

May 05, 2025

CLASSIFICATIONS OF BODY FAT MASS IN ATHLETES: A SCOPING REVIEW

DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.3byl418mrlo5/v1>

Alexander Miroshnikov¹, Polina Rybakova¹

¹Russian university of sports "GTSOLIFK"



Polina Rybakova

Russian university of sports "GTSOLIFK"

Create & collaborate more with a free account

Edit and publish protocols, collaborate in communities, share insights through comments, and track progress with run records.

Create free account

OPEN  ACCESS



DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.3byl418mrlo5/v1>

Protocol Citation: Alexander Miroshnikov, Polina Rybakova 2025. CLASSIFICATIONS OF BODY FAT MASS IN ATHLETES: A SCOPING REVIEW. protocols.io <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.3byl418mrlo5/v1>

License: This is an open access protocol distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited

Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

Created: May 05, 2025

Last Modified: May 05, 2025

Protocol Integer ID: 217717

Keywords: body composition, anthropometry, sports, body fat mass, classification, classifications of body fat mass, body fat mass, body fat in the general public, obesity classification table, body fat, bmi, fat, athletes with an emphasis, athlete, such as athlete, classification, muscle tissue, misclassification of certain group, misclassification

Disclaimer

Funding sources/sponsors: None

Conflicts of interest: None

Abstract

Since the non-athletic population statistics were used to compile the obesity classification tables, it was noted that BMI correlated strongly with body fat in the general public; however, this index does not differentiate between fat and muscle tissue and may contribute to misclassification of certain groups of people, such as athletes. The aim of the study is to analyze the classifications of body fat mass in athletes with an emphasis on the percentage of AT.

Guidelines

The study was conducted in accordance with:

Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (**PRISMA-ScR**) [Tricco AC, Lillie E, Zarin W, O'Brien KK, Colquhoun H, Levac D, Moher D, Peters MDJ, Horsley T, Weeks L, Hempel S, Akl EA, Chang C, McGowan J, Stewart L, Hartling L, Aldcroft A, Wilson MG, Garritty C, Lewin S, Godfrey CM, Macdonald MT, Langlois EV, Soares-Weiser K, Moriarty J, Clifford T, Tunçalp Ö, Straus SE. PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR): Checklist and Explanation. Ann Intern Med. 2018 Oct 2;169(7):467-473. doi: 10.7326/M18-0850.]

Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta Analysis Protocols (**PRISMA-P**) [Shamseer L, Moher D, Clarke M, Gherzi D, Liberati A, Petticrew M, Shekelle P, Stewart LA; PRISMA-P Group. Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015: elaboration and explanation. BMJ. 2015 Jan 2;350:g7647. doi: 10.1136/bmj.g7647.]

The literature search was performed in the following databases: PubMed, Epistemonikos, Google Scholar and Elibrary using the following keywords (table)

	A	B
	Database	Key words and terms
	PubMed	((("body composition"[MeSH Terms] OR ("body"[All Fields] AND "composition"[All Fields]) OR "body composition"[All Fields]) AND ("fat"[All Fields] AND ("molecular weight"[MeSH Terms] OR "molecular"[All Fields] AND "weight"[All Fields]) OR "molecular weight"[All Fields] OR "mass"[All Fields]))) OR ("fat"[All Fields] AND ("percentage"[All Fields] OR "percentages"[All Fields]))) AND ("athletes"[All Fields] OR "athletes"[MeSH Terms] OR "athletes"[All Fields] OR "athlete"[All Fields] OR "athletically"[All Fields] OR "athlets"[All Fields] OR "sports"[MeSH Terms] OR "sports"[All Fields] OR "athletic"[All Fields] OR "athletics"[All Fields])) AND (observationalstudy[Filter] OR review[Filter])
	Epistemonikos	(title:(title:(body composition) OR abstract:(body composition)) AND (title:(fat mass) OR abstract:(fat mass)) OR (title:(fat percentage) OR abstract:(fat percentage)) AND (title:(athlete) OR abstract:(athlete))) OR abstract:(title:(body composition) OR abstract:(body composition)) AND (title:(fat mass) OR abstract:(fat mass)) OR (title:(fat percentage) OR abstract:(fat percentage)) AND (title:(athlete) OR abstract:(athlete)))
	Google Scholar	body composition, fat percentage, fat mass, athlete
	Elibrary	состав тела, жировая масса тела, процент жира, спортсмены

Safety warnings

 This systematic could potentially include trial authored by one/more than one of the review authors.



