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Paper:

McNarry, M. & Jones, A. (2014). The influence of training status on the aerobic and anaerobic responses to exercise in children: A review. *European Journal of Sport Science*, 14(sup1), S57-S68.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17461391.2011.643316>

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1 The influence of training and maturity status on girls' responses to
2 short-term, high-intensity upper and lower body exercise

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1 **Abstract**

2

3 A maturational threshold has been suggested to be present in young peoples' responses to
4 exercise, with significant influences of training status only evidenced above this threshold.

5 The presence of such a threshold has not been investigated for short term, high intensity

6 exercise. To address this, we investigated the relationship between swim-training status and

7 maturity on the power output, pulmonary gas exchange and metabolic responses to upper

8 (UP) and lower body (LO) Wingate Anaerobic Test (WAnT). Girls at three stages of

9 maturity: pre-pubertal (Pre: 8 trained (T) 10 untrained (UT)); pubertal (Pub: 9 T, 15 UT); and

10 post-pubertal (Post: 8 T, 10 UT) participated. At all maturity stages, T exhibited higher peak

11 power (PP) and mean power (MP) during UP (PP: Pre, T, 163±20 vs. UT, 124±29; Pub, T,

12 230±42 vs. UT, 173±41; Post, T, 245±41 vs. UT, 190±40 W; MP: Pre, T, 130±23 vs. UT,

13 85±26; Pub, T, 184±37 vs. UT, 123±38; Post, T, 200±30 vs. UT, 150±15 W; all $P<0.05$) but

14 not LO exercise, whilst the fatigue index was significantly lower in T for both exercise

15 modalities. Irrespective of maturity, the oxidative contribution, calculated by the area under

16 the $\dot{V}O_2$ response profile, was not influenced by training status. No interaction was evident

17 between training status and maturity, with similar magnitudes of difference between T and

18 UT at all three maturity stages. These results suggest there is no maturational threshold which

19 must be surpassed for significant influences of training status to be manifest in the

20 'anaerobic' exercise performance of young girls.

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22 **Keywords**

23 Wingate; fatigue index; peak $\dot{V}O_2$; oxidative contribution; NIRS; exercise modality

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Introduction

The short-term, high-intensity nature of the Wingate Anaerobic test (WAnT) is highly relevant to the habitual activity and play patterns of young people (Bailey et al. 1995).

Nonetheless, relatively few studies have examined children's physiological response to short-term, high-intensity exercise and, consequently, the influences of growth, maturation and training status on 'anaerobic' exercise performance in young people remain poorly understood (Williams 2008). There is a particular dearth of such information in young girls.

Therefore, although a significantly higher peak power (PP) and mean power (MP) and lower fatigue index (FI) have been reported in trained young boys (Council et al. 2003; Grodjinovsky et al. 1981; Ingle et al. 2006; Rotstein et al. 1986), it remains to be resolved whether similar influences of training status are present in young girls.

Training status has been reported to significantly influence the physiological responses to exercise in pre-pubertal girls (Bencke et al. 2002; McManus et al. 1997), although these effects may be confined to PP (McManus et al. 1997) or to the sport investigated (Bencke et al. 2002). In contrast, for adolescent girls no influence of training status on WAnT test performance has been reported (Seigler et al. 2003). This latter finding might be considered surprising given the significant effects of training status found in women during anaerobic tests (Liljedahl et al. 1996; Serresse et al. 1989). Furthermore, this finding contradicts the notion of a 'maturational threshold', below which significant physiological adaptations to training cannot occur (Katch 1983). This concept has been debated for many years with regard to aerobic exercise responses, with some studies supporting the concept (Kobayashi et al. 1978; Mirwald et al. 1981) and others refuting it (Danis et al. 2003; Weber et al. 1976).

1 The possibility that a maturational threshold for training status exists in the physiological
2 response to short-term, high-intensity exercise has not been investigated.

