# 28th ECSS Anniversary Congress, Paris/France, 4-7 July 2023

Individualized low-intensity jogging within recovery zone 1 increases the ability of energetic recovery in professional soccer players

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#### INTRODUCTION:

This study aimed to investigate whether individualized low-intensity jogging (ILIJ) within the recovery zone 1 (RZ1) before lactate threshold 1 (LT 1) increases energetic recovery and general endurance capacity (zones 1, 2, and 3) in Korean professional soccer players.

## **METHODS:**

Twenty-four professional soccer players in the Korea professional Football League (n = 24, age:  $24.53 \pm 4.85$  years, height:  $180 \pm 6.30$  cm, body mass:  $75.86 \pm 8.01$  kg, body fat:  $12.19 \pm 2.69\%$ ) participated in the study. During a free season, the 1-h ILIJ intervention involved 27 sessions spanning nine weeks and jogging speed corresponding to 72% of LT 1 ( $7.15 \pm 0.95$  km·h-1). Pre- and post-LT testing parameters determined within 9 weeks included blood lactate concentrations (La-) and heart rate (HR) at certain exercise intensities during LT test. The jogging/running speeds (S), delta ( ) S, HR, and HR were analyzed at 1.5, 2.0, 3.0, and 4.0 mmol·L-1 La-, respectively.

### **RESULTS:**

Levels of La– and HR at the same exercise intensities  $(5.4-16.2 \text{ km}\cdot\text{h}-1)$  in the post-LT test compared with pre-LT test were significantly reduced (P < 0.05 and P < 0.01, respectively). Moreover, S at all specific La– levels (1.5, 2.0, 3.0, and 4.0) were significantly increased, while HR at 2.0, 3.0, and 4.0 La– decreased significantly (P < 0.05 and P < 0.01, respectively). Low to moderate positive associations were found between S and HR at 1.5 and 2.0 La– (r = 0.52; R2 = 0.27 and r = 0.40; R2 = 0.16, respectively).

## **CONCLUSION:**

The nine-week ILIJ within RZ1 increased energetic recovery and general lactate exponential curve (rightward shift) in professional soccer players. This effect relates to repeated high-intensity intermittent sprints during the 90-min soccer game.

Topic: Training and Testing

Presentation Oral

**European Database of Sport Science (EDSS)** 

34025