

- 1 **Accuracy and reliability of GPS devices for measurement of sports-**
- 2 **specific movement patterns related to cricket, tennis and field-based**
- 3 **team sports.**

**4 ABSTRACT**

5 The aim of this study was to determine the accuracy and reliability of 5, 10 and 15  
6 Hz global positioning system (GPS) devices. Two male subjects (age:  $25.5 \pm 0.7$  yr;  
7 height:  $1.75 \pm 0.01$  m; body mass:  $74 \pm 5.7$  kg) completed ten repetitions of drills  
8 replicating movements typical of tennis, cricket and field-based (football) sports. All  
9 movements were completed wearing two 5 Hz and 10 Hz MinimaxX and two GPS-  
10 Sports 15 Hz GPS devices in a specially designed harness. Criterion movement data  
11 for distance and speed was provided from a 22-camera VICON system sampling at  
12 100 Hz. Accuracy was determined using one-way analysis of variance with Tukey's  
13 post-hoc tests. Inter-unit reliability was determined using intra-class correlation (ICC)  
14 and typical error was estimated as coefficient of variation (CV). Overall, for the  
15 majority of distance and speed measures as measured using the 5, 10 and 15 Hz  
16 GPS devices, were not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$ ) to the VICON data.  
17 Additionally, no improvements in the accuracy or reliability of GPS devices were  
18 observed with an increase in the sampling rate. However, the CV for the 5 and 15 Hz  
19 devices for distance and speed measures ranged between 3-33%, with increasing  
20 variability evident in higher speed zones. The majority of ICC measures possessed a  
21 low level of inter-unit reliability ( $r = -0.35$ – $-0.39$ ). Based on these results, practitioners  
22 of these devices should be aware that measurements of distance and speed may be  
23 consistently underestimated, regardless of the movements performed.

24

25 **KEY WORDS:** validity, movement patterns, movement analysis

26

## 27 INTRODUCTION

28 An increased interest in quantifying the physical demands of training and competition  
29 has developed across a range of sports (6, 7, 10, 15). Advancements in technology  
30 have led to the introduction of global positioning system (GPS) devices, which have  
31 allowed the concurrent analysis of movement patterns of numerous players to be  
32 completed on a routine basis (13). Previously, research has attempted to ensure  
33 GPS technology is an accurate and reliable tool for measuring movement patterns;  
34 however, this often has been limited to straight line and generic movement protocols  
35 rather than unstructured movements typical in sport (1, 12). As the interpretation of  
36 training or match-based GPS data is based on an understanding of the accuracy of  
37 the devices used, these previous studies may not provide appropriate understanding  
38 of GPS accuracy for unstructured, random movements typical of many team sports.

39  
40 Originally, GPS technology recorded at 1 Hz, which demonstrated limited accuracy  
41 for measuring intermittent, multidirectional and fast movements (7, 20). Research  
42 has also demonstrated that when sampling at 5 Hz, GPS technology provides an  
43 improved and acceptable level of accuracy and reliability for measures of total  
44 distance (Coefficient of variation (CV): 2.3-9.8%; intra-class correlation (ICC): 0.17-  
45 0.38) (3, 5). In contrast, the same 5 Hz GPS technology has been reported to have  
46 lower accuracy and reliability (CV: 0.5-39.5%; ICC: -0.06-0.87) for high-velocity  
47 movements or with inclusion of changes of direction typical of court- and field-based  
48 team sports when compared to devices of a lower sampling rate over a criterion  
49 distance (3, 5, 12). More recently, further technology with increased sampling  
50 frequency (10-15 Hz) has become available (2). As yet, few studies report the

51 reliability and accuracy of the newer versions of GPS technology, particularly in non-  
52 linear sport-specific movement patterns (2).

53

54 To date the majority of data reporting on the quality of GPS technology has focused  
55 on the reliability of the systems (3, 7, 12, 16), or have used straight-line drills for  
56 criterion distance measures to determine accuracy (12, 18). However, only one data  
57 set has determined the accuracy of GPS technology for movements typical of sport,  
58 particularly unstructured movements that typify training and competition (5). Duffield  
59 et al. (5) reported that in comparison to a high-resolution camera system (VICON  
60 system sampling at 100 Hz) both 1 Hz and 5 Hz GPS units underestimated the total  
61 distance and speed of specific court-based sport movements. It is therefore possible,  
62 that the accuracy of GPS technology is limited by the sampling rate at which they  
63 measure. Previous data from Jennings et al. (12) demonstrated that accuracy of the  
64 measurements was improved for team sport activities due to an increase in sampling  
65 frequency (from 1 Hz to 5 Hz), regardless of distance travelled or speed reached;  
66 though these data were still collected from straight-line or simple change of direction  
67 movements and without a valid criterion measure of distance or speed.

68

69 A growing number of studies have used GPS devices to report on the movement  
70 patterns of athletes during both match-play and training activities (4, 9, 15, 19).  
71 Despite the body of literature on GPS validity (1, 3, 5, 12, 14), there is little similarity  
72 between the unstructured, random movement patterns often present in field-based  
73 data and the linear and structured movements used in GPS validity studies.  
74 Accordingly, a more comprehensive understanding of the accuracy of the GPS  
75 devices used for these movement patterns is required, particularly with higher

76 sampling frequency technology (12). Therefore, the aim of this research was to  
77 determine the reliability and accuracy of 5 Hz and 10 Hz MinimaxX as well as 15 Hz  
78 SPI GPS systems during straight line running, multi-direction movement patterns,  
79 and unstructured movements typical of court- and field-based team sports. It was  
80 hypothesized that there would be a reduced accuracy of the GPS technology when  
81 compared to VICON. However, it was also hypothesized that both the accuracy and  
82 reliability of the GPS technology would be improved with an increase in sampling  
83 frequency.