3

4 The WAnT was originally devised as an anaerobic test but recent studies have reported a
5 significant contribution of oxidative phosphorylation to ATP resynthesis during the test in
6 both adults (e.g. Bediz et al. 1998; Calbet et al. 1997; Granier et al. 1995) and children (Chia
7 1997; 2006). Furthermore, this oxidative contribution has been reported to be greater in
8 trained adults compared to their untrained counterparts (Granier et al. 1995), an effect that
9 may be related to the faster $\dot{V}O_2$ kinetics of trained adults (e.g. Figueira et al. 2008; Koppo et
10 al. 2004; Powers et al. 1985). The influence of training status on the oxidative contribution to
11 the WAnT in young people has yet to be investigated.

12

13 The purpose of the present cross-sectional study was to investigate the influence of training
14 status on the responses to upper-body (arm crank) and lower-body (cycle) WAnT in pre-
15 pubertal, pubertal and post-pubertal girls. We hypothesised that the trained girls would
16 exhibit a significantly higher PP, MP and oxidative contribution and a lower FI, with the
17 difference between trained and untrained girls increasing with maturity. We also
18 hypothesised that the differences associated with training status would be more pronounced
19 during upper than lower-body exercise due to the predominantly upper body nature of
20 swimming (Ogita et al. 1996).

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22

1 **Methods**

2

3 *Participants*

4

5 In total, 18 pre-pubertal (8 trained, 10 untrained), 24 pubertal (9 trained, 15 untrained) and 18
6 post-pubertal (8 trained, 10 untrained) girls participated in this study. The trained girls (T)
7 were all regional, national or international level swimmers. The pre-pubertal girls had been
8 training for a mean of 2.5 (± 1) years and reported a mean training volume of 14 (± 3) hrs \cdot wk⁻¹.
9 ¹. The pubertal and post-pubertal girls had been training 5 (± 1.5) years and 8 (± 2) years
10 respectively, with training volumes of 18 (± 4) and 22 (± 3) hrs \cdot wk⁻¹, respectively. The
11 training programme was predominantly aerobic although short, high intensity repetitions
12 were also completed. In accordance with the long-term athlete development programme, the
13 younger maturity groups were completing non-specific swimming training programmes
14 whilst the post-pubertal swimmers were at the early stages of tailoring their training for
15 specific swimming events. There was no bias amongst this group towards sprint, middle or
16 long distance swimming events. The untrained (UT) group comprised volunteers from local
17 schools who did not participate in any form of organised sport outside the national
18 curriculum. Sexual maturity was assessed by self-report using the indices of pubic hair
19 described by Tanner (1962). Age to peak height velocity was estimated to provide an
20 additional indicator of physical maturity according to the equations of Mirwald *et al.* (2002),
21 which are based on the measurement of standing and seated height, weight, and date of birth
22 as described below.

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2 *Anthropometry*

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4 An anthropometrical evaluation was performed before the first test for all participants.

5 Standing and seated height were measured to 0.1 cm using a Holtain stadiometer (Holtain,

6 Crymych, Dyfed, UK) and body mass (BM) was determined using Avery beam balance

7 scales to 0.05 kg (Avery, Birmingham, UK). Skinfold thickness was assessed three times at

8 five sites on the body (bicep, triceps, subscapular, supra-iliac crest and thigh) by the same

9 researcher for all participants using Harpenden callipers (Baty International, Burgess Hill,

10 UK), accurate to the nearest 0.2mm. The mean of the three measurements was taken.

11 Percentage body fat and fat free mass (FFM) were subsequently estimated based on the

12 equations of Slaughter et al. (1988).

13

14 Participants were asked to arrive at the laboratory in a rested and fully hydrated state, at least

15 3 hours postprandial and to refrain from consuming caffeinated drinks in the 6 hours prior to

16 the test. The methods employed during this study were approved by the institutional research

17 ethics committee and all participants and their parents/guardians gave written informed

18 consent and assent, respectively.