Abstract

- 1 Traditionally, obesity and its less extreme form, overweight, are now measured by the body mass index (BMI). In 1997, the World Health Organization (WHO) decided to use BMI as an index to assess overweight and obesity in adults , and later, WHO experts proposed an international classification of excess body weight based on BMI . Since the statistics of the non-athletic population were used to compile the obesity classification tables , it was noted that BMI correlates strongly with body fat in the general public; however, this index does not differentiate between fat and muscle tissue and may contribute to the misclassification of certain groups of people, such as athletes . As an alternative, it was proposed to measure and classify obesity by the percentage of body fat (BF), since it is well known that a high percentage of body fat is associated with cancer progression and mortality . Based on the analysis of the current problem, generalization of modern scientific research and taking into account the needs of sports specialists, such as nutritionists, coaches and athletes, the purpose of this study was formulated. The purpose of the study is to analyze the classifications of body fat mass of athletes with an emphasis on the percentage of AT.

Anticipated or actual start date

- 2 05.05.2025

Anticipated completion date

- 3 05.06.2025

Stage of review at time of this registration

- 4 Pilot screening has completed

Named contact email

- 5 rybakova.poly@gmail.com / rybakova.poly@yandex.ru



Named contact address

6 Moscow, Sirenevy Boulevard, 4

Named contact phone number

7 +797779381**

Organisational affiliation of the review

8 Center for Sports Innovative Technologies and Training of National Teams of the Moscow City Sports Department
The Russian University of sports "GTSOLIFK"

Inclusion Criteria

9 A cohort study assesses the fat component in healthy, skilled male and female athletes (regardless of training stage)

Original language title

10 In Russian: **КЛАССИФИКАЦИИ ЖИРОВОЙ МАССЫ ТЕЛА У СПОРТСМЕНОВ: ОБЗОР ПРЕДМЕТНОГО ПОЛЯ**

Selection and extraction

11 In parallel by two authors

Protocol references

- Мартыросов Э.Г., Николаев Д.В., Руднев С.Г. Технологии и методы определения состава тела человека. -М.: Наука, – 2006. – С. 190-200.
- Ackland T, Elliott B, Richards J. Growth in body size affects rotational performance in women's gymnastics. *Sports Biomech.* 2003 Jul;2(2):163-76. doi: 10.1080/14763140308522815.
- Aldobali M, Pal K. Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis for Evaluation of Body Composition: A Review. In 2021 International Congress of Advanced Technology and Engineering (ICOTEN) 2021 Jul 4 (pp. 1-10). doi: 10.1109/ICOTEN52080.2021.9493494.
- Azmy U, Rahmania N, Renzytha AR, Atmaka DR, Pratiwi R, Rizal M, Adiningsih S, Herawati L. Comparison of Body Compositions among Endurance, Strength, and Team Sports Athletes. *Sport Mont.* 2023 Oct 1;21(3):45-50.
- Bale P, Goodway J. Performance variables associated with the competitive gymnast. *Sports Med.* 1990 Sep;10(3):139-45. doi: 10.2165/00007256-199010030-00001.
- Baranauskas M, Kupčiūnaitė I, Stukas R. Establishing Benchmark percentiles for the classification of body fat percentage of professional male athletes competing in combat sports through bioimpedanciometry. *Applied Sciences.* 2023 Aug 31;13(17):9885. doi:10.3390/app13179885.
- Bays HE, Golden A, Tondt J. Thirty Obesity Myths, Misunderstandings, and/or Oversimplifications: An Obesity Medicine Association (OMA) Clinical Practice Statement (CPS) 2022. *Obes Pillars.* 2022 Aug 10;3:100034. doi: 10.1016/j.obpill.2022.100034.
- Bray GA. Fat distribution and body weight. *Obes Res.* 1993 May;1(3):203-5. doi: 10.1002/j.1550-8528.1993.tb00613.x.
- Brown KA, Scherer PE. Update on Adipose Tissue and Cancer. *Endocr Rev.* 2023 Nov 9;44(6):961-974. doi: 10.1210/endrev/bnad015.
- Chin GC, Potter AW, Friedl KE. Body mass index is a barrier to obesity treatment. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne).* 2024 Aug 1;15:1444568. doi: 10.3389/fendo.2024.1444568.
- Currie A. Sport and eating disorders - understanding and managing the risks. *Asian J Sports Med.* 2010 Jun;1(2):63-8. doi: 10.5812/asjism.34864.
- Daly LS. Toward the Limits of Human Ageing Physiology: Characteristics of the 50-, 60- and 70-yr + Male Indoor Rowing World Champions. *Med Sci Sports Exerc.* 2025 Jan 24. doi: 10.1249/MSS.0000000000003657.
- Dong B, Peng Y, Wang Z, Adegbiya O, Hu J, Ma J, Ma YH. Joint association between body fat and its distribution with all-cause mortality: A data linkage cohort study based on NHANES (1988-2011). *PLoS One.* 2018 Feb 23;13(2):e0193368. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0193368.
- Dunne A, Warrington G, McGoldrick A, Pugh J, Harrison M, O'Connor S, O'Loughlin G, Cullen S. Estimation of Body Fat Percentage in Jockeys: Implications for a Weight Category Sport. *Int J Exerc Sci.* 2020 May 1;13(4):511-525. doi: 10.70252/BVOJ4674.
- Durnin JV, Womersley J. Body fat assessed from total body density and its estimation from skinfold thickness: measurements on 481 men and women aged from 16 to 72 years. *Br J Nutr.* 1974 Jul;32(1):77-97. doi: 10.1079/bjn19740060.
- Evans EM, Rowe DA, Misic MM, Prior BM, Arngrímsson SA. Skinfold prediction equation for athletes developed using a four-component model. *Med Sci Sports Exerc.* 2005 Nov;37(11):2006-11. doi: 10.1249/01.mss.0000176682.54071.5c.