84

## 85 **METHODS**

### 86 ***Experimental Approach to the Problem***

87 Currently, it is unclear whether the accuracy and reliability of GPS devices is  
88 improved with an increase in sampling frequency during movements more  
89 representative of those performed in the field. To test the hypothesis this  
90 study compared the accuracy and reliability of three varieties of GPS devices  
91 with varying sampling rates (5, 10 and 15 Hz) to that of a criterion measure  
92 VICON motion analysis system (100 Hz). Ten repetitions of 10 respective  
93 drills typical of court- and field-based sports (cricket, tennis and football) were  
94 completed whilst concurrently wearing GPS devices to ensure simultaneous  
95 VICON and GPS measurements. The same subject completed all 10  
96 repetitions of each drill to eliminate between-subject variability, although the  
97 subject themselves were inconsequential to the process as the respective  
98 individual movements were time aligned and treated as discrete trials.

99

### 100 ***Subjects***

101 Two moderately trained males (age:  $25.5 \pm 0.7$  yr; height:  $1.75 \pm 0.01$  m; body  
102 mass:  $74.0 \pm 5.7$  kg) participated in the study. Both subjects provided written  
103 informed consent prior to undertaking the testing session. The Ethics  
104 Committee of the University of Newcastle granted approval for the study.

105

### 106 ***Procedures***

107 One subject completed all data collection for drills which replicated movement  
108 patterns typical of tennis and cricket, with the second subject completing drills  
109 typical of field-based team sports (FBTS). This was to ensure residual fatigue

110 from repeated efforts did not result in slower movement velocities that would  
111 not appropriately replicate higher velocities. All testing was performed on a  
112 plexicushion outdoor court at the Australian Institute of Sport. During data  
113 collection, the subjects wore two 5 Hz (MinimaxX Team Sport v2.5, firmware:  
114 v6.59) and two 10 Hz (MinimaxX S4, firmware: v6.72) (MinimaxX, Catapult  
115 Innovations, Melbourne, Australia), and two 15 Hz (SPI Pro X, GPSports  
116 Systems, Canberra, Australia) GPS devices in a customised harness. Each  
117 device was housed in a separate pocket across each subjects back, spaced  
118 at least 6 cm apart, with the antenna of each unit exposed to allow a clear  
119 satellite reception. All devices were activated 15 minutes prior to data  
120 collection in a clear open area to allow the acquisition of satellite signals. Data  
121 collection occurred at night, with an 'open' sky present at all times and  
122 minimal environmental lighting. Each device ran continuously across the  
123 entire testing period.

124

125 Furthermore, during the testing period, a 22 camera VICON motion analysis  
126 system (Oxford Metrics, Oxford, UK) operating at 100 Hz was used to  
127 determine criterion movement distance and speed data during each drill. The  
128 three-dimensional (3D) position of a single reflective marker attached to the  
129 centre of the GPS carrying harness was tracked during each drill. Relevant  
130 static and dynamic calibration was undertaken to accurately determine the 3D  
131 space in which the simulation drills were completed. The VICON system was  
132 calibrated to an accuracy of less than 1 pixel for each camera, with camera  
133 resolutions of 12 megapixels, representing an error of 0.0008% (8). For the

134 purpose of analysis, the duration (s) of each drill repetition was calculated  
135 from the VICON data and used in the GPS data analysis.

136

137 Following the testing session, each device was downloaded to the customised  
138 software specific to each GPS model (MinimaxX: Logan Plus 4.6.0, Catapult  
139 Innovations, Melbourne, Australia; SPI: Team AMS 5.1, GPSports Systems,  
140 Canberra, Australia). Distance and mean and peak speeds were calculated  
141 *post hoc* for each respective drill repetition. Measures collated from respective  
142 GPS devices were synchronised using GPS time. The duration of each  
143 movement was matched to that of the collected VICON data prior to statistical  
144 analysis. Initially each repetition was identified using the functioning 10 Hz unit  
145 and standardised across all other GPS devices. The highest speed value  
146 using this method was classified as peak speed, while mean speed was  
147 calculated from each repetition of each drill. During post hoc analysis it was  
148 apparent that one 10 Hz MinimaxX unit technically malfunctioned and was  
149 therefore removed from all analysis. The accuracy but not reliability of the  
150 remaining 10 Hz unit was calculated and reported.

151

#### 152 *Movement Protocols*

153 Ten repetitions of each of the 4 respective court-based sports drills and 6  
154 respective field-based sports drills were completed. As outlined above, one  
155 participant completed all repetitions of the court-based and cricket-based  
156 drills, whilst the second participant completed all FBTS drills.

157

#### 158 *Court-Based Sports*

159 The court based sports protocol as reported by Duffield et al. (5) was used to  
160 replicate the movement demands of tennis and consisted of:

161 (1) a 2 m side-to-side movement pattern from the centre line of the baseline of  
162 the tennis court;

163 (2) a 4 m side-to-side movement pattern from the same position in the  
164 previous drill;

165 (3) a run in a rectangle pattern around the lines of the baseline, singles  
166 sideline and service line of a standard tennis court and;

167 (4) a 10 s random movement pattern around the baseline which replicated  
168 tennis match-play movements.

169

#### 170 *Field-Based Sports*

##### 171 *Cricket Protocol*

172 (1) The batting protocol consisted of a typical run-a-three test (16). Due to  
173 space restrictions the length of the simulated pitch was restricted to 16 m  
174 instead of 17.68 m.