19

20 *Experimental protocols and measures*

21

22 The Wingate tests were conducted on two identical basket loaded cycle ergometers (Monark

23 model 814 E), one of which was modified to allow upper body exercise. The seat height was

24 adjusted to suit each participant, ensuring a slight flexion in the knee during the cycle WAnT

1 and that the centre of the pedal crank was in line with the middle of the participants'
2 glenohumeral joint during the upper body WAnT.

3

4 Each participant completed two WAnTs, one upper (UP) and one lower (LO) body, on
5 separate days. The WAnT was preceded by a standardised 3 minute warm-up performed at a
6 steady pace at the minimum ergometer resistance. This was interspersed at 1 min, 2 min and
7 2.5 minutes with a 3 s, all-out sprint against the actual test resistance to familiarise the
8 participants with the test protocol. The resistance was set at $0.075 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1} \text{ BM}$ and 0.045
9 $\text{kg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1} \text{ BM}$ for the LO and UP WAnT, respectively, based on the guidelines of Bar-Or
10 (1983). After a 2 minute rest, the WAnT itself commenced with 3 minutes sitting stationary
11 on the ergometer for the assessment of baseline responses. Following this, participants were
12 asked to accelerate the unloaded flywheel to 60 rpm and a 3 s countdown was given. On
13 “GO!”, the participants accelerated as fast as possible and the load basket was dropped.
14 Participants were asked to pedal as fast as they could for the entire 30 s test and warned
15 beforehand that signs of pacing would result in the test being repeated. Strong verbal
16 encouragement was provided through-out the 30 s test.

17

18 Throughout the WAnT, gas exchange variables (Metalyser 3B Cortex, Biophysik, Leipzig,
19 Germany) and heart rate (Polar S610, Polar Electro Oy, Kempele, Finland) were measured on
20 a breath-by-breath basis and displayed online. Prior to each test the gas analyser was
21 calibrated using gases of known concentration and the turbine volume transducer was
22 calibrated using a 3-litre syringe (Hans Rudolph, Kansas City, MO). The delay in the
23 capillary gas transit and analyser rise time were accounted for relative to the volume signal,
24 thereby time aligning the concentration and volume signals.

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Data analysis

Power output variables were corrected for flywheel inertia and internal resistance (Chia et al. 1997) and reported for each second of exercise. Peak power (PP) was defined as the highest 1-s value and mean power (MP) was defined as the mean power output over the entire test. The fatigue index (FI) was calculated as the change in power output relative to PP ((PP – end power / PP)*100).

Breath-by-breath data were interpolated to 1 s intervals and the peak $\dot{V}O_2$ was defined as the highest 3 s average. The relative contribution of oxidative phosphorylation to the total energy expenditure during the 30 s WAnT was calculated by determining the area under the curve of $\dot{V}O_2$ as a function of time, described by non-linear regression. This $\dot{V}O_2$ was subsequently converted to the oxidative energy cost of exercise by multiplying by $20.92 \text{ J}\cdot\text{mL}\cdot\text{O}_2^{-1}$ and expressed relative to the total work done for the 30 s WAnT. Mechanical efficiency values of 13% (Kavanagh & Jacobs 1988) and 30% (Bar-Or 1996) were employed to allow comparison to previous paediatric studies (Chia et al. 1997).

To determine the kinetics of the $\dot{V}O_2$ response, the interpolated data were modelled using a mono-exponential function without a time delay, as reported by Calbet et al. (2003) (Graphpad Prism, Graphpad Software, San Diego, CA):

$$\Delta VO_{2(t)} = A \cdot \left(1 - e^{-\left(\frac{t}{\tau}\right)}\right)$$

1 Where $\Delta \dot{V}O_2$ is the increase in $\dot{V}O_2$ at time t above the baseline value (calculated as the mean
2 $\dot{V}O_2$ from the first 45 s of the last minute of baseline), A and τ are the amplitude and time
3 constant, respectively.

