

1           **Selecting Metrics that Matter: Comparing the use of the**  
2           **Countermovement Jump for Performance Profiling, Neuromuscular**  
3           **Fatigue Monitoring and Injury Rehabilitation Testing**

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25 **Abstract**

26 The countermovement jump (CMJ) is one of the most used performance assessments  
27 in strength and conditioning. While numerous studies discuss the usability of  
28 different metrics in this test, this is often done within the context of a specific aim.  
29 However, to our knowledge, no information currently exists providing practitioners  
30 with some over-arching recommendations on which metrics to choose when the  
31 purpose of using the test differs. This article discusses how the metrics selected to  
32 monitor during CMJ testing might differ when aiming to use it as a proxy for athletic  
33 performance, as part of neuromuscular fatigue monitoring, or as part of a test battery  
34 for return to performance in injured athletes.

## 35 **Introduction**

36 Jump testing is a common performance assessment in many sports owing to its  
37 relative simplicity (7,14), time efficiency (6), and kinematic correspondence (i.e.,  
38 triple flexion and extension) to the sport itself (16,40,46,54). While numerous jump  
39 tests exist, their implementation as a test protocol should be guided by the needs and  
40 demands of an athlete or sport (7), and the countermovement jump (CMJ) is  
41 arguably the most commonly implemented jump test by practitioners and  
42 researchers (7,12). This may, in part, be because of the technical demands of other  
43 jump protocols. For example, the squat jump is challenged by small amplitude  
44 countermovements that occur readily at the beginning of the movement (53),  
45 reducing the occurrence of a purely concentric jump strategy. Similarly, drop jumps  
46 likely represent a more technically demanding task than a CMJ (37,45) that may not  
47 be appropriate for some athletes (e.g., youth or untrained) to perform. While  
48 different underlying reasons may exist for using one jump test over another, the CMJ  
49 is likely to be a more natural movement pattern for many athletes, and has become  
50 commonplace in practice and research (12,20).

51 A recent opinion piece from Bishop et al. (7) suggested that practitioners may wish  
52 to consider 'linking metrics together' when interpreting data from jump testing, as it  
53 enhances their ability to utilize all available information concurrently. For example,  
54 previous research has shown that CMJ height may be less sensitive to change after  
55 intense exercise than other strategy-based metrics, such as time to peak power and  
56 time to take-off (TTTO) (20-22). Additional research has also shown that increases in  
57 power are not always mirrored by increases in jump height (39), which may be  
58 explained by the fact that power only accounts for ~50-60% of how high an athlete  
59 jumps (35). Consequently, when faced with a scenario where one metric improves  
60 but another does not, it can be challenging to determine whether overall jump  
61 performance has truly got better, worse, or not changed, when monitoring multiple  
62 metrics concurrently. As a means of trying to overcome such challenges, recent

63 literature has outlined the importance of linking CMJ metrics during the ongoing  
64 monitoring process (7). For example, when starting with a metric such as reactive  
65 strength index modified (RSI\_Mod), which has been given increased interest in  
66 recent years (7,17,56), the metrics to monitor alongside this should likely be selected  
67 automatically. Jump height and TTTO represent the two component parts and  
68 should be interpreted with RSI\_Mod so that practitioners can correctly understand  
69 how any change in RSI\_Mod has been achieved. This is because changes in RSI\_Mod  
70 can occur as a consequence of increases in jump height, reductions in TTTO, or both.  
71 Although anecdotal, this line of thinking about linking metrics together seems hard  
72 to dispute. However, it fails to acknowledge that consideration must first be given to  
73 which metrics are most appropriate in the first place. For example, previous research  
74 has investigated the association between the CMJ and independent measures of  
75 physical performance, such as strength (29,42), linear speed (10,26), and change of  
76 direction ability (36,41). Other studies have used the CMJ to detect an athlete's  
77 neuromuscular fatigue status (20,21). Finally, the CMJ is also commonly employed in  
78 injury-based research as part of test batteries that provide information for an  
79 athlete's rehabilitation journey (13,23,25). Consequently, with various reasons for  
80 using the CMJ, this brings into question whether the same metrics should be  
81 employed for different scenarios.

