmalC),
    beta vol ewma1CA = vol ewma1CA/mean(vol ewma1CA),
    beta vol ewma1ACWR = vol ewma1ACWR/mean(vol ewma1ACWR),
```

```
beta abs ewma2A = abs ewma2A/mean(abs ewma2A),
     beta abs ewma2C = abs ewma2C/mean(abs ewma2C),
     beta abs ewma2CA = abs ewma2CA/mean(abs ewma2CA),
     beta abs ewma2ACWR = abs ewma2ACWR/mean(abs ewma2ACWR),
     beta change ewma2A = change ewma2A/mean(change ewma2A),
    beta change ewma2C = change ewma2C/mean(change ewma2C),
     beta change ewma2CA = change ewma2CA/mean(change ewma2CA),
     beta change ewma2ACWR = change ewma2ACWR/mean(change ewma2ACWR),
     beta vol ewma2A = vol ewma2A/mean(vol ewma<math>2A),
     beta vol ewma2C = vol ewma2C/mean(vol ewma2C),
    beta vol ewma2CA = vol ewma2CA/mean(vol ewma2CA),
     beta vol ewma2ACWR = vol ewma2ACWR/mean(vol ewma2ACWR))
#scatterplot of pb v CA and ACWR abs, change21 and vol21 rolling averages with linear
regression lines
pb CA plot <- ggplot(wl data, aes(x = abs raCA, y = pb)) + geom point(position="jitter",
alpha=0.8) + geom smooth(method = "lm", se =F) + theme(legend.position = "bottom") +
labs(x="SMA Chronic - Acute", y="%12PB")
pb ACWR plot <- ggplot(wl data, aes(x = abs raACWR, y = pb)) +
geom point(position="jitter", alpha=0.8) + geom smooth(method = "lm", se =F) +
theme(legend.position = "bottom") + labs(x="SMA ACWR", y="%12PB")
pb changeCA plot <- ggplot(wl data, aes(x = change raCA, y = pb)) +
geom point(position="jitter", alpha=0.8) + geom smooth(method = "lm", se =F) +
theme(legend.position = "bottom") + labs(x="SMA Chronic - Acute Change", y="%12PB")
pb changeACWR plot <- ggplot(wl data, aes(x = change raACWR, y = pb)) +
geom point(position="jitter", alpha=0.8) + geom smooth(method = "lm", se =F) +
theme(legend.position = "bottom") + labs(x="SMA ACWR Change", y="%12PB")
pb volCA plot <- ggplot(wl data, aes(x = vol raCA, y = pb)) + geom point(position="jitter",
alpha=0.8) + geom smooth(method = "lm", se =F) + theme(legend.position = "bottom") +
labs(x="SMA Chronic - Acute Volatility", y="%12PB")
pb volACWR plot <- ggplot(wl data, aes(x = vol raACWR, y = pb)) +
geom point(position="jitter", alpha=0.8) + geom smooth(method = "lm", se =F) +
theme(legend.position = "bottom") + labs(x="SMA ACWR Volatility", y="%12PB")
plot grid(pb CA plot, pb ACWR plot, pb changeCA plot, pb changeACWR plot,
pb volCA plot, pb volACWR plot, align = "v", labels = "auto", ncol = 2)
#get rolling average correl data
wlRa corData \leq- wl data[c(2:13, 46)]
wlRa cor <- corr.test(wlRa corData, alpha=0.05, ci=T)
```

print(wlRa cor, short=F)

#get ewma1 correl data
wlEwma1\_corData <- wl\_data[c(14:25, 46)]
wlEwma1\_cor <- corr.test(wlEwma1\_corData, alpha=0.05, ci=T)
print(wlEwma1\_cor, short=F)</pre>

#get ewma2 correl data
wlEwma2\_corData <- wl\_data[c(26:37, 46)]
wlEwma2\_cor <- corr.test(wlEwma2\_corData, alpha=0.05, ci=T)
print(wlEwma2\_cor, short=F)</pre>

#compare correlations in rolling average v ewma 1 (refer back to correlation data) absA\_compare <- cocor.indep.groups(0.18, 0.11, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided") absC\_compare <- cocor.indep.groups(0.01, 0.08, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided") absCA\_compare <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.27, -0.07, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided") absACWR\_compare <- cocor.indep.groups(0.19, 0.01, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided") changeA\_compare <- cocor.indep.groups(0.39, 0.35, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided") changeC\_compare <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.03, 0.24, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided") changeCA\_compare <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.49, -0.36, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided") changeACWR\_compare <- cocor.indep.groups(0.43, 0.33, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided") volA\_compare <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.28, -0.22, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided") volC\_compare <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.34, -0.30, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided") volCA\_compare <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.34, -0.30, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided") volACWR\_compare <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.41, -0.48, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided")</pre>

#call results
absA\_compare
absC\_compare
absCA\_compare
absACWR\_compare
changeA\_compare
changeCA\_compare
changeACWR\_compare
volA\_compare
volC\_compare
volCA\_compare
volACWR\_compare

#compare correlations in rolling average v ewma 2 (refer back to correlation data)
absA\_compare1 <- cocor.indep.groups(0.18, 0.11, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided")
absC\_compare1 <- cocor.indep.groups(0.01, 0.06, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided")
absCA\_compare1 <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.27, -0.12, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided")
absACWR\_compare1 <- cocor.indep.groups(0.19, 0.02, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided")
changeC\_compare1 <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.39, 0.31, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided")
changeCA\_compare1 <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.49, -0.34, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided")
changeACWR\_compare1 <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.49, -0.34, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided")
changeACWR\_compare1 <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.43, 0.42, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided")
volA\_compare1 <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.28, -0.17, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided")
volC\_compare1 <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.34, -0.31, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided")</pre>

ie pere

volACWR compare1 <- cocor.indep.groups(-0.41, -0.43, 21, 21, alternative = "two sided")

#call results absA compare1 absC compare1 absCA compare1 absACWR compare1 changeA compare1 changeC compare1 changeCA compare1 changeACWR compare1 volA compare1 volC compare1 volCA compare1 volACWR compare1

# #seperate groups wlS <- wl data %>% Perperies

