



# **The Match-Play Demands of Hurling**

**3 years in the making**

Dr. Damien Young



# Examination Paper

## **The Match-Play Demands of Hurling**

You are required to answer **ALL**  
of the following questions

**Time:** 70 min



## **DURATION DEMANDS**

Q1. How much time is the ball-in-play?

Q2. What is the frequency of ball-in-play?

## **STOPPAGES**

Q3. What are the most frequent stoppages in hurling?

Q4. What are the duration of those stoppages?

## **PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

Q5. What are the running demands of the full game?

Q6. What positions are the most demanding?

Q7. What is the difference between the demands of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> half?

Q8. What is a maximal intensity period?



## The match-play activity cycles in elite U17, U21 and senior hurling competitive games

Damien Young<sup>1</sup> · Kieran Collins<sup>2,3</sup> · Laurent Mourot<sup>1,4,5</sup> · Giuseppe Coratella<sup>6</sup>

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### Abstract

**Purpose** The current study aimed to investigate the ball-in-play (BIP) and ball-out-of-play (BOP) differences between U17, U21 and senior hurling matches.

**Methods** Video recordings of matches ( $n=36$ ) were coded and analysed for BIP and BOP. Time when the ball was continuously in-play was considered BIP, whereas any stoppages were considered BOP.

**Results** The total and mean BIP cycle duration showed no difference between levels. The number of BIP cycles were higher in senior matches compared to U17 ( $ES=1.80$ : large) and U21 ( $ES=1.27$ : large). U17 matches had a lower frequency of BIP cycles between 16 and 30 s ( $ES=-1.75$ : large) compared to senior. Total BOP duration was longer in senior ( $45:30 \pm 4:13$  min) matches compared to U17 ( $36:31 \pm 2:30$  min,  $ES=2.59$ : very large) and U21 ( $36:48 \pm 2:53$  min,  $ES=2.40$ : very large). Senior matches had a longer BOP duration and greater number of BOP cycles than U17 ( $ES=0.17$ : trivial,  $ES=2.20$ : very large, respectively) and U21 ( $ES=0.17$ : trivial,  $ES=0.99$ : moderate, respectively). U17 matches had a lower frequency of BOP cycles  $> 60$  s ( $ES=-1.33$ : large) compared to senior.

**Conclusion** Although there was a difference in the total match duration, U17 and U21 matches have similar BIP time as seniors, suggesting that U17 and U21 players should be conditioned to withstand the elite senior BIP duration. In training practice, high-intensity short-duration games are suggested for repeating the duration demands of competition.

**Keywords** Physical demands · Time-motion analysis · Team sport · Worst case scenario · Ball-in-play-ball-out-of-play ratio