82 Therefore, the aims of this review are threefold: 1) to provide an overview of some of  
83 the common ways in which the CMJ has been used in research, 2) to provide some  
84 practical suggestions on how selecting metrics might differ when the purpose of  
85 using the CMJ test changes, and 3) discuss how subsequent data analysis methods  
86 might differ when aiming to detect true change for both group and individual  
87 athletes – noting that once we have chosen which metrics to monitor, understanding  
88 how best to utilize the data is a key part of the ongoing monitoring process.

89

90 **Associations between the CMJ and Independent Measures of Performance**

91 Determining the relationship between a test and other physical or athletic  
92 performance measures provides a biological basis for including it in a given set of  
93 protocols (7). Physical capacities such as strength, linear speed, and change of  
94 direction ability have all been deemed important to monitor in sports such as soccer  
95 (60), rugby league (15), tennis (47), netball (58), and even surfing (52). Thus, the  
96 forthcoming sub-sections will provide an overview of the association between CMJ  
97 performance (determined by different metrics) and these independent physical  
98 performance measures. However, it is important to note that these sections are only  
99 meant to provide a summary showcasing the consistent associations between CMJ  
100 performance and different physical capacities, thus, justifying the use of the CMJ  
101 test, as it links back to additional measures of capacity in sport.

102

### 103 *Strength*

104 When considering the association between the CMJ and strength, previous research  
105 has shown CMJ peak force is strongly associated with maximal force production  
106 capability during the isometric mid-thigh pull (IMTP;  $r = 0.43-0.64$ ), isometric squat  
107 ( $r = 0.64$ ), and 1RM back squat loads ( $r = 0.79$ ) (42,59), highlighting its importance  
108 across a range of strength assessments. The same can be said for CMJ peak power,  
109 which shows large relationships with strength measures across multiple studies.  
110 Specifically, peak power has been associated with maximal force production  
111 capability during the IMTP ( $r = 0.43-0.75$ ), isometric squat ( $r = 0.71$ ), and maximal  
112 strength while squatting ( $r = 0.66-0.84$ ) (9,42,59). Unsurprisingly, jump height has  
113 also been commonly used as a metric when investigating associations with strength  
114 measures in both absolute and relative data. For example, previous studies have  
115 shown weak to moderate relationships with absolute peak force during the IMTP ( $r$   
116  $= 0.27-0.41$ ) (29,42), ISOS peak force ( $r = -0.07$ ), and 1RM back squat ( $r = 0.22$ ) (42).  
117 However, when these relationships were determined with relative strength levels,  
118 these values changed considerably: IMTP peak force ( $r = 0.59$ ), ISOS peak force ( $r =$

119 0.28), and 1RM back squat ( $r = 0.69$ ). In contrast, strong associations have been  
120 reported elsewhere between CMJ height and both absolute ( $r = 0.74$ ) and relative ( $r =$   
121  $0.79$ ) eccentric peak force during the squat (9).

122 Collectively, these studies show that several CMJ metrics (e.g., jump height, peak  
123 force, and peak power) are often significantly associated with strength, which we  
124 know to be a critical physical quality for both athletic development (57) and injury  
125 risk reduction (31).

126

### 127 *Linear Speed*

128 When considering the association between CMJ performance and linear speed, the  
129 outcome measure of jump height has been the most popular investigated metric. For  
130 example, previous research has shown moderate to strong relationships with 10-m  
131 or 10-yard acceleration times ( $r = -0.49$  to  $-0.69$ ), 30-m or 30-yard times ( $r = -0.58$  to  $-$   
132  $0.77$ ), 40-yard time ( $r = -0.58$  to  $-0.79$ ), 60-m time ( $r = -0.58$  to  $-0.79$ ), and 100 m ( $r = -$   
133  $0.57$ ) (55,63). Of note, these relationships are all negative, indicating higher jumps  
134 were associated with faster sprint times. However, when velocity is used as the  
135 outcome measure, correlation values become positive, noting that the desired  
136 outcome for both jump height and velocity are the larger values. With this in mind,  
137 previous research has shown moderate to very strong associations between CMJ  
138 height and velocity at 10-m, 30-m, and 50-m ( $r = 0.82$ - $0.86$ ) (32) and peak in-match  
139 running velocity for female soccer players ( $r = 0.50$ ) (43). Concerning the latter  
140 finding (43), this is arguably more important than establishing a relationship  
141 between CMJ performance and sprinting during a test protocol (as previous studies  
142 did) because in-match running speed is more likely to be considered a key  
143 performance indicator, having been established in a competition scenario. This is  
144 especially important given that prior literature has emphasized the importance of  
145 relating our test protocols to sporting performance (1,24,64).