```
subset(group1 == "s")
```

```
wlNs <- wl data %>%
 subset(group1 == "ns")
```

```
wlSNs <- bind rows(wlNs, wlS)
```

```
wltop5 <- wl data \%>%
 subset(group2 == "top5")
```

```
wlbot5 <- wl data %>%
 subset(group2 == "bot5")
```

```
wl5 <- bind rows(wlbot5, wltop5)
```

```
#get mean/sd for overall cohort in last 21 days
wl desc <- multi.sapply(wl data[,46:49], mean, sd)
wl desc
```

```
#get mean/sd for descriptive stats for S and Ns groups
wlS desc <- multi.sapply(wlS[,2:49], mean, sd)
wlNs desc <- multi.sapply(wlNs[,2:49], mean, sd)
wlS desc
wlNs desc
```

```
#get mean/sd for descriptive stats for top5 and bot5 groups
wltop5 desc <- multi.sapply(wltop5[,2:49], mean, sd)</pre>
```

wlbot5\_desc <- multi.sapply(wlbot5[,2:49], mean, sd)
wltop5\_desc
wlbot5\_desc</pre>

#get beta differences between groups
wlSbeta\_desc <- sapply(wlS[50:85], mean)
wlNsbeta\_desc <- sapply(wlNs[50:85], mean)
wlSbeta\_desc - wlNsbeta\_desc</pre>

wltop5beta\_desc <- sapply(wltop5[50:85], mean)
wlbot5beta\_desc <- sapply(wlbot5[50:85], mean)
wltop5beta\_desc - wlbot5beta\_desc</pre>

#get standardised mean diffs for SNs rolling average data (including normality, variance and mbi)

mbi\_raSNs <- mapply(function(x, y) smd\_test(x, y, paired = F, conf.int = 0.95, swc = 0.2), wlS[,c(2:13)], wlNs[,c(2:13)])

#standardised mean diff for SNs ewma1 data (including normality, variance and mbi)
mbi\_ewma1SNs <- mapply(function(x, y) smd\_test(x, y, paired = F, conf.int = 0.95, swc = 0.2),
wlS[,c(14:25)], wlNs[,c(14:25)])</pre>

#standardised mean diff for SNs ewma2 data (including normality, variance and mbi)
mbi\_ewma2SNs <- mapply(function(x, y) smd\_test(x, y, paired = F, conf.int = 0.95, swc = 0.2),
wlS[,c(26:37)], wlNs[,c(26:37)])</pre>

#magnitude based inferences for other data (including normality, variance and mbi)
mbi\_otherSNs <- mapply(function(x, y) smd\_test(x, y, paired = F, conf.int = 0.95, swc = 0.2),
wlS[,c(46:48)], wlNs[,c(46:48)])</pre>

