

Special Issue: Digital Technology in Sports and Physical Activity

## **Preface to the Special Issue**

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At the dawn of the 21st century, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment when the trajectory of sport and physical activity is being dramatically reshaped by the relentless advance of digital technology. This special issue, titled "Digital Technology in Sport and Physical Activity," is intended as a beacon to guide through the exciting confluence of fields that were once considered distinct and disparate. Our goal is to illuminate the transformative effects of digital technologies across the sports spectrum, offering a comprehensive exploration of their impact on sports science, social science, life science, and information technology.

The eclectic collection of eight articles in this issue is a testament to the diverse and significant role that digital technology plays in the field of sport. These pieces not only provide a snapshot of current innovations, but also serve as a springboard for discussions about the future of sport and physical activity in a digitized world. From improving educational approaches in sports to fine-tuning athletic performance, ensuring safety, aiding recovery, and even reshaping the competitive landscape of esports, the range of topics covered is both vast and compelling.

This special issue acts as a catalyst, encouraging readers to question established norms, explore new possibilities, and innovate at the intersection of digital technology and sport. Areas of inquiry range from tangible improvements in athletic performance and education to subtler shifts in strategy, analytics, and the way sports are viewed and consumed. This diversity of content reflects the broad impact of digital technology on the field and challenges us to rethink what is possible when we harness the power of innovation in physical activity and sport.

As we unveil these articles, we invite a community of scholars, practitioners, and enthusiasts to join us on a journey of discovery and discussion. The future of sport and physical activity as seen through the lens of digital technology is not just about technological advancement; it is about the evolution of our understanding, our practices, and the very nature of sport itself. This special issue aims to inform, inspire and stimulate action, contributing to a future in which technology and physical activity merge in ways previously unimaginable.

Finally, our deepest gratitude goes to the authors whose groundbreaking research has made this issue possible, and to our readers whose passion and curiosity drive the field forward. As we embark on this exploration together, we anticipate that the journey through the pages of this special issue will not only enlighten, but also challenge and reward us all as we glimpse the promising horizon of sport and physical activity shaped by advances in digital technology. Here's to uncovering new knowledge, sparking innovation and embracing the endless possibilities that lie ahead in the ever-evolving landscape of digital technology in sport.

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