146

147 *Change of Direction Ability*

148 Similar to the associations with linear speed, jump height has been a commonly  
149 investigated metric when determining the relationships between the CMJ and  
150 change of direction ability. Specifically, moderate to large relationships have been  
151 reported between jump height and the Illinois and pro-agility tests in both high  
152 school soccer ( $r = -0.36$  to  $-0.48$ ) and collegiate soccer and lacrosse ( $r = -0.55$  to  $-0.70$ )  
153 athletes (63). Additionally, the agility t-test ( $r = -0.59$ ) and zigzag test ( $r = -0.77$ ) have  
154 also shown meaningful associations with CMJ height (2,26), highlighting the  
155 consistent moderate to large associations between how high an athlete can jump and  
156 faster change of direction speed times. Furthermore, the CMJ has also been used to  
157 distinguish between players of different abilities during a modified agility t-test (51).  
158 While no relationships were reported, a median split analysis was conducted to  
159 determine how CMJ characteristics differed between faster ( $n = 12$ ) and slower ( $n =$   
160  $12$ ) players. While no meaningful differences occurred in CMJ height between  
161 groups, CMJ relative peak force was significantly higher in faster players ( $ES = 0.98$ ;  
162  $p < 0.05$ ), again potentially highlighting the importance of concurrently monitoring  
163 peak force as a metric during the CMJ for performance profiling purposes.

164 Although the information above summarizes the association between the CMJ and  
165 different physical capacities, metrics such as jump height, peak force, and peak  
166 power are consistently related to independent measures of strength and speed.  
167 However, it is worth noting that the consistency of these relationships with linear  
168 and change of direction ability may partly be due to the metric of 'time' often being  
169 the selected outcome measure for the locomotive-based task. Consequently, and as  
170 has been done in jump testing (8,20,21), we suggest a more in-depth analysis of  
171 linear and change of direction ability is conducted, which is then linked back to  
172 metrics during the CMJ test. This would enable us to comprehend the link between  
173 proxy measures during jump testing and strategy data during locomotive-based

174 tasks. Regardless, given the importance of strength and speed for many athlete  
175 populations (31,57), it seems that a strong basis exists for including metrics such as  
176 jump height, peak or mean force, and peak power, during CMJ testing.

177

### 178 **Neuromuscular Fatigue Monitoring**

179 An additional interest in CMJ research is its ability to detect neuromuscular fatigue  
180 in athletes (12,20,21,48,50). A previous meta-analysis investigating the efficacy of the  
181 CMJ in detecting neuromuscular fatigue noted that across 151 studies, 63 CMJ  
182 metrics had been utilized, with jump height and peak power being the most  
183 commonly reported metrics (12). However, results showed that both maximal jump  
184 height (effect size [ES] = -0.04) and peak power (ES = -0.04) were not sensitive to  
185 changes following fatiguing protocols. Thus, while these metrics appear to be  
186 strongly associated with independent physical performance measures, there may be  
187 better choices for neuromuscular fatigue monitoring.

188 In contrast, previous studies have shown that some time-based metrics may be more  
189 appropriate for practitioners to choose when using the CMJ. Specifically, metrics  
190 such as relative net impulse (ES = -0.69) and flight time (ES = -1.4) have shown the  
191 greatest changes immediately after intense exercise. However, when assessing  
192 changes over subsequent days (e.g., 24-72 hours), metrics such as time to peak power  
193 (ES = 0.41 to 1.5) and flight time:contraction time ratio (ES = -0.44 to -1.6) have shown  
194 the most notable changes (20,21). Of note here, all the metrics above have some  
195 element of 'time' being assessed with them, indicating that this is likely to be an  
196 important metric for neuromuscular fatigue monitoring. This is because athletes may  
197 adjust their jump strategy to produce the same force and achieve the same jump  
198 height (8,20).