4

5 *Statistical analyses*

6

7 A two way ANOVA with repeated measures was used to analyse training status and exercise
8 mode effects. Subsequent independent or paired samples t-tests were employed as appropriate
9 to identify the specific location of significant effects. The interaction of training status and
10 sexual maturity stage was investigated using a factorial ANOVA. The influence of body size
11 was accounted for using analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) on log transformed data to
12 determine the allometric relationship between body mass and peak $\dot{V}O_2$, PP and MP
13 (Welsman et al. 2000). The allometric relationship was also determined between estimated fat
14 free mass (FFM) and PP and MP. Log-linear ANCOVA identified common exponents for all
15 participants at each maturity stage for peak $\dot{V}O_2$, PP and MP with BM and FFM. All data are
16 presented as means \pm SD. Statistical significance was accepted when $P < 0.05$.

17

18 **Results**

19

20 Anthropometric characteristics, presented in Table 1, did not differ significantly between
21 trained and untrained girls within each maturity group. All the girls in the pre-pubertal group
22 were self-characterised as Tanner stage 1, whilst the pubertal girls were stages 3 and 4 and
23 post-pubertal were stage 5.

24

25

1 *Influence of training status*

2

3 The influence of training status on PP and MP was dependent on exercise modality in all
4 maturity groups, with no influence evident during cycle ergometry but significantly higher
5 values being present in the trained girls during upper body ergometry, as summarised in
6 Table 2 and shown in Figure 1. These differences remained significant subsequent to ratio or
7 allometric scaling with the exception of PP in the pre-pubertal girls. In contrast, irrespective
8 of exercise modality, the trained girls in all maturity groups exhibited a lower fatigue index.
9 During upper but not lower body ergometry, the trained girls in all three maturity groups
10 demonstrated a significantly greater total work done (KJ; Pre: T, 3.9 ± 0.7 vs. UT, 2.6 ± 0.8 ;
11 Pub: T, 5.5 ± 1.1 vs. UT, 3.7 ± 1.1 ; Post: T, 6.0 ± 0.9 vs. UT, 4.5 ± 1.2 , all $P < 0.05$).

12

13 Trained girls achieved a significantly higher peak $\dot{V}O_2$ during upper body ergometry in all
14 three maturity groups and during lower body ergometry in pubertal and post-pubertal girls, as
15 shown in Table 3. The trained girls in all maturity groups had faster $\dot{V}O_2$ kinetics during the
16 30 s WAnT for both exercise modalities, as shown in Figure 2. Despite this, the oxidative
17 contribution to total energy expenditure was only influenced by training status in the post-
18 pubertal girls during lower body ergometry. The $\dot{V}O_2$ τ was significantly related to peak $\dot{V}O_2$
19 during upper body exercise in all three maturity groups (Pre, $r = -0.73$; Pub, -0.52 ; Post, $-$
20 0.48 ; all $P < 0.05$) and during lower body exercise in pubertal ($r = -0.46$; $P < 0.05$) and post-
21 pubertal girls ($r = -0.66$; $P < 0.01$).

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1 *Interaction of training status with maturity*

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3 No interaction was evident between maturity and training status for the mechanical power or
4 $\dot{V} O_2$ related parameters, with statistically similar differences between trained and untrained
5 girls being evident at all three stages of maturity and for both modes of exercise (Tables 2, 3,
6 4).

7

8 **Discussion**

9

10 The main finding of the present study was that training status significantly influenced both
11 the mechanical power and the $\dot{V} O_2$ responses of girls to short-term, high-intensity exercise
12 across three stages of maturity. Moreover, the magnitude of these training status differences
13 was not modulated by maturity. These data therefore suggest that there is no maturational
14 threshold which must be surpassed for significant influences of training status to be manifest
15 (Katch 1983).

16

17 *Influence of training status*

18

19 The current results broadly agree with previous studies reporting significant influences of
20 training status in pre-pubertal girls (Bencke et al. 2002; McManus et al. 1997). The effects of
21 training status were greater in our study compared to that of McManus et al. (1997), who
22 reported effects on PP only, perhaps as a consequence of the more trained status of the
23 present participants. Bencke et al. (2002) reported significant influences of swim-training
24 status during lower body exercise, whilst we found significant influences during upper body
25 exercise only. The explanation for this discrepancy is obscure.

