






International Journal of Sport Studies for Health

Journal Homepage



Validity of a Modified Special Judo Fitness Test: A Novel Approach Using Dummies to Improve the Test's Ergometric Properties

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This section could better justify the novelty of replacing human Ukes with dummies by briefly contrasting your approach with Błach et al. (15) and Markovic et al. (16). Explicitly stating how your method extends or differs from these studies would strengthen the rationale.

Consider rephrasing this sentence to integrate the gap you aim to fill, e.g., “Given the variability introduced by human Ukes and the limited research on fully standardized alternatives, this study aimed...”

Provide confidence intervals for correlation coefficients (as done for ICC earlier) to allow readers to judge the precision of the estimate.

The discussion of limits of agreement lacks numerical details (exact upper/lower LOA). Include those values so readers can gauge practical interchangeability.

While r and R^2 are reported, the discussion equates high correlation with validity. Consider emphasizing that correlation does not equal agreement and reference your Bland–Altman findings to nuance this point.

Excellent acknowledgment. Expand slightly on how this gap could be addressed (e.g., recommend intraclass correlation and SEM analysis in future studies).

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Provide justification for using convenience sampling. Readers would benefit from a note on why this approach was appropriate and whether it could affect generalizability.

The table includes clear data but lacks statistical comparisons (e.g., t-tests) between advanced and novice groups at baseline. Adding these would reassure readers about initial comparability.

Clarify whether participants were randomized to the order of original vs. modified SJFT to avoid sequence/fatigue bias.

The study should specify whether the dummies' weight was standardized across sexes and weight classes or adjusted. Without this, readers cannot assess load comparability.

This biomechanical rationale is compelling; however, you could strengthen it by citing any data on torque or kinematics differences between human and dummy throws.

The interpretation of HR_{exe} and HR_{rec} differences could be more cautious. Currently, it attributes them primarily to running distance; other possible factors (psychological stress, anticipation) could be acknowledged.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.