199 Finally, an additional study by Gathercole et al. (22) investigated the effect of an  
200 acute repeated stair climbing protocol on CMJ performance and the chronic



201 adaptations on CMJ performance after a structured 19-week training period. Results  
202 are shown in Table 1. To summarize, the chronic changes are less important, given  
203 that this section focuses on the effectiveness of the CMJ in detecting acute  
204 neuromuscular fatigue. However, compared to the acute changes, they showcase an  
205 important distinction for peak force and time-based metrics (i.e., eccentric,  
206 concentric, and total duration). Specifically, with very large increases in peak force  
207 and large reductions in duration-based metrics chronically, we can deduce that  
208 larger forces are being applied in a shorter period, which should be seen as a  
209 positive adaptation over the 19-week training period. However, the opposite is  
210 evident for the acute changes, with less force being applied and athletes taking  
211 longer to do it. Naturally, these reductions in CMJ performance are in response to  
212 being fatigued. Still, the results highlight that some metrics (which primarily focus  
213 on time) are more sensitive than others to elicit meaningful change.

214

215 *\*\* Insert Table 1 about here \*\**

216

217 To summarize, and when this evidence is considered collectively, jump height and  
218 peak power may be less sensitive to detecting neuromuscular fatigue than other  
219 metrics, which might limit their applicability if practitioners wish to use the CMJ for  
220 neuromuscular fatigue monitoring. In contrast, time-based metrics such as time to  
221 peak power, flight time:contraction time ratio (essentially the same as RSI\_Mod), and  
222 total phase duration (i.e., time to take-off) may be more appropriate choices this  
223 context.

224

225 **Testing for Injured Athletes**

226 The third area of interest relating to the CMJ for practitioners and researchers is  
227 monitoring jump performance for injured athletes as part of their rehabilitation  
228 journey. At this point, it should be acknowledged that there is an abundance of  
229 injury-focused literature that has used unilateral jump testing protocols (27,30,49);  
230 however, the associated data is almost always limited to outcome measures of height  
231 and distance, with a recent systematic review highlighting the limitations of this  
232 during ongoing monitoring in rehabilitation settings (28). This is further supported  
233 by additional measures in the CMJ, where research has shown that peak power was  
234 not associated with future injuries in professional rugby league (18) and Australian  
235 rules football players (19). Thus, it seems likely that the metrics that seem relevant  
236 for performance profiling (e.g., jump height and peak power) may hold less  
237 relevance during the injury rehabilitation process.

238 However, previous studies have shown that measuring landing forces and  
239 asymmetry data may be relevant during an athlete's rehabilitation journey. For  
240 example, Cohen et al. (13) quantified CMJ peak force during take-off and landing in  
241 injured and healthy soccer players. Take-off peak force asymmetries were 8% greater  
242 in injured players ( $d = 0.13$ ), but landing force asymmetries were 57% greater ( $d =$   
243  $0.65$ ). Similarly, Hart et al. (23) also utilized the CMJ to compare jump performance  
244 in healthy and previously injured players. No significant between-group differences  
245 existed for jump height (ES = -0.24), relative peak power (ES = -0.22), or flight  
246 time:contraction time ratio (ES = -0.47). In contrast, previously injured players  
247 showed significantly greater asymmetries for concentric impulse (ES = 1.01),  
248 concentric peak force (ES = 1.35), eccentric:concentric force ratio (ES = 0.87), eccentric  
249 deceleration rate of force development (ES = 1.05), eccentric peak force (ES = 0.73),  
250 and force at zero velocity (ES = 0.73). Given that previous literature has outlined that  
251 asymmetries  $> 10\%$  are associated with increased injury risk (30) and that consistent  
252 limb differences should be considered as an opportunity to develop increased  
253 maximal force production in the weaker limb (1,34), it seems plausible that

254 performance variables such as jump height or peak power, may not be the most  
255 appropriate choice to monitor in injured athletes (44).

256 Considering all the information above, Figure 1 has been created, which provides a  
257 schematic of some of the metrics the evidence would support for monitoring (in  
258 addition to our anecdotal experiences) for performance profiling, neuromuscular  
259 fatigue monitoring, and injury rehabilitation assessments. As a final point, it is  
260 important to note that this article has focused on kinetic information obtainable from  
261 a force platform. However, especially where assessments are being performed for  
262 profiling during injury rehabilitation, video analysis, and kinematic data will also  
263 likely have their place, given that metrics such as knee valgus have consistently been  
264 shown to be a risk factor for severe knee injuries (44).