1

2 In adolescent girls, no influence of training status on any mechanical power parameter has
3 been reported (Siegler et al. 2003). These findings contrast with the current results for both
4 pubertal and post-pubertal girls. Direct comparisons to this previous study are hindered by the
5 absence of a maturity assessment of the ~ 16 year old girls, who may have been late-pubertal
6 or post-pubertal. The discrepancy with the present findings may also be attributable to an
7 insufficient training stimulus in the study of Siegler et al. (2003) since all participants were
8 involved in regular football training with a subset undertaking additional resistance and
9 plyometric training. Alternatively, or additionally, a discrepancy between the training
10 modalities and the test modality (cycle) may explain the contradictory results (Grodjinovsky
11 et al. 1981).

12

13 In contrast to the results of the present study, the FI has previously been reported to be
14 unaffected by training status in girls (Bencke et al. 2002; Siegler et al. 2003). A lower FI in
15 our trained participants indicates a superior ability to maintain power output near the peak
16 power output as the test proceeds. These results suggest that whilst PP and MP may be
17 influenced by both aerobic (Obert et al. 2001; Rotstein et al. 1986) and anaerobic
18 (Grodjinovsky et al. 1981; Ingle et al. 2006) based training programmes, aerobic training is
19 more effective at reducing the FI. The mechanistic basis for this is unclear but may be related
20 to alterations in oxidative capacity and fatigue resistance in type II muscle fibres (Jones and
21 Carter, 2000).

22

23 Before considering the possible mechanistic basis of the aforementioned training status
24 related differences, it is appropriate to highlight the cross-sectional design of this study. A
25 fundamental advantage of this design is that it allows the investigation of the physiological

1 effects of long-term, intensive training programmes, the replication of which is very
2 challenging using longitudinal intervention based studies. However, the compromise is that it
3 precludes the elucidation of whether the training status differences are attributable to training
4 *per se* or are a reflection of the participants' genotypes, or uncontrolled factors such as
5 sampling bias or non-physiological learning effects.

6
7 The mechanistic basis of training-status related enhancements in the mechanical power
8 indices of children remain unclear (Obert et al. 2001), although a number of putative
9 mechanisms have been proposed including changes in muscle metabolism, muscle mass
10 and/or muscle fibre type. Suggestions of an altered muscle metabolism are based on early
11 muscle biopsy studies which reported increased concentrations of adenosine triphosphate,
12 phosphocreatine (PCr) and muscle glycogen, along with an increased activity of several
13 glycolytic enzymes in trained children (Cadefau et al. 1990; Eriksson et al. 1973; Fournier et
14 al. 1982). However, more recent studies failed to find any influence of training status on
15 intramuscular pH or the ratio of PCr to inorganic phosphate, both of which have been
16 suggested to be indicators of glycolytic capacity (Kuno et al. 1995). Lower limb muscle mass
17 is a major determinant of the mechanical power response to short-term, high-intensity cycle
18 exercise in healthy, untrained children (Davies et al. 1972; Mercier et al. 1992; Santos et al.
19 2003). Whether upper body muscle mass is similarly influential in determining the
20 mechanical power response to short term, high intensity upper body exercise is unknown. A
21 potential role of muscle fibre type distribution and/or recruitment in determining training
22 status related differences has been suggested on the basis of reports in adults suggesting an
23 increased percentage of type I muscle fibres in trained participants (Russell et al. 2003; Saltin
24 and Gollnick 1983). However, due to ethical constraints, no information is presently available
25 in young people to corroborate or refute this possibility. Thus evidence regarding the

1 mechanistic basis of training status related differences in the mechanical power indices of
2 young people is inconclusive.