- Falls HB, Humphrey LD. Body type and composition differences between placers and nonplacers in an AIAW gymnastics meet. *Res Q*. 1978 Mar;49(1):38-43. doi:10.1080/10671315.1978.10615503.
- Fleck SJ. Body composition of elite American athletes. *Am J Sports Med*. 1983 Nov-Dec;11(6):398-403. doi:10.1177/036354658301100604.
- Giovanelli L, Biganzoli G, Spataro A, Malacarne M, Bernardelli G, Spada R, Pagani M, Biganzoli E, Lucini D. Body composition assessment in a large cohort of Olympic athletes with different training loads: possible reference values for fat mass and fat-free mass domains. *Acta Diabetol*. 2024 Mar;61(3):361-372. doi:10.1007/s00592-023-02203-y.
- Guo J, Wei Y, Heiland EG, Marseglia A. Differential impacts of fat and muscle mass on cardiovascular and non-cardiovascular mortality in individuals with type 2 diabetes. *J Cachexia Sarcopenia Muscle*. 2024 Oct;15(5):1930-1941. doi: 10.1002/jcsm.13542.
21. Tricco AC, Lillie E, Zarin W, O'Brien KK, Colquhoun H, Levac D, Moher D, Peters MDJ, Horsley T, Weeks L, Hempel S, Akl EA, Chang C, McGowan J, Stewart L, Hartling L, Aldcroft A, Wilson MG, Garritty C, Lewin S, Godfrey CM, Macdonald MT, Langlois EV, Soares-Weiser K, Moriarty J, Clifford T, Tunçalp Ö, Straus SE. PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR): Checklist and Explanation. *Ann Intern Med*. 2018 Oct 2;169(7):467-473. doi: 10.7326/M18-0850.
- Shamseer L, Moher D, Clarke M, Ghersi D, Liberati A, Petticrew M, Shekelle P, Stewart LA; PRISMA-P Group. Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015: elaboration and explanation. *BMJ*. 2015 Jan 2;350:g7647. doi: 10.1136/bmj.g7647.
- Hew-Butler T, Kerr E 3rd, Martinez Perez G, Sabourin J, Smith-Hale V, Mendoza R. Evaluating lower limits of body fat percentage in athletes using DXA. *J Clin Densitom*. 2025 Jan 20;28(2):101564. doi:10.1016/j.jocd.2025.101564.
- Ho-Pham LT, Campbell LV, Nguyen TV. More on body fat cutoff points. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2011 Jun;86(6):584; author reply 584-5. doi: 10.4065/mcp.2011.0097.
- Horswill CA, Roedeshimer AE. Rethinking the 12% Body-Fat Minimum for Female Wrestlers. *Curr Sports Med Rep*. 2022 Jan 1;21(1):8-11. doi: 10.1249/JSR.0000000000000924.
- Jagim AR, Camic CL, Askow A, Luedke J, Erickson J, Kerkicks CM, Jones MT, Oliver JM. Sex Differences in Resting Metabolic Rate Among Athletes. *J Strength Cond Res*. 2019 Nov;33(11):3008-3014. doi:10.1519/JSC.0000000000002813.
- Jagim AR, Tinsley GM, Oppliger RA, Horswill CA, Dobbs WC, Fields JB, Cushard C, Rademacher PD, Jones MT. Collegiate women's wrestling body fat percentage and minimum wrestling weight values: time for revisiting minimal body fat percent? *J Int Soc Sports Nutr*. 2024 Dec;21(1):2304561. doi:10.1080/15502783.2024.2304561.
- Jenkins DA, Bowden J, Robinson HA, Sattar N, Loos RJF, Rutter MK, Sperrin M. Adiposity-Mortality Relationships in Type 2 Diabetes, Coronary Heart Disease, and Cancer Subgroups in the UK Biobank, and Their Modification by Smoking. *Diabetes Care*. 2018 Sep;41(9):1878-1886. doi: 10.2337/dc17-2508.
- Jeukendrup A, Gleeson M. Sport Nutrition 4th Edition HK Propel Access. Human Kinetics, 2024, p.704.
- Jovanovic S, Bijelić S, Živčić K, Milčić L, Možnik M. Some anthropometric characteristics of gymnasts and the influence on apparatus performance: Anthropometric Characteristics of Gymnasts. *Kinesiologia Slovenica: scientific journal on sport*, 2024, 30(1), 141-153. doi:10.52165/kinsi.30.1.141-153.