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Editorial

Guidelines and Perspectives: Directions and Challenges of The New Editorial Cycle

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In recent years, the circulation of scientific knowledge in the field of Physical Education and Sports Sciences has been impacted by structural changes, such as the expansion of international indexing databases, the adoption of open science practices, and the growing demand for methodological transparency. These factors alter not only the way we publish but also the criteria for evaluating the relevance and impact of research (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment, 2012).

The increasing complexity of methodological approaches, the demand for greater analytical transparency, and the need for international integration of journals impose the continuous review of editorial processes. It is with this spirit of institutional maturity and an non-negotiable commitment to evidence-based science that the *Arquivos Brasileiros de Educação Física (ABEF)* announces, through this editorial, a new phase in its trajectory.

Founded with the purpose of disseminating national academic production, the journal has consolidated itself as an important space for dialogue among researchers. Its abbreviated title — *Arq. Bras. Educ. Fís.* — has already become a reference among scholars in the field. Current international indexing criteria are not limited to the regular publication of articles. They include requirements for transparent editorial governance, robust methodological evaluation mechanisms, and guarantees of independence from institutional or commercial pressures. The adoption of a decentralized editorial board and the implementation of rigorous statistical reviews are direct responses to these demands (SciELO, 2024).

To meet these parameters, ABEF has profoundly restructured its governance. The most visible milestone of this change is the consolidation of a new board of Associate Editors, composed of researchers of recognized excellence from different academic centers in

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Brazil and abroad. This geographical and institutional decentralization ensures that the initial screening process and editorial decision-making occur under strictly impersonal, transparent, and qualified criteria. We invite the reader to discover the complete composition of the new editorial board on our official webpage.

Another central axis of this new phase is the strengthening of methodological and statistical rigor. From now on, the editorial screening process (Desk Review) will be intensified to filter out manuscripts that present structural weaknesses, ethical deviations, or low analytical robustness. Manuscripts that pass this stage are forwarded to at least two *ad hoc* external reviewers, experts in the subject matter, under a double-blind peer review system. Based on the reviews, the final decision of acceptance, requirement for revision, or rejection rests with the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors, ensuring a collegiate and impartial decision-making process. The review process will follow ethical standards internationally recognized by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE, 2017).

ABEF reaffirms its commitment to publishing research that demonstrates clarity in its designs, valuing both high-precision quantitative approaches and structured qualitative investigations. Our scope encompasses the following fields of investigation: Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics; Sports Training and Human Movement Performance; Physical Activity, Health, and Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases; Physical Activity Epidemiology; School Physical Education and Physical Education Pedagogy; Public Health, Psychology, and Sociocultural Aspects of Physical Education. We publish original articles, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, clinical trials, and case studies with a strong methodological and statistical emphasis, favoring investigations that integrate different levels of analysis — biological, behavioral, and sociocultural.

Aligned with the global guidelines of open science, the journal consolidates its continuous publication model. This decision eliminates the old bottlenecks of rigid biannual editions, allowing articles to be published immediately after final approval and typesetting, optimizing the citation flow and ensuring agility for authors. We reinforce that ABEF adopts Open Access and does not charge any submission, article processing (APCs), or publication fees — a commitment to the democratization of scientific knowledge. Manuscripts are accepted in Portuguese, English, and Spanish, expanding the reach and diversity of the academic production disseminated.

Although the challenges of internationalization and maintaining standards of excellence are significant, indicators such as the increase in international submissions, the diversity of methodologies employed, and the growing citation of articles published in ABEF demonstrate consistent advances in the quality of scientific production in the field. We invite the national and international scientific community — professors, researchers, graduate students, and human movement professionals — to get to know our new structure and the rigorous guidelines for authors, and to submit their most qualified works. ABEF renews its commitment to being a vector of excellence, ethics, and impact for sports science, fulfilling its mission of fostering the advancement of evidence-based knowledge and promoting critical exchange among researchers.

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