```
#convert SNs r to g (refer to results)
abs_raA_esSNs <- es_convert(-0.06, from="r", to="d")
abs_raCA_esSNs <- es_convert(0.12, from="r", to="d")
vol_raA_esSNs <- es_convert(0.02, from="r", to="d")
vol_raCA_esSNs <- es_convert(-0.5, from="r", to="d")
abs_ewma1A_esSNs <- es_convert(-0.08, from="r", to="d")
abs_ewma1CA_esSNs <- es_convert(0.02, from="r", to="d")
vol_ewma1A_esSNs <- es_convert(0.02, from="r", to="d")
vol_ewma1A_esSNs <- es_convert(0, from="r", to="d")
vol_ewma1A_esSNs <- es_convert(-0.34, from="r", to="d")
vol_ewma2A_esSNs <- es_convert(-0.13, from="r", to="d")
vol_ewma2CA_esSNs <- es_convert(-0.08, from="r", to="d")
inj_esSNs <- es_convert(-0.12, from="r", to="d")</pre>
```

#standardised mean diff for top/bot5 rolling average data (including normality, variance and mbi)

 $mbi_ra5 \le mapply(function(x, y) smd_test(x, y, paired = F, conf.int = 0.95, swc = 0.2), wltop5[,c(2:13)], wlbot5[,c(2:13)])$ 

#standardised mean diff for top/bot5 ewma1 data (including normality, variance and mbi)
mbi\_ewma15 <- mapply(function(x, y) smd\_test(x, y, paired = F, conf.int = 0.95, swc = 0.2),
wltop5[,c(14:25)], wlbot5[,c(14:25)])</pre>

#standardised mean diff for top/bot5 ewma2 data (including normality, variance and mbi)
mbi\_ewma25 <- mapply(function(x, y) smd\_test(x, y, paired = F, conf.int = 0.95, swc = 0.2),
wltop5[,c(26:37)], wlbot5[,c(26:37)])</pre>

#standardised mean diff for top/bot5 other data (including normality, variance and mbi)
mbi\_other5 <- mapply(function(x, y) smd\_test(x, y, paired = F, conf.int = 0.95, swc = 0.2),
wltop5[,c(46:48)], wlbot5[,c(46:48)])</pre>

#convert top/bot5 r to g
change\_ewma1ACWR\_es5 <- es\_convert(-0.17, from="r", to="d")
vol\_ewma1ACWR\_es <- es\_convert(-0.43, from="r", to="d")
change\_ewma2ACWR\_es5 <- es\_convert(-0.43, from="r", to="d")
vol\_ewma2ACWR\_es5 <- es\_convert(-0.56, from="r", to="d")</pre>

#convert other factors r to g
inj42SNs\_es <- es\_convert(-0.12, from="r", to="d")
inj425\_es <- es\_convert(-0.1, from="r", to="d")</pre>

#Cumming estimation plots for differences in rolling average ACWR absACWR\_est <- dabest(wlSNs, group1, abs\_raACWR, idx=c("s", "ns")) changeACWR\_est <- dabest(wlSNs, group1, change\_raACWR, idx=c("s", "ns")) volACWR\_est <- dabest(wlSNs, group1, vol\_raACWR, idx=c("s", "ns"))</pre>

absACWR\_est\_plot <- plot(absACWR\_est, rawplot.ylabel = "Absolute ACWR (AU)", effsize.ylabel = "", float.contrast = F) changeACWR\_est\_plot <- plot(changeACWR\_est, rawplot.ylabel = "Change21 ACWR (AU)", effsize.ylabel = "", float.contrast = F) volACWR\_est\_plot <- plot(volACWR\_est, rawplot.ylabel = "Vol21 ACWR (AU)", effsize.ylabel = "", float.contrast = F) plot\_grid(absACWR\_est\_plot, changeACWR\_est\_plot, volACWR\_est\_plot, nrow=1, labels = "auto")