175 (2) The bowling protocol consisted of 15 m straight line run. The 15 m was  
176 separated into 5 m of jogging followed by 10 m of high acceleration. The  
177 subject then stopped sharply on a marked spot to replicate the start of a  
178 bowling delivery.

179 (3) The fielding protocol was based upon previously published cricket  
180 movement patterns (15). The protocol consisted of three discrete activities:

181 (a) walk 3 m, split step, sprint forward 5 m and then walk back to the  
182 start;

183 (b) walk 3 m, split step, sprint right perpendicularly 5 m and then walk  
184 back to the start;

185 (c) walk 3 m, split step, sprint backward on right hand side on 45°  
186 angle 5 m and then walk back to the start (Figure 1a).

187 Completion of the three fielding directions in succession (forwards,  
188 perpendicular, backwards, respectively) counted as one repetition.

189

190 **\*\*\* INSERT FIGURE 1 ABOUT HERE\*\*\***

191

### 192 *Field-Based Team Sports*

193 The FBTS protocol was similar to that used in Jennings et al. (12) and  
194 consisted of:

195 (1) 40 m efforts with seven 90° changes of direction (COD), turning 180° after  
196 20 m and returning to the starting position at sprinting speeds (Figure 1b);

197 (2) 21 m efforts with seven 45° COD at sprinting speeds (Figure 1c) and;

198 (3) Further, a 10 s random movement pattern which replicated FBTS match-  
199 play movements i.e. forward and backward motion, side-stepping and  
200 random change in directions.

201

### 202 ***Statistical Analysis***

203 Data is reported as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD). Data (individual  
204 variables within each trial e.g. distance, mean speed, peak speed) not within  
205 two SD of the mean for each separate movement was considered an outlier  
206 and removed prior to data analysis. The difference between each  
207 measurement device for distance and speed within each simulation was  
208 analysed using a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with Tukey's post

209 hoc tests ( $p < 0.05$ ). Intra-class correlation (ICC) were used to assess inter-unit  
210 reliability, whilst typical error was expressed as a coefficient of variation  
211 (CV). Statistical analyses were performed using the software package IBM  
212 SPSS (version 19, IBM Corporation, Somers, New York, USA) and a  
213 customised spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel 2003<sup>®</sup> (Microsoft, Redmond, USA)  
214 (11).

## 215 **RESULTS**

### 216 *GPS Signal Quality*

217 The quality of the signal received by the GPS devices was assessed prior to  
218 determining the reliability and accuracy of the devices. A combined horizontal  
219 dilution of position (HDOP) for both 5 Hz MinimaxX devices was  $1.5 \pm 0.4$  and  
220  $1.0 \pm 0.2$  for the 10 Hz device. The HDOP was not reported by the  
221 manufacturer software of the 15 Hz devices. The mean number of satellites  
222 acquired for the 5 Hz, 10 Hz and 15 Hz GPS devices were  $8 \pm 1$ ,  $11 \pm 1$  and  $8$   
223  $\pm 1$ , respectively.

224

### 225 *Measures of Accuracy*

#### 226 *Court-Based Sports*

227 Table 1 shows the total distance covered and mean and peak speeds for each  
228 device during each court based movement. During the majority of court-  
229 based movements the distances measured using the GPS devices were not  
230 significantly different ( $p>0.05$ ) to that as measured by VICON. Similarly, the  
231 mean and peak speed as measured using the GPS devices were not  
232 significantly different ( $p>0.05$ ) to VICON. Regardless of sampling rate, no  
233 GPS device reported a more accurate ( $p<0.05$ ) measure for the distances  
234 covered or speeds achieved. As evidence, Figure 2 shows a representative  
235 trace of the measurement of distance and mean speed during a random  
236 movement tennis drill. Furthermore, as presented in Figure 1 and Table 2, the  
237 variability in the distance covered and speed reached during court-based  
238 movements between devices suggests no one GPS device was more  
239 accurate in the measurement of distance or speed compared to VICON.

240 **\*\*\*INSERT TABLE 1 ABOUT HERE\*\*\***

241 **\*\*\*INSERT FIGURE 2 ABOUT HERE\*\*\***

242

### 243 *Field-Based Team Sports*

244 Table 2 shows the total distance covered and mean and peak speeds for each  
245 device during each cricket- and field-based team sport drills. Similar to court  
246 simulated movements, the majority of GPS devices, were not significantly  
247 different ( $p>0.05$ ) to the VICON measures. Similar mean and peak speeds  
248 were also evident between most GPS devices and VICON for measures of  
249 mean speed and peak speed ( $p>0.05$ ). As with the court-based movements,  
250 and regardless of sampling frequency, no particular GPS device could be  
251 considered to be of greater accuracy than the others.. As discussed below, an  
252 example of the variability in the distance covered and speeds reached during  
253 cricket (fast bowling) and FBTS (90° COD drills) movements is presented in  
254 Figures 2b and 2c.

255 **\*\*\*INSERT TABLE 2 ABOUT HERE\*\*\***

256

### 257 *Measures of Reliability*

258 Table 3 shows the ICC and CV for the 5 Hz and 15 Hz GPS devices for both  
259 court-based and field-based sports drills. Intra-class correlation analysis  
260 values for all drills for the 5 and 15 Hz devices ranged from -0.50 to 0.86 and  
261 CV ranged between 3 to 33% for each drill for the 5 and 15 Hz devices.  
262 Specifically, ICC values were between  $r= -0.41$  to 0.86 for both devices during  
263 the tennis drills, whereas during the cricket and field-based sports drills ICC  
264 ranged from  $r= -0.50$  to 0.55 and -0.14 to 0.73, respectively. The CV for the 5

265 Hz and 15 Hz devices ranged from 3.5 to 32.9%, 5.5 to 27.1% and 6.2 to  
266 33.4% for the tennis, cricket and FBTS drills, respectively.