3

4 This is the first study to investigate the influence of training status on the oxidative
5 contribution to short-term, high-intensity exercise in young people. In agreement with
6 previous studies in both children (Chia et al. 1997; 2006) and adults (e.g. Bediz et al. 1998;
7 Calbet et al. 1997; Granier et al. 1995), a significant oxidative contribution to the WAnT test
8 was observed. However, contrary to our hypothesis and to previous findings in adults
9 (Granier et al. 1995), the influence of training status was limited to lower body exercise in
10 post-pubertal girls; no influence was evident in the oxidative contribution to either upper or
11 lower body WAnT exercise in pre-pubertal or pubertal girls. This finding is surprising
12 considering the significantly faster $\dot{V}O_2$ kinetics observed in the trained girls at all three
13 stages of maturity, which one would anticipate would result in a greater oxidative
14 contribution to meet the energy demands. The explanation for the apparent lack of training
15 status on the oxidative contribution to the WAnT may be related to an equal influence of
16 training status on both the oxidative (Eriksson et al. 1973; Fournier et al. 1982) and glycolytic
17 components of energy provision (Cadefau et al. 1990; Eriksson et al. 1973; Fournier et al.
18 1982), such that the overall balance is not altered by training status. Further studies
19 investigating the influence of training status on oxidative and glycolytic components of
20 energy provision are required in young people.

21

22 As hypothesised, the influence of training status was significantly more pronounced during
23 upper than lower body exercise, a finding most likely attributable to the predominantly upper
24 body nature of swimming (Ogita et al. 1996). This finding, which agrees with previous
25 reports in young boys (Grodjinovsky et al. 1981), highlights the importance of the exercise

1 modality in revealing training status effects in the response to short-term, high-intensity
2 exercise in biologically immature populations. A failure to account for disparities between
3 the training and testing modalities may explain the absence of training status influences on
4 the short-term, high-intensity exercise response of girls previously reported (McManus et al.
5 1997; Siegler et al. 2003).

6

7 *Interaction of training status with maturity*

8

9 The interaction between training status and maturity during short-term, high-intensity
10 exercise in young populations has not previously been investigated. Contrary to our
11 hypothesis, no interaction was found between the magnitude of training status related
12 differences and maturity for any parameter during either lower or upper body exercise. This
13 finding contrasts with the classic theory of Katch (1983) which suggests the presence of a
14 maturational threshold below which significant physiological adaptations to training are not
15 manifest. These findings have potentially important implications for youth training
16 programmes, indicating that training benefits can be obtained even before puberty. Further
17 research is required to elucidate whether these conclusions are specific to girls and/or
18 swimming, as it may be anticipated that the changes in the hormonal milieu associated with
19 the onset of puberty (Daly et al. 1998; Tsolakis et al. 2003; Zakas et al. 1994) would have a
20 more significant impact in boys and/or in strength/power related sports. Furthermore, it must
21 be determined if the manifestation of significant influences of training status during pre-
22 puberty are associated with additional benefits during adulthood. It should be emphasised that
23 any such benefit would need to be balanced with the increased chance of burnout or injury
24 typically associated with intensive training at a young age (Baxter-Jones & Helms 1996;
25 Hemery 1988; Hollander et al. 1995; Salguero & Gonzalez-Boto 2003; Starosta 1996).

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In conclusion, this study has demonstrated significant influences of training status on the mechanical power indices during upper body WAnT, irrespective of maturity status in 11-17 year old girls. Specifically, PP and MP were both higher and the FI was lower in swim-trained pre-pubertal, pubertal and post-pubertal girls relative to their untrained counterparts during a 30 s all-out upper body exercise test. The dichotomy in the influence of training status between the upper and lower body highlights the importance of exercise modality in revealing training status influences. The present results indicate the presence of a significant oxidative contribution to energy provision during a WAnT test in girls. However, this oxidative contribution is not influenced by training status despite significantly faster $\dot{V}O_2$ kinetics in the trained girls. Finally, this study suggests that the influence of training status on short-term, high-intensity exercise performance is similar regardless of maturity stage, providing evidence against the concept of a maturational threshold in girls' responses to short-term, high-intensity exercise.

