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Validation of a New Assessment of Surfer's Performance

Jerry-Thomas Monaco^{1,2}, Richard J. Boergers¹, Thomas Cappaert², Michael Miller^{2,3}.
¹Seton Hall University School of Health and Medical Sciences, Nutley, NJ, ²Rocky Mountain University, Provo, UT, ³Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.

The sport of surfing has gained popularity not only as a competitive sport, but as a recreational athletic activity that is non-age dependent. However, surfing is not a time-based sport and the current evaluation method of surf performance is only done by a panel of judges at a surf competition. Therefore, there is a need for a performance assessment for non-competitive, recreational surfers. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this study is to establish content validity of the surfer's performance questionnaire (SPQ) using a modified Ebel method. **METHODS:** The content validation was done in a two-step process. First, face validity was established by five surf coaches. This developed the SPQ into an assessment consisting of five key elements of surfing: catching a wave, pop up, paddling, wave riding, and stamina in the water, each rated on a 9-point likert scale (best possible score is 45). Next, we used the Ebel method, which utilized a panel of experts to examine each item on the questionnaire in order to determine the level of difficulty (easy, appropriate, and difficult) and relevance (essential, important, marginal) of each item. Twenty-one individuals with surfing expertise (9 certified surf instructors/coaches, 8 non-certified surf instructors/coaches, and 3 surf performance trainers) used the Ebel method to evaluate the content validity of the SPQ. The goal was to have >50% of each item to be rated as easy or appropriate and essential or important to be retained. Any items that scored $\leq 50\%$ on the Ebel method would have been excluded from the SPQ. Interclass Correlation (ICC) was also used to evaluate the agreement between the raters. **RESULTS:** All 5 key elements had greater than 50% agreement for Ebel results and were included on the final SPQ: catching a wave (61.9%), pop up (80.9%), paddling (80.9%), wave riding (57.1%), and stamina in the water (71.4%). The overall agreement of the raters on the SPQ was good (ICC=.877, $p=.0001$). The ICC for the SPQ individual elements demonstrated excellent agreement with catching the wave (ICC=.921, $p=.002$) and paddling (ICC=.966, $p=.001$), good agreement with pop-up (ICC=.857, $p=.016$) and stamina in the water (ICC=.804, $p=.035$) but poor agreement with wave riding (ICC=-0.54, $p=.343$). **CONCLUSION:** These findings suggest the SPQ is a valid assessment to measure a recreational surfer's performance.