267

268

**\*\*\*INSERT TABLE 3 ABOUT HERE\*\*\***

269 **DISCUSSION**

270 The purpose of this current research was to determine the accuracy and  
271 reliability of GPS devices sampling at various frequencies (5, 10 and 15 Hz)  
272 compared to a criterion measure (VICON) during simulated court-based and  
273 FBTS movements. The current data demonstrates that the increase in the  
274 sampling frequency of GPS technology did not provide any significant  
275 improvement in the accuracy of distance and speed measures during  
276 simulated court-based and FBTS movements. Similarly, past research has  
277 reported that GPS devices sampling at a rate of either 1 or 5 Hz underreport  
278 distance and speed compared to VICON during court-based movements (5).  
279 Furthermore, during repetitive and unstructured movements simulating court-  
280 based and field-based sports, GPS measures of distance and speed were  
281 similar to criterion measures (VICON). Despite this, current evidence suggests  
282 that GPS devices possess an acceptable level of accuracy and reliability  
283 when measuring moderate to longer distances whilst running at slow to  
284 moderate speeds (16). However, measures of both reliability and accuracy  
285 appear largely reduced when travelling at higher speeds over short distances  
286 (3, 5, 12). In agreement, the current study highlights a low to moderate level  
287 of reliability of the GPS devices regardless of the sampling rate or the  
288 movement performed.

289

290 *Total Distance*

291 The current findings indicate that the total distance measures from the various  
292 GPS devices were not significantly different to that of the criterion measure  
293 provided from the VICON camera system. Previous comparisons to VICON

294 data demonstrated that GPS devices consistently produce lower distance  
295 values. Duffield et al. (5) reported that during movements typical of tennis, 1  
296 and 5 Hz GPS devices underreported the distance covered by as much as  
297 38%. Although not significantly different the results of the current study  
298 suggest that GPS devices may underreport distance measures, which affect  
299 the practical interpretation of the data. As an example, during the half-court  
300 drill, the distance measured using 10 and 15 Hz devices differed to VICON by  
301 13 and 14%, respectively. This is further highlighted within Figure 2, which  
302 shows total distance was underreported for the majority of GPS devices  
303 during each drill presented. Previous research has suggested that during  
304 short sprints involving high accelerations, GPS systems show reduced  
305 accuracy compared to longer sprints or slower speeds, which may account for  
306 this overestimation (12). The present results also highlight that during  
307 unstructured movements typical of match play, all three models of GPS  
308 devices underreported the total distance covered (10-28%) when compared to  
309 VICON during random, unstructured court-based and FBTS drills. Therefore,  
310 practitioners using GPS devices should be aware of the resultant  
311 underreporting of measures of external load i.e. total distance during  
312 unstructured movements in field-based scenarios, and that this may not be  
313 altered due to increased sampling rates, as has been previously reported (5).

314

### 315 *Mean and Peak Speed*

316 As reported earlier for the measures of total distance, similar outcomes for  
317 mean and peak speed were evident from GPS devices compared to VICON.  
318 However, there was evidence suggesting the GPS devices underreported

319 measures of mean and peak speed despite not being statistically significant.  
320 These results are similar to that of previous research (5), whereby mean and  
321 peak speed measured using GPS technology during sport-specific  
322 movements were consistently lower than that of the criterion VICON measure.  
323 As highlighted by Figure 2, mean and peak speed during unstructured  
324 movements typical of court-based and FBTS were underestimated by the  
325 GPS devices in comparison to VICON, regardless of the sampling rate.  
326 Hence, regardless of the sport or sampling frequency, practitioners should  
327 note that regular non-linear motions as noted in most sports may increase  
328 GPS error. Further, as with total distance covered, there was evidence of GPS  
329 devices underreporting compared to VICON despite not being statistically  
330 significant for measures of both mean (13-29% difference) and peak speed  
331 (14-29% difference) depending on the drill performed. As such, the use of  
332 GPS devices to measure speed during sport-specific movements was not  
333 significantly different to a criterion measure, but should be still interpreted with  
334 caution in field-based settings given the underreporting reported in earlier  
335 research (5) and was evident here.

336

### 337 *Reliability of GPS Devices*

338 When compared to the 5 Hz devices, the inter-unit CV for the distance  
339 covered and mean and peak speed were greater than that in devices with a  
340 higher sampling rate. In the current data, the higher CV in the 5 Hz units may  
341 be explained by the lower sampling frequency which led to fewer data points  
342 being captured by the lower frequency devices (refer to Figure 2), possibly  
343 resulting in a higher proportion of movement not being reported in the lower

344 sensitivity devices. The reported inter-unit CV for the measures included in the  
345 present data also differed to previously published data for similar movements  
346 (5, 12, 16). Regardless of the shorter distance used in the current study and a  
347 higher sampling rate, Petersen et al. (16) reported a smaller measure of error  
348 when performing the run-a-3 drill using 1 and 5 Hz GPS devices. Similar  
349 discrepancies can be observed between the 5 and 15 Hz devices in the  
350 current study, as a greater inter-unit CV was evident during the 90° COD  
351 (gradual) and 45° COD (tight) compared to the data published by Jennings et  
352 al. (12) (gradual COD: 1 Hz: 10.7%; 5 Hz: 7.9%; tight COD: 1 Hz: 12.0%; 5  
353 Hz: 9.2%). Similar to the court-based drills, the CV was higher when  
354 performing the FBTS movements within the 15 Hz devices. However, this  
355 trend was not repeated upon observation of the inter-unit reliability with a  
356 greater ICC being reported for almost half of the distance and speed  
357 measures for the 5 Hz devices during the FBTS drills. In particular, total  
358 distance as well as mean and peak speeds during the fielding drill were  
359 greater when using the lower frequency devices. Importantly, very few of the  
360 measures displayed an ICC value that could be classified as moderately  
361 reliable, regardless of sampling frequency. This finding lends itself to the  
362 previous finding that the inter-unit reliability of GPS devices may be poor for  
363 movements associated with field sports (3).