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Table 1. Participants' anthropometric characteristics

	Pre-pubertal		Pubertal		Post-pubertal	
	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained
	N = 8	N = 10	N = 9	N = 15	N = 8	N = 10
Age (y)	11.2 ± 1.0	11.9 ± 0.9	14.2 ± 0.8	14.2 ± 0.6	16.6 ± 0.6	16.7 ± 0.8
Stature (m)	1.48 ± 0.08	1.50 ± 0.06	1.66 ± 0.05	1.60 ± 0.06	1.67 ± 0.04	1.69 ± 0.06
Mass (kg)	43.2 ± 3.1	43.6 ± 6.6	56.9 ± 6.7	54.9 ± 7.0	59.4 ± 7.6	61.7 ± 6.7
Sum of skinfolds (mm)	67.0 ± 17.4	59.2 ± 13.2	63.6 ± 15.3	67.3 ± 18.6	54.3 ± 16.5	69.8 ± 32.3
Body fat (%)	26.7 ± 8.5	25.3 ± 5.9	29 ± 10	31 ± 9	24 ± 11	27 ± 9

Values are mean ± S.D.

* *Significant difference between pre-pubertal and pubertal girls within trained or untrained children ($P < 0.01$)*

† *Significant difference between pubertal and post-pubertal girls within trained or untrained children ($P < 0.01$)*

Table 2. Mechanical power indices in trained and untrained girls at 3 stages of maturity during a lower and upper body WAnT

	Pre-pubertal		Pubertal		Post-pubertal	
	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained
	N = 8	N = 10	N = 9	N = 15	N = 8	N = 10
<i>Cycle WAnT</i>						
PP (W)	325 ± 41	359 ± 72	496 ± 90 #	454 ± 109 #	487 ± 106	541 ± 20
PP (W·kg ⁻¹ BM)	7.3 ± 1.1	8.3 ± 1.6	8.9 ± 1.2	8.3 ± 1.5	8.5 ± 1.4	8.8 ± 1.3
PP (W·kg ⁻¹ FFM)	9.5 ± 1.2	11.1 ± 2.2	12.4 ± 2.8	12.4 ± 1.7	10.2 ± 1.8	12.2 ± 1.6
MP (W)	258 ± 42	274 ± 70	400 ± 60 #	352 ± 77 #	388 ± 55	421 ± 35
MP (W·kg ⁻¹ BM)	5.9 ± 0.9	6.3 ± 1.5	7.1 ± 1.0 #	6.4 ± 1.0	6.8 ± 0.8	6.9 ± 0.9
MP (W·kg ⁻¹ FFM)	7.8 ± 0.8	8.4 ± 2.2	10.0 ± 2.0	9.6 ± 1.2	8.5 ± 1.3	9.4 ± 0.7
FI (%)	28 ± 11	42 ± 10 *	30 ± 13	42 ± 9 *	32 ± 8	44 ± 10 *
<i>Upper body WAnT</i>						
PP (W)	163 ± 20 †	124 ± 29 *†	230 ± 42 †	173 ± 41 *†	245 ± 41 †	190 ± 40 *†
PP (W·kg ⁻¹)	3.8 ± 0.6 †	2.9 ± 0.7 *†	4.0 ± 0.4 †	3.4 ± 0.9 *†	4.1 ± 0.4 †	3.1 ± 0.8 *†
PP (W·kg ⁻¹ FFM)	4.8 ± 3.9 †	3.9 ± 1.0 †	5.6 ± 0.9 †	4.5 ± 0.6 *†	5.7 ± 1.1 †	4.3 ± 0.9 *†
MP (W)	130 ± 23 †	85 ± 26 *†	184 ± 37 †	123 ± 38 *†	200 ± 30 †	150 ± 15 *†
MP (W·kg ⁻¹)	3.0 ± 0.5 †	2.0 ± 0.6 *†	3.2 ± 0.4 †	2.5 ± 0.9 *†	3.4 ± 0.3 †	2.5 ± 0.8 *†
MP (W·kg ⁻¹ FFM)	3.8 ± 0.6 †	2.6 ± 1.0 *†	4.5 ± 0.9 †	3.3 ± 0.5 *†	4.6 ± 0.8 †	3.4 ± 0.9 *†
FI (%)	35 ± 12	50 ± 16 *	32 ± 14	46 ± 16 *	32 ± 6	44 ± 12 *