265

266 *\*\* Insert Figure 1 about here \*\**

267

## 268 **Considerations for Testing based on Current Evidence**

269 Despite our suggestions in Figure 1, additional factors surrounding the broader  
270 notion of testing and analyzing CMJ data should also be considered, regardless of its  
271 purpose. Firstly, practitioners should be aware that specific verbal instructions are  
272 likely to impact the outcome of each recorded metric. For example, previous  
273 literature has suggested that it can be challenging to obtain maximal force and rate  
274 of force development data during the same trial (33), owing to one of these metrics  
275 being centered around maximal force production and the other focused on the rate  
276 of its production. Although this notion was originally discussed about isometric  
277 strength, any specific verbal cueing would likely impact jump performance, too (45).  
278 For example, in recent years, there has been a growing interest in time-related data,  
279 including metrics such as time to take-off and phase duration appearing in many  
280 studies (7,12,37). The relevance here is that any instructions that encourage the jump

281 to be performed as quickly or ballistically as possible (in addition to jumping as high  
282 as possible) likely have the possibility of impacting time-based data. Therefore, once  
283 practitioners understand why they are using the CMJ, they should align their test  
284 instructions accordingly and remain consistent.

285 Second, practitioners should also be mindful of appropriate terminology during data  
286 analysis. For example, previous research has referred to the “eccentric” and  
287 “concentric” phases of movement during CMJ research (21,23). This would suggest  
288 that muscles are either lengthening or shortening, as defined by two distinct  
289 movement phases. However, it is not possible to determine this from force plate  
290 analysis; thus, more recent suggestions have proposed terminology, such as  
291 “braking” and “propulsive” phases, before take-off (11,38). Naturally, this is  
292 suggested because braking forces can be determined from force-time data, but also  
293 because a CMJ starts with an unweighting phase (38), a passive movement, as  
294 opposed to a conscious eccentric action.

295 Third, when aiming to assess changes in CMJ data, some previous studies reported  
296 measurement error or reliability data (20,21), which should be considered positive.  
297 However, this has often been done in a silo, with the data not linked to the change in  
298 test scores. Consequently, it would be more meaningful to establish whether any  
299 change in a given metric is greater or less than the error in the test (e.g., the  
300 coefficient of variation), which has been conducted in previous literature (5,7) and  
301 would provide a greater layer of depth in data analysis, given measurement error is  
302 likely to vary between populations. Furthermore, practitioners should also be  
303 cognizant of how long it takes metrics to return to baseline or non-fatigued values,  
304 highlighting the importance of test-retest protocols if using the CMJ for  
305 neuromuscular fatigue monitoring purposes.

306 Finally, during injury-based literature which reports asymmetry data, it seems rare  
307 for studies to have statistically quantified the direction of the imbalance. This is  
308 likely down to raw data being presented within the context of one injured limb and

309 one healthy limb; thus, the assumption is that the asymmetry is present for a specific  
310 reason, with the injured limb always having lower capacity or test scores. However,  
311 it's worth acknowledging that much research has been done specifically on the  
312 direction of asymmetry in recent years (3,4,5) and has shown that large fluctuations  
313 in limb dominance can occur between test sessions, even when the magnitude of  
314 asymmetry is greater than 10%. Thus, and as previous literature has suggested  
315 (3,4,5), it is important that practitioners also consider fluctuations in the direction of  
316 asymmetry, as well as any changes in the magnitude value.

317

### 318 **Practical Applications: Determining Real Change at the Group and Individual** 319 **Level**

320 Regardless of why practitioners may use jump testing, and based on previous  
321 suggestions surrounding the importance of measurement error (7,61), it seems  
322 prudent to offer practitioners some guidance on undertaking data analysis to  
323 determine true change. Further to this, given that practitioners are often challenged  
324 to individualize analysis and training when working with large groups of athletes,  
325 this section will outline how true change can be determined at both the group and  
326 individual level.

327 Table 2 shows some example data which provides three different jump metrics being  
328 monitored pre and post-training intervention for 20 athletes. This data is  
329 hypothetical, so the details of any intervention are redundant here. Rather, how the  
330 data is analyzed is useful when working with large squads of athletes. Pre and post-  
331 intervention scores have been reported, accompanied by baseline coefficient of  
332 variation (CV) values for each metric, percentage change, and a Hedges  $g$  ES value  
333 with 95% confidence intervals (CI). So, when analyzing group mean data, it is  
334 important to establish whether any subsequent change in test scores is greater than  
335 the variance or measurement error in the test (CV) (7,61). In doing so, practitioners

336 can be confident that a real change has occurred. Specifically, jump height shows a  
337 2.9% change which is less than the 3.8% CV value; thus, it cannot be considered real.