364

365 Previous research has demonstrated that the accuracy of GPS is influenced  
366 by the nature of the movements performed (5, 12). In particular Duffield et al.  
367 (5) reported that the mean and peak speed of movements similar to those  
368 performed during a typical tennis match were underestimated by 1 and 5 Hz

369 GPS devices. The current study made similar observations not only during  
370 court-based movements, but also those typical of FBTS. The results of this  
371 study show the accuracy of the GPS technology for distance and speed  
372 measures was not improved with an increase in sampling rate regardless of  
373 the movements performed, which is in contrast to the findings of previous  
374 research (5, 12). It was hypothesized that a greater resolution would result in  
375 improved accuracy for determining distance and speed measures, especially  
376 during movements such as the 45° COD and the fielding drills. Based on  
377 previous suggestions (5, 12) it was assumed that this improvement would be  
378 due to an increased number of data points captured with the increase in GPS  
379 sampling frequency. However, the results of the current study do not support  
380 this hypothesis.

381

382 It should be noted that these reported findings of the study might be subject to  
383 several limitations. Firstly, the quality of the GPS signal may have influenced  
384 the data quality. Importantly, HDOP is the main quality indicator of the GPS  
385 signal quality, and values greater than 1 may indicate a poor quality signal. As  
386 such, the mean HDOP in the current study were  $1.5 \pm 0.4$  and  $1.0 \pm 0.2$  for the  
387 5 and 10 Hz devices, respectively. However, these figures are similar to that  
388 reported in previous studies (5, 12) where increases in the sampling rate  
389 improved GPS reliability. Of particular interest, the 10 Hz units in the current  
390 study acquired a greater number of satellites than both the 5 and 15 Hz  
391 devices. Based on this evidence it is unlikely that any unexpected results in  
392 this investigation were due to a poor HDOP or too few a number of acquired  
393 satellites. Data quality may also have been compromised by the placement of

394 the devices within the custom harness; however it would be surprising if the  
395 quality of the GPS data were compromised with no changes in the highlighted  
396 quality indicators. Further, customised harnesses as worn in the current study  
397 and specialised equipment are common practice within GPS reliability and  
398 accuracy studies (3, 5, 12, 16).  
399

**400 PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS**

401 GPS devices in the current study reported statistically similar distance and  
402 speed measures to VICON. However, in agreement with previous research (5)  
403 there was a tendency for the GPS devices to underestimate these measures  
404 during straight line running, multi-direction movement patterns, and  
405 unstructured movements typical of team sports. Further, that the distance and  
406 speed measures of the GPS units possess a low to moderate level of inter-  
407 unit reliability when performing high-speed straight line running, multi-direction  
408 movement patterns, and unstructured movements (3,6,12). However, unlike  
409 previous research (5, 12, 17) no improvements in either accuracy or reliability  
410 were evident with increases in GPS sampling frequency.

411 Based on this evidence, it is recommended that practitioners understand the  
412 limitations which may arise when using GPS devices for interpretation of  
413 training load monitoring during match-play and training. In particular the low  
414 accuracy and reliability of high-intensity efforts is again of concern given the  
415 proposed importance of such measures to training and performance  
416 outcomes. Currently GPS analysis remains the most effective and time-  
417 efficient for monitoring workload within the team sport environment. By  
418 applying the information of the current study, practitioners should interpret  
419 differences in matches or training session based on the accuracy and  
420 variability reported here. As others have stated, it would be recommended that  
421 subjects wear the same device during training or data collection sessions.  
422 Finally, practitioners should be aware that these results are specific to the  
423 hardware and software of the units used in this study and may not be  
424 applicable to other versions or products.

425

426

427 **References**

428

- 429 1. Barbero-Alvarez JC, Coutts A, Granda J, Barbero-Alvarez V, and  
430 Castagna C. The validity and reliability of a global positioning satellite system  
431 device to assess speed and repeated sprint ability (RSA) in athletes. *Journal*  
432 *of Science and Medicine in Sport* 13: 232-235, 2010.
- 433 2. Castellano J, Casamichana D, Calleja-Gonzalez J, Roman JS, and  
434 Ostojic SM. Reliability and accuracy of 10 Hz devices for short-distance  
435 exercise. *Journal of Sports Science and Medicine* 10: 233-234, 2011.
- 436 3. Coutts AJ and Duffield R. Validity and reliability of GPS devices for  
437 measuring movement demands of team sports *Journal of Science and*  
438 *Medicine in Sport* 13: 133-135, 2010.
- 439 4. Cunniffe B, Proctor W, Baker JS, and Davies B. An evaluation of the  
440 physiological demands of elite rugby union using global positioning system  
441 tracking software. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research* 23: 1195-  
442 1203, 2009.
- 443 5. Duffield R, Reid M, Baker J, and Spratford W. Accuracy and reliability  
444 of GPS devices for measurement of movement patterns in confined spaces  
445 for court-based sports. *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport*, 2010.
- 446 6. Duthie G, Pyne D, and Hooper S. Time motion analysis of 2001 and  
447 2002 super 12 rugby. *Journal of sports sciences* 23: 523-530, 2005.
- 448 7. Edgecomb SJ and Norton KI. Comparison of global positioning and  
449 computer-based tracking systems for measuring player movement distance  
450 during Australian Football. *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport* 9: 25-32,  
451 2006.