Values are mean ± S.D. PP, peak power; MP, mean power; FI, fatigue index; BM, body mass; FFM, fat free mass

* Significant difference between trained and untrained children within a maturity group ($P < 0.05$)

Significant difference compared to previous maturity stage within training status group ($P < 0.05$)

† Significant difference between exercise modalities within training status and maturity status group ($P < 0.05$)

Table 3. Peak oxygen uptake and oxidative contribution to energy provision in trained and untrained girls at 3 stages of maturity during a lower and upper body WAnT

	Pre-pubertal		Pubertal		Post-pubertal	
	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained
	N = 8	N = 10	N = 9	N = 15	N = 8	N = 10
<i>Cycle WAnT</i>						
Peak $\dot{V}O_2$ (L·min ⁻¹)	1.8 ± 0.3	1.6 ± 0.3	2.2 ± 0.3	1.8 ± 0.2 *	2.5 ± 0.2	2.2 ± 0.2 **
Peak $\dot{V}O_2$ (mL·kg ⁻¹ ·min ⁻¹)	43 ± 6	38 ± 5	38 ± 7	34 ± 4 *	43 ± 4	35 ± 7 *
Oxidative 13% (%)	14 ± 3	14 ± 2	13 ± 3	12 ± 2	15 ± 2	10 ± 2 *
Oxidative 30% (%)	33 ± 7	32 ± 5	30 ± 6	27 ± 5	34 ± 4	23 ± 5 *
$\dot{V}O_2 \tau$ (s)	15 ± 6	20 ± 4	9 ± 5	17 ± 2 *	8 ± 3	18 ± 3 *
<i>Upper body WAnT</i>						
Peak $\dot{V}O_2$ (L·min ⁻¹)	1.6 ± 0.2 †	1.1 ± 0.3 **†	2.1 ± 0.2 #	1.4 ± 0.2 **†#	2.1 ± 0.4 †	1.5 ± 0.3 **†
Peak $\dot{V}O_2$ (mL·kg ⁻¹ ·min ⁻¹)	36 ± 7 †	25 ± 5 **†	36 ± 4	27 ± 7 **†	35 ± 6 †	23 ± 5 **†
Oxidative 13% (%)	21 ± 3 †	25 ± 6 †	20 ± 5 †	20 ± 7 †	16 ± 4	16 ± 2 †
Oxidative 30% (%)	49 ± 6 †	58 ± 13 †	46 ± 11 †	47 ± 15 †	37 ± 9	37 ± 5 †
$\dot{V}O_2 \tau$ (s)	12 ± 4	20 ± 4 *	10 ± 4	17 ± 3 **#	10 ± 3	19 ± 2 *

Values are mean ± S.D. $\dot{V}O_2$, oxygen uptake; Oxidative 13%, oxidative contribution assuming 13% mechanical efficiency; Oxidative 30%, oxidative contribution assuming 30% mechanical efficiency

* Significant difference between trained and untrained children within a maturity group ($P < 0.01$)

Significant difference compared to previous maturity stage within training status group ($P < 0.05$)

† Significant difference between exercise modalities within training status and maturity status group ($P < 0.05$)

Figure 1. Mean power output responses for (a) pre-pubertal, (b) pubertal and (c) post-pubertal girls during lower body (Lo) and upper body (Up) exercise. Trained girls are shown with closed and untrained girls with open symbols.

Figure 2. Mean $\dot{V}O_2$ responses for (a) pre-pubertal, (b) pubertal and (c) post-pubertal girls during lower body (Lo) and upper body (Up) exercise. Trained girls are shown with closed and untrained girls with open symbols.