338 In contrast, time to take-off (TTTO) exhibits a 4.2% CV value, but the percentage  
339 change is greater and can be considered real. This is supported by the larger ES seen  
340 for TTTO compared to jump height. In addition, it is worth noting here that  
341 practitioners can be confident of a significant change in the metric of TTTO because  
342 the confidence interval of the ES does not cross 0 (i.e., both numbers in brackets are  
343 negative – and the same would apply if both had been positive). Finally, RSI\_Mod  
344 exhibits a percentage change greater than the CV; however, the ES value is blunted  
345 compared to TTTO. This is because it is a ratio metric calculated as jump height  
346 divided by TTTO. Simply put, with an ES value of -0.75 for TTTO and 0.15 for jump  
347 height, it stands to reason that the ES for RSI\_Mod is somewhere in-between, given  
348 how it is calculated. This provides a brief overview of how data can be analyzed  
349 when working with groups of athletes; however, results at the group level cannot be  
350 attributed to all individual athletes.

351 Table 3 provides example data for three individual athletes for the metric of jump  
352 height. This time, when aiming to establish true change at the individual level, each  
353 athlete's CV value is used (noting that this is their natural variability) to set a target  
354 score for the post-intervention testing. Step one is to convert the CV % to a decimal  
355 by dividing it by 100 (noting that CV values are typically reported in percentages,  
356 which are relative and computed by multiplying by 100 initially). Once converted to  
357 a decimal, this is added to a value of one and then multiplied by the previously  
358 determined test score (62). The advantage is that each athlete will exhibit their  
359 variation during testing, so any target is then specific to their variability. Table 3  
360 shows that athletes 1 and 3 have shown a test score greater than their target value;  
361 thus, practitioners can be confident that this resultant change is greater than their  
362 own variance in the test. When practitioners are aware of such information, it  
363 enables them to consider the efficacy of their training interventions on an individual

364 level, providing a deeper understanding of which athletes have responded best to  
365 the previous block of training and which ones perhaps require an alternative  
366 stimulus to drive positive adaptation.

367

368 *\*\* Insert Tables 2 and 3 about here \*\**

369

### 370 **Conclusion**

371 In summary, practitioners may wish to consider that the metrics we monitor from  
372 CMJ testing may vary, depending on why we use the test. Specifically, outcome-  
373 orientated metrics such as height, force, and power seem to be strongly associated  
374 with independent measures of strength, linear speed, and change of direction ability  
375 across numerous studies, thus, justifying their inclusion as proxy measurements.  
376 From a neuromuscular fatigue monitoring perspective, time-based metrics such as  
377 RSI\_Mod, time to take-off, and time to peak power appear to be sensitive to  
378 detecting the true change after intense exercise. Finally, if used as part of testing  
379 protocols for injured athletes, outcome measures-based data may still retain  
380 importance; however, landing force and inter-limb asymmetry metrics may be more  
381 effective at highlighting residual deficits in capacity between limbs.

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**Table 1.** Effect size data showcasing the magnitude of change in countermovement jump (CMJ) variables after an acute fatiguing protocol and in response to 19 weeks of structured training. *Note:* Table has been modified from Gathercole et al. (22), and effect size descriptors have been taken directly from the source.

<i>CMJ Metrics</i>	<b>Acute Changes</b>		<b>Chronic Changes</b>	
	<i>Effect Size</i>	<i>Descriptor</i>	<i>Effect Size</i>	<i>Descriptor</i>
Absolute peak power (W)	0.70	Small increase	0.17	Trivial increase
Absolute peak force (N)	-2.15	Large reduction	2.93	Very large increase
Relative peak power (W·kg <sup>-1</sup> )	0.78	Small increase	1.52	Moderate increase
Relative peak force (N·kg <sup>-1</sup> )	-1.25	Moderate reduction	3.23	Very large increase
Peak velocity (m·s <sup>-1</sup> )	0.36	Small increase	0.59	Small increase
Jump height (m)	0.47	Small increase	0.42	Small increase
F-V AUC (N·m·s·kg <sup>-1</sup> )	-1.25	Moderate reduction	4.57	Extremely large increase
Eccentric Duration (s)	1.91	Large increase	-2.80	Very large reduction
Concentric Duration (s)	0.88	Small increase	-1.60	Large reduction
Total Duration (s)	1.90	Large increase	-3.09	Very large reduction