- 452 8. Elliot B and Alderson J. Laboratory versus field testing in cricket  
453 bowling: A review of current and past practice in modelling techniques. *Sports*  
454 *Biomechanics* 6: 99-108, 2007.
- 455 9. Gabbett TJ. GPS analysis of elite women's field hockey training and  
456 competition. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research* 24: 1321,  
457 2010.
- 458 10. Hill-Haas SV, Coutts AJ, Dawson BT, and Rowsell GJ. Time-motion  
459 characteristics and physiological responses of small-sided games in elite  
460 youth players: The influence of player number and rule changes. *Journal of*  
461 *Strength and Conditioning Research* 24: 1-7, 2009.
- 462 11. Hopkins WG. <http://sports.org/resource/stats/precision.html>.  
463 Accessed March/2011.
- 464 12. Jennings D, Cormack S, Coutts AJ, Boyd L, and Aughey RJ. The  
465 validity and reliability of GPS units in team sport specific running patterns.  
466 *International journal of sports physiology and performance* 5, 2010.
- 467 13. Jennings D, Cormack S, Coutts AJ, Boyd LJ, and Aughey RJ.  
468 Variability of GPS units for measuring distance in team sport movements.  
469 *International journal of sports physiology and performance* 5: 565-659, 2010.
- 470 14. Macleod H, Morris J, Nevill A, and Sunderland C. The validity of a non-  
471 differential global positioning system for assessing player movement patterns in  
472 field hockey. *Journal of sports sciences* 27: 121-128, 2009.
- 473 15. Petersen C, Pyne D, Dawson B, Portus M, and Kellett A. Movement  
474 patterns in cricket vary by both position and game format. *Journal of sports*  
475 *sciences* 28: 1-8, 2010.

- 476 16. Petersen C, Pyne D, Portus M, and Dawson B. Validity and reliability of  
477 GPS units to monitor cricket-specific movement patterns. *International journal*  
478 *of sports physiology and performance* 4: 381-393, 2009.
- 479 17. Portas MD, Harley JA, Barnes CA, and Rush CJ. The validity and  
480 reliability of 1-Hz and 5-Hz global positioning systems for linear,  
481 multidirectional, and soccer-specific activities. *International journal of sports*  
482 *physiology and performance* 5: 448-458, 2010.
- 483 18. Townshend AD, Worringham CJ, and Stewart IB. Assessment of speed  
484 and position during human locomotion using nondifferential GPS. *Medicine*  
485 *and Science in Sports and Exercise* 40: 124-132, 2008.
- 486 19. Wisbey B, Montgomery PG, Pyne DB, and Rattray B. Quantifying  
487 movement demands of AFL football using GPS tracking. *Journal of Science*  
488 *and Medicine in Sport* 13: 531-536, 2010.
- 489 20. Witte TH and Wilson AM. Accuracy of non-differential GPS for the  
490 determination of speed over ground. *Journal of biomechanics* 37: 1891-1898,  
491 2004.
- 492
- 493
- 494

495 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

496

497 Figure 1: Schematic representation of the movements used in the current  
498 study (a) cricket fielding protocol; (b) gradual 5 m COD; (c) tight 3 m COD.

499

500 Figure 2: Comparison of speed-time and distance-time curves between  
501 VICON and GPS devices for the (a) random tennis (b) fast bowling and (c) 90°  
502 COD drills.

503

504

**TABLE LEGENDS**

**Table 1:** Mean  $\pm$  SD for movement analysis devices for distance covered, mean speed and peak speed during court-based sports movements.

**Table 2:** Mean  $\pm$  SD for movement analysis devices for distance covered, mean speed and peak speed during field-based team sports movements.

**Table 3:** Intra-class correlation analysis (ICC) and co-efficient of variation (CV) within movement analysis devices (within models) for each respective drill.

**Table 1:** Mean  $\pm$  SD for movement analysis devices for distance covered, mean speed and peak speed during court-based sports movements.

