

# GERMAN JOURNAL OF SPORTSMEDICINE

*Deutsche Zeitschrift für Sportmedizin*

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[www.zeitschrift-sportmedizin.de](http://www.zeitschrift-sportmedizin.de)

## Editorial Policies

### Who We Are

Founded in 1924, the German Journal of Sports Medicine is one of the oldest journals in the field in Europe. Its readership includes physicians, physiologists, sports scientists, physiotherapists, coaches, sports managers, and athletes.

The journal provides open online access to its scientific content and serves as a platform for professional and interdisciplinary communication.

### What We Do

The journal focuses on translational research and clinical practice in sports medicine, including prevention, diagnosis, therapy, rehabilitation, and training.

It also addresses broader aspects of sports science, such as physiology, biomechanics, and the impact of physical activity and inactivity on health and disease across all age groups.

### Scope and Coverage

The Deutsche Zeitschrift für Sportmedizin – German Journal of Sports Medicine publishes high-quality, peer-reviewed research in sports medicine and related disciplines.

The journal examines the effects of exercise, training, sports participation, and physical inactivity on health, disease prevention, clinical management, rehabilitation, and performance across the lifespan.

#### Core Areas Include:

- Prevention, screening, and risk assessment
- Diagnosis and evaluation of sports- and exercise-related conditions
- Therapeutic interventions and rehabilitation strategies
- Training, exercise physiology, and performance optimization
- Sports cardiology, orthopaedics, and injury management
- Sports psychology and mental health
- Sports nutrition and metabolism
- Environmental influences on sports and exercise

#### Article Types/ The journal publishes:

- Original research
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
- Clinical trials
- Case reports
- Conceptual studies

Manuscripts may address biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, or interdisciplinary aspects of sports medicine, including social, cultural, and behavioral factors.

Contributions are expected to be evidence-based, clinically relevant, and methodologically rigorous.

## Target Audience

Physicians, sports scientists, physiotherapists, coaches, sports managers, and other professionals involved in research, practice, and promotion of sports and exercise health.

## Publication Frequency

The journal is published seven times per year and offers both print editions and full-text online access (PDF and HTML).

## Quality of Content: Principles of Good Scientific Practice

The journal adheres to the standards of the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\)](#), including the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#) (January 2026 update).

To ensure transparent and complete reporting, the journal follows the [STROBE initiative \(Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology\)](#), including its [checklists](#) for cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional studies.

All submitted research must comply with fundamental scientific principles:

- Conducting research *lege artis*
- Following established protocols
- Systematic documentation and data storage
- Critical evaluation of results
- Verifiability of manuscripts
- Proper acknowledgment of prior work
- Shared responsibility among all authors

Authors must provide original data upon request.

## Scientific Integrity

The journal strictly opposes scientific misconduct, including:

- Plagiarism
- Misappropriation of intellectual property
- Undeserved authorship
- Sabotage of research
- Tolerance of unethical behavior

Academic position does not justify independent authorship.

## Ethical Principles

### **.NEW. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

*In alignment with the 2025 policy decision and guidelines of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), GJSM permits the use of AI tools under clearly defined conditions.*

#### *1. General Principle*

*AI tools may only be used in a supportive capacity. Full responsibility remains with authors and reviewers.*

#### *2. Requirements for Authors*

*Authors must:*

- *Use AI only for support (e.g., language editing, structuring)*

- *Not use AI for generating scientific content (e.g., Introduction, Discussion, References)*
- *Disclose AI use in the manuscript*
- *Retain full responsibility for accuracy and integrity*
- *Comply with data protection, copyright, and research integrity standards*
- *Not list AI tools as authors*