*W = watts; N = Newtons; W·kg<sup>-1</sup> = watts per kilogram; N·kg<sup>-1</sup> = Newtons per kilogram; m·s<sup>-1</sup> = meters per second; m = meters; N·m·s·kg<sup>-1</sup> = Newton meters per second per kilogram; s = seconds.*



## PERFORMANCE PROFILING

**Purpose:** to assess associations with other measures of performance

Metric	What it Assesses
Jump height [cm]	Vertical displacement of the athlete's center of mass
Peak power [W]	Highest rate of doing work during the jump
Mean propulsive force [N]	Mean force produced during ascent
Propulsive impulse [Ns]*	Product of force and time during ascent

Output metrics, including the metrics above, correspond with physical capacities that benefit sport performance, including strength, linear speed, and change-of-direction ability.



## NEUROMUSCULAR FATIGUE

**Purpose:** to detect when neuromuscular fatigue is present

Metric	What it Assesses
Reactive Strength Index (RSI) Modified*	Ratio of output (jump height) to time spent to produce the output (contraction time)
Time to take-off [s]	Total duration from initiation of movement to take-off
Propulsive phase duration [s]	Time spent during ascent (prior to take-off)
Time to peak power [s]*	Amount of time it takes before the greatest amount of power is produced

Time-based metrics, including the metrics above, correspond with acute neuromuscular fatigue (induced by intense physical activity).



## RETURN FROM INJURY

**Purpose:** to assess post-injury progress and preparedness for return to sport

Metric	What it Assesses
Peak propulsive force [N]	Greatest amount of force produced during ascent
Peak landing force [N]	Greatest amount of force produced upon landing from the jump
Landing impulse [Ns]*	Product of force and time during landing from the jump
Asymmetry [%]	Differences in metric outcomes between limbs

Deceleration, landing, and inter-limb asymmetry metrics can differentiate between athletes with and without injuries.

\*Ensure all component parts are concurrently monitored to understand what is driving any changes in data over time



**Note:** It is oftentimes beneficial to evaluate countermovement jump metrics relative to body mass. Above all, the practitioner should be consistent in how they evaluate their data (absolute vs. relative) to appropriately appraise differences between athlete cohorts and changes over time.

**Figure 1.** Schematic overview of possible metrics that practitioners could consider, depending on why the countermovement jump (CMJ) is being used as an assessment method.



**Table 2.** Example mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) data for 20 athletes, with baseline coefficient of variation (CV) for the group, percentage change, and accompanying Hedges  $g$  effect sizes with 95% confidence intervals (CI).

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Mean <math>\pm</math> SD (pre)</b>	<b>Mean <math>\pm</math> SD (post)</b>	<b>CV % (pre)</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b><math>g</math> (95% CI)</b>
Jump Height (cm)	45.5 $\pm$ 8.1	46.8 $\pm$ 9.4	3.8	2.9	0.15 (-0.50, 0.79)
TTTO (s)	0.81 $\pm$ 0.07	0.76 $\pm$ 0.06	4.2	6.2	<b>-0.75 (-1.42, -0.09)</b>
RSI_Mod	0.56 $\pm$ 0.09	0.61 $\pm$ 0.10	7.5	8.9	0.52 (-0.14, 1.17)

*Note: Hedges  $g$  value in bold signifies a statistically significant change ( $p < 0.05$ ).*

*M = meters; s = seconds; TTTO = time to take-off; RSI\_Mod = reactive strength index modified.*

**Table 3.** Example mean jump height data for three individual athletes after a 6-week training intervention, with baseline coefficient of variation (CV) used to set individual target scores, enabling meaningful change to be established at the individual level.

<b>Athlete No.</b>	<b>Jump Height (pre)</b>	<b>CV % (pre)</b>	<b>Target Calculation</b>	<b>Target Score</b>	<b>Jump Height (post)</b>
Athlete 1	42.0	4.1	$42.0 \times 1.041$	43.7	<b>44.4</b>
Athlete 2	38.5	6.6	$38.5 \times 1.066$	41.0	39.0
Athlete 3	44.6	3.1	$44.6 \times 1.031$	46.0	<b>46.6</b>

*Note: jump height is reported in meters. Additionally, although jump height is used here, the same process can be undertaken for any metric of interest.*