	VICON	5 Hz #1	5 Hz #2	10 Hz #1	15 Hz #1	15 Hz #2
<i>2 m Tennis</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=9</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=9</i>	<i>n=9</i>
Distance (m)	23.2 $\pm$ 1.3	28.2 $\pm$ 4.4 <sup>a</sup>	21.3 $\pm$ 3.1 <sup>b</sup>	17.9 $\pm$ 2.0 <sup>a,b,c</sup>	22.1 $\pm$ 2.0 <sup>b,d</sup>	19.7 $\pm$ 1.8 <sup>b</sup>
Mean Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	1.4 $\pm$ 0.1	1.3 $\pm$ 0.2	1.0 $\pm$ 0.2 <sup>a,b</sup>	1.1 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>a,b</sup>	1.4 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>c,d</sup>	1.3 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>c,d</sup>
Peak Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	2.9 $\pm$ .04	3.9 $\pm$ 0.8	3.3 $\pm$ 0.8	2.4 $\pm$ 0.2	2.3 $\pm$ 0.2	2.3 $\pm$ 0.1
<i>4 m Tennis</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=9</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>
Distance (m)	45.5 $\pm$ 3.8	42.6 $\pm$ 5.0	38.2 $\pm$ 8.4 <sup>a</sup>	36.7 $\pm$ 3.6 <sup>a</sup>	43.1 $\pm$ 4.3	38.3 $\pm$ 2.4 <sup>a</sup>
Mean Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	2.1 $\pm$ 0.1	1.9 $\pm$ 0.3	1.6 $\pm$ 0.4 <sup>a</sup>	1.7 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>a</sup>	2.0 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>c,d</sup>	1.8 $\pm$ 0.2 <sup>a</sup>
Peak Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	3.6 $\pm$ 0.2	4.2 $\pm$ 0.7	4.7 $\pm$ 1.5	3.1 $\pm$ 0.1	3.2 $\pm$ 0.3	3.9 $\pm$ 1.0
<i>Half Court</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=9</i>
Distance (m)	25.3 $\pm$ 0.8	24.0 $\pm$ 4.8	24.3 $\pm$ 5.6	21.9 $\pm$ 1.6	21.8 $\pm$ 1.3	20.9 $\pm$ 2.5 <sup>a</sup>
Mean Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	3.0 $\pm$ 0.4	2.1 $\pm$ 0.6 <sup>a</sup>	2.1 $\pm$ 0.7 <sup>a</sup>	2.6 $\pm$ 0.3	2.6 $\pm$ 0.4	2.5 $\pm$ 0.5
Peak Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	4.6 $\pm$ 0.5	4.1 $\pm$ 1.1	4.3 $\pm$ 1.4	4.3 $\pm$ 0.2	3.9 $\pm$ 0.5	4.1 $\pm$ 0.5
<i>Random Tennis</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=9</i>	<i>n=9</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>
Distance (m)	21.6 $\pm$ 1.6	25.5 $\pm$ 5.4 <sup>a</sup>	18.6 $\pm$ 2.4 <sup>b</sup>	19.0 $\pm$ 1.4 <sup>b</sup>	19.8 $\pm$ 1.5 <sup>b</sup>	16.4 $\pm$ 2.3 <sup>a,b</sup>
Mean Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	2.1 $\pm$ 0.2	1.8 $\pm$ 0.3	1.6 $\pm$ 0.4	1.8 $\pm$ 0.2	1.9 $\pm$ 0.2	2.3 $\pm$ 0.7 <sup>c</sup>
Peak Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	4.7 $\pm$ 2.0	4.3 $\pm$ 1.0	4.1 $\pm$ 0.6	3.3 $\pm$ 0.3	3.3 $\pm$ 0.3	2.8 $\pm$ 0.3 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Within each respective drill type: significantly different to VICON; <sup>b</sup> Within each respective drill type: significantly different to 5 Hz #1; <sup>c</sup> Within each respective drill type: significantly different to 5 Hz #2; <sup>d</sup> Within each respective drill type: significantly different to 10 Hz #1; <sup>e</sup> Within each respective drill type: significantly different to 15 Hz #1; <sup>f</sup> Within each respective drill type: significantly different to 15 Hz #2

**Table 2:** Mean  $\pm$  SD for movement analysis devices for distance covered, mean speed and peak speed during field-based team sports movements.

	VICON	5 Hz <sup>#1</sup>	5 Hz <sup>#2</sup>	10 Hz <sup>#1</sup>	15 Hz <sup>#1</sup>	15 Hz <sup>#2</sup>
<i>Run-a-3</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=9</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=9</i>	<i>n=10</i>
Distance (m)	46.7 $\pm$ 0.3	46.3 $\pm$ 7.6	40.7 $\pm$ 8.8	41.1 $\pm$ 2.5	40.8 $\pm$ 1.9	39.5 $\pm$ 8.1
Mean Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	3.5 $\pm$ 0.1	3.5 $\pm$ 0.1	2.9 $\pm$ 0.7	3.1 $\pm$ 0.2	3.1 $\pm$ 0.2	3.0 $\pm$ 0.6
Peak Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	6.5 $\pm$ 1.3	5.9 $\pm$ 0.9	5.4 $\pm$ 0.5	5.4 $\pm$ 0.3	5.1 $\pm$ 0.3	5.0 $\pm$ 1.1
<i>Fast Bowling</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=9</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>
Distance (m)	15.0 $\pm$ 0.2	19.7 $\pm$ 4.2 <sup>a</sup>	18.0 $\pm$ 3.2 <sup>a</sup>	13.7 $\pm$ 1.4 <sup>b,c</sup>	14.5 $\pm$ 0.7 <sup>b,c</sup>	13.5 $\pm$ 1.3 <sup>b,c</sup>
Mean Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	3.2 $\pm$ 0.1	2.5 $\pm$ 0.6 <sup>a</sup>	2.5 $\pm$ 0.6 <sup>a</sup>	2.9 $\pm$ 0.4	3.1 $\pm$ 0.2 <sup>b,c</sup>	2.8 $\pm$ 0.2
Peak Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	5.9 $\pm$ 0.8	4.2 $\pm$ 0.9	4.3 $\pm$ 1.2	4.9 $\pm$ 0.2	5.0 $\pm$ 0.3	4.5 $\pm$ 0.4
<i>Fielding</i>	<i>n=8</i>	<i>n=8</i>	<i>n=8</i>	<i>n=8</i>	<i>n=7</i>	<i>n=7</i>
Distance (m)	39.8 $\pm$ 0.4	39.8 $\pm$ 0.4	41.2 $\pm$ 13.1	35.0 $\pm$ 1.5	34.3 $\pm$ 1.1	40.3 $\pm$ 7.4
Mean Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	1.5 $\pm$ 0.1	1.4 $\pm$ 0.4	1.3 $\pm$ 0.4	1.3 $\pm$ 0.1	1.3 $\pm$ 0.1	1.5 $\pm$ 0.2
Peak Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	4.1 $\pm$ 0.1	4.1 $\pm$ 0.1	4.3 $\pm$ 0.7	3.9 $\pm$ 0.6	3.4 $\pm$ 0.2	4.8 $\pm$ 1.0
<i>90° COD</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=9</i>	<i>n=10</i>	<i>n=9</i>
Distance (m)	34.7 $\pm$ 1.0	34.6 $\pm$ 3.7	31.0 $\pm$ 6.5	29.2 $\pm$ 0.4 <sup>a,b</sup>	29.9 $\pm$ 1.81 <sup>a,b</sup>	29.3 $\pm$ 1.9 <sup>a,b</sup>
Mean Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	3.1 $\pm$ 0.1	2.4 $\pm$ 0.3 <sup>a</sup>	2.2 $\pm$ 0.5 <sup>a</sup>	2.5 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>a</sup>	2.7 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>a,c</sup>	2.7 $\pm$ 0.3 <sup>a,c</sup>
Peak Speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	4.2 $\pm$ 0.1	4.9 $\pm$ 1.3	4.9 $\pm$ 1.4	3.6 $\pm$ 0.1	3.8 $\pm$ 0.3	4.3 $\pm$ 0.8