### **3. Requirements for Reviewers**

*Reviewers must ensure:*

*Confidentiality:*

*No upload of manuscripts into public AI tools*

*Transparency:*

*Disclosure of AI use*

*Quality Assurance:*

*Critical verification of AI-supported content*

*Responsibility:*

*Full accountability remains with the reviewer*

### **4. Legal and Ethical Considerations**

*AI use must comply with:*

- *GDPR / DSGVO*
- *Copyright law*
- *European AI regulations*

*Risks include:*

- *Bias (e.g., automation bias)*
- *Lack of transparency*
- *Potential inaccuracies ("hallucinations")*

### **5. Implementation**

*The journal may require:*

- *Mandatory disclosure statements*
- *Additional documentation*

*References*

1. Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). *Artificial Intelligence in the Review Process. Information for Researchers No. 18.*

<https://www.dfg.de/en/news/news-topics/announcements-proposals/2026/ifr-26-18> . Accessed March 23, 2026.

2. Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. *Guideline on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Review Process (DFG form 4.04 – 03/26).* <https://www.dfg.de/resource/blob/390262/4-04-en.pdf> . Accessed March 23, 2026.

3. Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. *AI in the Review Process. DFG – Basics and Topics, Artificial Intelligence.*

<https://www.dfg.de/en/basics-topics/digital-topics/ai/review#389620> . Accessed March 23, 2026.

### **Ethical Standards in Sports Medicine**

**All authors must comply with doping-free sport principles as defined by:**

- [German Olympic Association for Sports \(DOSB\)](#)
- [DOSB's Anti-Doping section](#)
- [World Anti-Doping Agency \(WADA\)](#)
- [International Olympic Committee \(IOC\)](#)

Research must follow the [Declaration of Helsinki](#), ensuring:

- Respect for participants
- Voluntary informed consent
- Protection of rights and autonomy

Authors must verify requirements for:

- [Institutional Review Board \(IRB\) approval](#)
- [PROSPERO](#) registration (for systematic reviews)

### **Conflict of Interest**

Authors must disclose all financial and non-financial conflicts of interest.

The corresponding author confirms that all co-authors agree to these principles.

### **Human and Animal Research**

#### **Human Research**

- Participation must be voluntary
- Full study information must be provided
- Participants may withdraw at any time
- Consent must be documented (preferably written)
- Participants should have access to general results

#### **Animal Research**

Must comply with all applicable legal and ethical standards.

### **Quality of Editorial Work – Editorial Process**

The editorial process ensures:

- Scientific excellence
- Relevance for clinical practice
- Evidence-based and comprehensible communication

### **Peer Review**

#### **Principles**

Peer review ensures:

- Scientific validity
- Relevance
- Editorial quality

It provides constructive feedback while maintaining fairness, confidentiality, and integrity.

#### **Process**

1. Electronic submission only

2. Initial editorial screening
3. Review by two independent blinded reviewers
4. Confidential evaluation
5. Decision: accept, revise, or reject
6. Transparent revision process
7. Continuous review until final decision
8. Full documentation via Editorial Manager
9. Archiving for ten years

### **In-House Peer Review**

- External review for editor-authored papers
- Strict conflict-of-interest management
- Independent editorial oversight
- Full transparency and documentation

### **Management of Comments, Errata, and Retractions**

The journal follows [ICMJE](#) and [COPE](#) guidelines.

- Letters to the editor are encouraged
- Errors corrected via errata
- Serious concerns may lead to retraction
- Retractions are publicly documented

### **Submission Guidelines**

- Full author guidelines and previous issues are available on the [GJSM website](#)
- Language: American English
- Submission via [Editorial Manager](#)
- AI: allowed only for support, not content generation
- Special issues follow standard peer review
- Manuscripts edited for clarity and style

### **Ethical Image Use**

- Respect personal rights
- Written consent required for identifiable individuals

### **Open Access Policy**

The journal follows the [Budapest Open Access Initiative](#):

- Free access to all content
- No submission or processing fees

### **Licensing**

Published under [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#):

- Authors retain copyright
- Content may be shared and adapted for non-commercial use
- Proper attribution required
- Same license must be applied
- Commercial use requires written permission