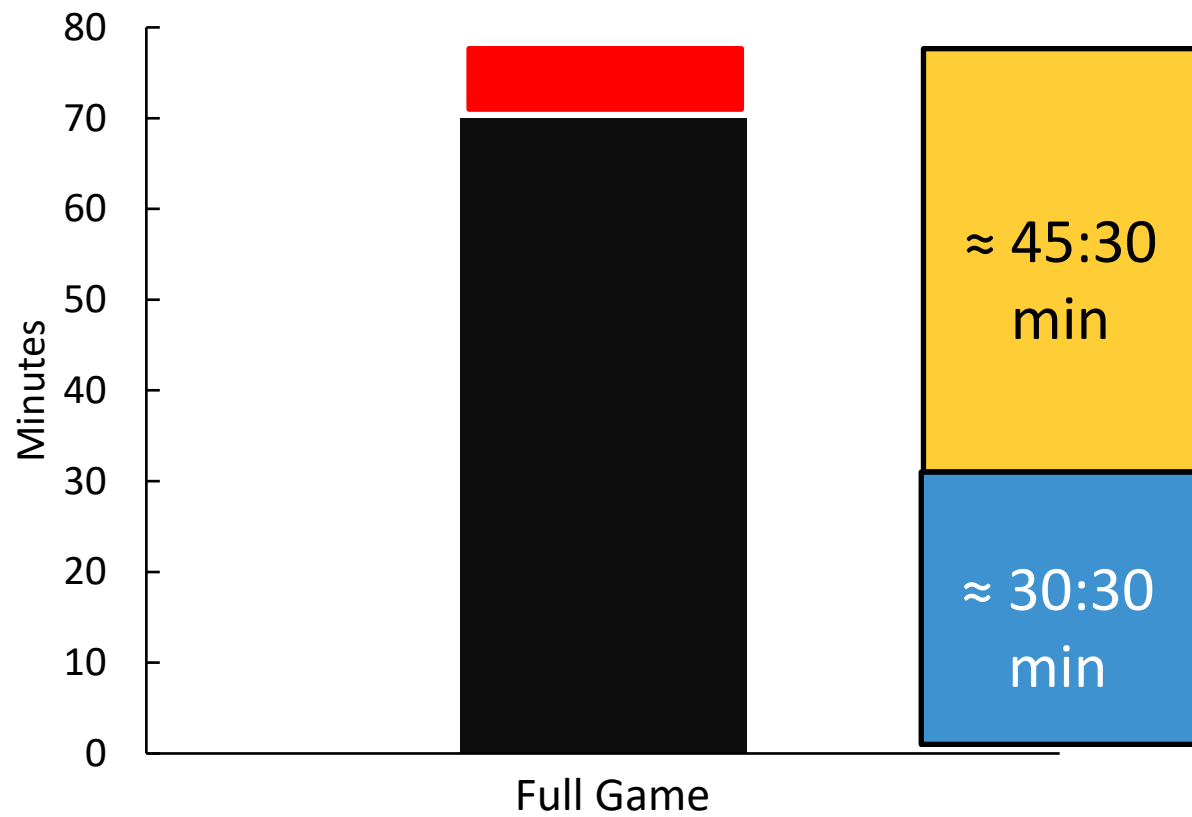
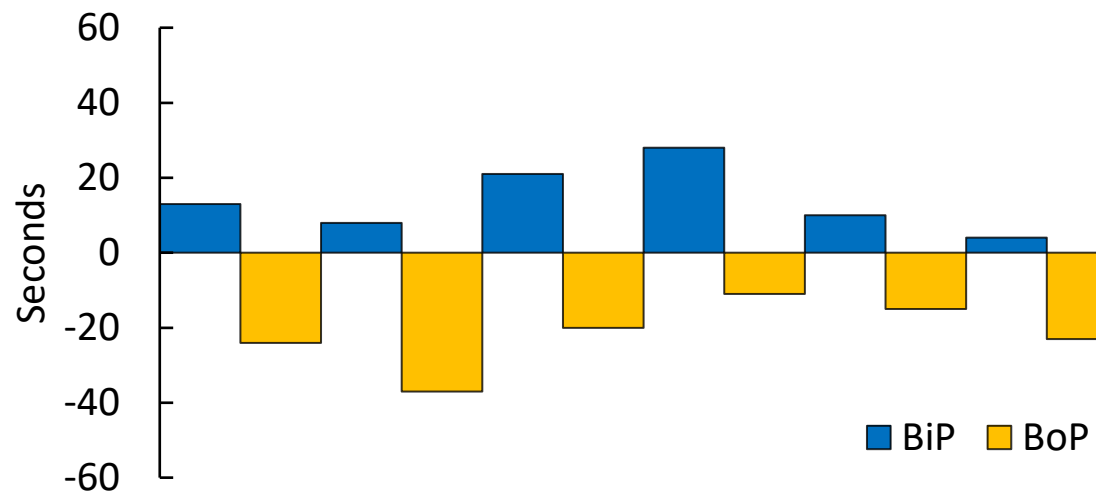
# Overall game duration

