

Preface

Human factors in sports and outdoor recreation aims to address the critical cognitive and physical tasks which are performed within a dynamic, complex, and collaborative system comprising multiple humans and artifacts, under pressurized, complex, and rapidly changing conditions that take place during the course of any sporting event. Highly skilled, well-trained individuals walk a fine line between task success and failure, with only marginally inadequate task execution leading to loss of the sport event or competition. This conference promotes cross-disciplinary interaction between the human factors in sports and outdoor recreation disciplines and provides practical guidance on a range of methods for describing, representing, and evaluating human, team, and system performance in sports domains. Traditionally, the application of human factors and ergonomics in sports has focused on the biomechanical, physiological, environmental, and equipment-related aspects of sports performance. However, various human factors methods, applied historically in the complex safety critical domains, are suited to describing and understanding sports performance. The conference track welcomes research on cognitive and social human factors in addition to the application of physiological ergonomics approaches sets it apart from other research areas. This book will be of special value to a large variety of professionals, researchers, and students in the broad field of sports and outdoor recreation.

This book will be of special value to a large variety of professionals, researchers, and students in the field of performance who are interested in injury and accidents prevention, and design for special populations, particularly athletes. We hope this book is informative, but even more—that it is thought-provoking. We hope it inspires, leading the reader to contemplate other questions, applications, and potential solutions in creating good designs for all.

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