	<i>n</i> =10	<i>n</i> =10	<i>n</i> =10	<i>n</i> =10	<i>n</i> =10	<i>n</i> =9
<i>45° COD</i>						
Distance (m)	21.2 ± 0.6	22.4 ± 5.6	20.2 ± 3.9	17.9 ± 0.7 <sup>b</sup>	17.1 ± 2.0 <sup>a,b</sup>	18.6 ± 2.0
Mean Speed (m·s <sup>-1</sup> )	1.8 ± 0.1	1.5 ± 0.3 <sup>a</sup>	1.3 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>	1.5 ± 0.1 <sup>a</sup>	1.5 ± 0.2 <sup>a</sup>	1.6 ± 0.1
Peak Speed (m·s <sup>-1</sup> )	2.8 ± 0.5	3.2 ± 0.4	3.2 ± 0.9	2.5 ± 0.1	2.4 ± 0.4 <sup>c</sup>	3.7 ± 1.0 <sup>a,d,e</sup>
<i>Random FBTS</i>	<i>n</i> =10	<i>n</i> =9	<i>n</i> =10	<i>n</i> =10	<i>n</i> =10	<i>n</i> =10
Distance (m)	34.2 ± 4.1	31.9 ± 3.7	33.1 ± 6.5	24.5 ± 3.0 <sup>a,b,c</sup>	28.4 ± 3.5	29.3 ± 4.8
Mean Speed (m·s <sup>-1</sup> )	2.2 ± 0.3	1.7 ± 0.3 <sup>a</sup>	1.8 ± 0.7	1.6 ± 0.2 <sup>a</sup>	1.8 ± 0.2	1.9 ± 0.3
Peak Speed (m·s <sup>-1</sup> )	4.2 ± 0.5	4.3 ± 0.9	5.0 ± 2.1	3.2 ± 0.4	3.5 ± 0.3	3.7 ± 0.7

<sup>a</sup> Within each respective drill type: significantly different to VICON; <sup>b</sup> Within each respective drill type: significantly different to 5 Hz #1; <sup>c</sup> Within each respective drill type: significantly different to 5 Hz #2; <sup>d</sup> Within each respective drill type: significantly different to 10 Hz #1; <sup>e</sup> Within each respective drill type: significantly different to 15 Hz #1; <sup>f</sup> Within each respective drill type: significantly different to 15 Hz #2

- 1 **Table 3:** Intra-class correlation analysis (ICC) and co-efficient of variation  
 2 (CV) within movement analysis devices (within models) for each respective  
 3 drill.

	5 Hz ICC	15 Hz ICC	5 Hz CV	15 Hz CV
<i>Distance (m)</i>				
2 m Tennis	0.41	0.46	12.0	5.4
4 m Tennis	0.72	0.10	9.1	8.5
Half Court	-0.41	0.46	29.0	6.9
Random Tennis	0.24	0.02	18.4	12.1
Run-a-3	0.06	-0.17	22.1	17.9
Fast Bowling	0.06	0.53	21.2	5.5
Fielding	0.33	-0.16	20.6	17.0
90° COD	0.41	0.46	17.7	6.2
45° COD	0.24	0.02	22.7	12.4
Random FBTS	0.72	0.10	22.8	8.2
<i>Mean speed (m s<sup>-1</sup>)</i>				
2 m Tennis	-0.14	0.73	19.7	3.5
4 m Tennis	0.39	0.01	14.9	8.6
Half Court	0.49	0.86	26.2	7.4
Random Tennis	-0.02	0.20	21.0	22.8
Run-a-3	-0.50	-0.10	27.1	16.3
Fast Bowling	0.50	-0.22	20.2	8.8
Fielding	0.55	-0.35	21.3	15.2
90° COD	-0.14	0.73	19.8	7.8
45° COD	-0.02	0.20	28.1	10.9
Random FBTS	0.39	0.01	33.4	7.5
<i>Peak speed (m s<sup>-1</sup>)</i>				
2 m Tennis	0.03	0.25	22.5	6.4
4 m Tennis	0.15	-0.08	22.9	20.6
Half Court	0.05	0.61	32.9	8.2
Random Tennis	0.13	0.67	20.0	5.4
Run-a-3	-0.16	0.05	14.2	14.1

---

Fast Bowling	0.36	0.03	23.6	8.4
Fielding	0.49	-0.05	16.2	16.9
90° COD	0.03	0.25	26.3	14.5
45° COD	0.13	0.67	20.9	20.0
Random FBTS	0.15	-0.08	31.5	11.9

---

4

5

6

7