





Paralympic Committee



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# The Acute Physiological and Metabolic Responses of Individuals with Cerebral Palsy to RaceRunning Training



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#### PHYSIOLOGY OF RACERUNNING

#### What is RaceRunning?









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### Driver #2: Furthering Knowledge on "Physiological Safety"

#### Limited research....

*European Journal of Adapted Physical Activity, 3(1), 7–17* © *European Federation of Adapted Physical Activity, 2010* 

#### KINESIOLOGIC AND METABOLIC RESPONSES OF PERSONS WITH CEREBRAL PALSY TO SUSTAINED EXERCISE ON A PETRA RACE RUNNER

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"...heart rate rose immediately to high levels, and was sustained at this level through the test. Blood lactate concentration increased in a curvilinear pattern, but was subject to much inter-individual difference."

"Some people with CP will find [RaceRunning] at any speed to be a high intensity activity, and thus it is not suitable for aerobic conditioning."



# Driver #3: Supporting the Development of RaceRunning as a Sport and Recreation



#### Evidenced-based recognition for use by promotional/governing bodies



# **Our Questions**

- 1. What are the movement, cardio-respiratory and metabolic responses to typical RaceRunning training in experienced RaceRunning athletes?
- 2. What are the movement and heart rate demands observed during RaceRunning competition in experienced RaceRunning athletes?
- 3. What are the sub-maximal and maximal cardio-respiratory and blood lactate responses to a novel incremental field-based test in experienced RaceRunning athletes?



# Methods

- Five participants (age 18 ± 4 years, RR experience 5 ± 1 years, Gross Motor Function Classification Score 3.6 ± 0.9).
- Three habitual training sessions:

1) 2 mile run + 2 x 100 m sprints (1 - 4)

2) 6 x 200m sprints (2 - 5)

3) 5 x 100m sprints (1)

- Heart rate (HR) measured 5 min pre-training, during, and 10 min post-training to determine resting HR and percentage of predicted HR maximum (%HRmax) defined as 194bpm (4).
- GPS derived movement demands.
- Expired gas analysis before and after session 3 to determine resting metabolic parameters before and after to training.







#### PHYSIOLOGY OF RACERUNNING



Time point



# Summary

RaceRunning appears to provide an opportunity for individuals with CP to perform activities at a sufficient intensity to promote health and fitness adaptations.

Additional work is required to further quantify the physiological and movement demands of RaceRunning athletes to training and competition, and characterise these demands relative to individual physiological capacity.



#### PHYSIOLOGY OF RACERUNNING

## **Moving Forwards**



Physiological and GPS data collected from 36 international RaceRunners (including World-Record performances!)









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