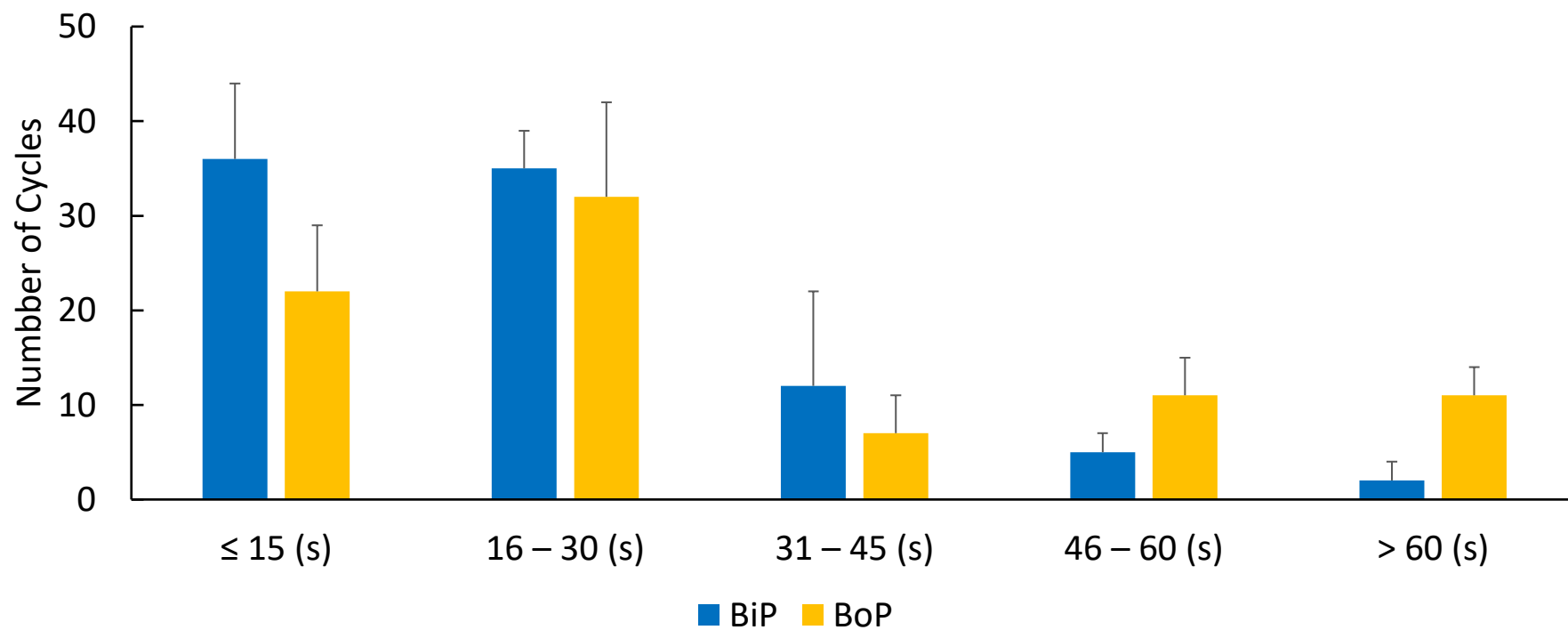
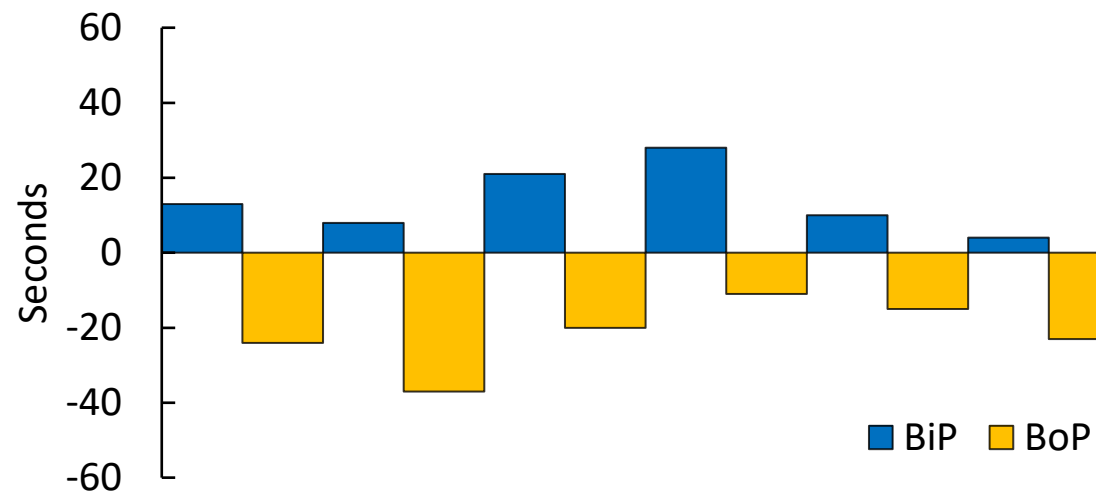
## Duration and number of BiP & BoP cycles

## Individual duration and number of BiP & BoP cycles

## Frequency of BiP/BoP

## Number & duration of stoppages



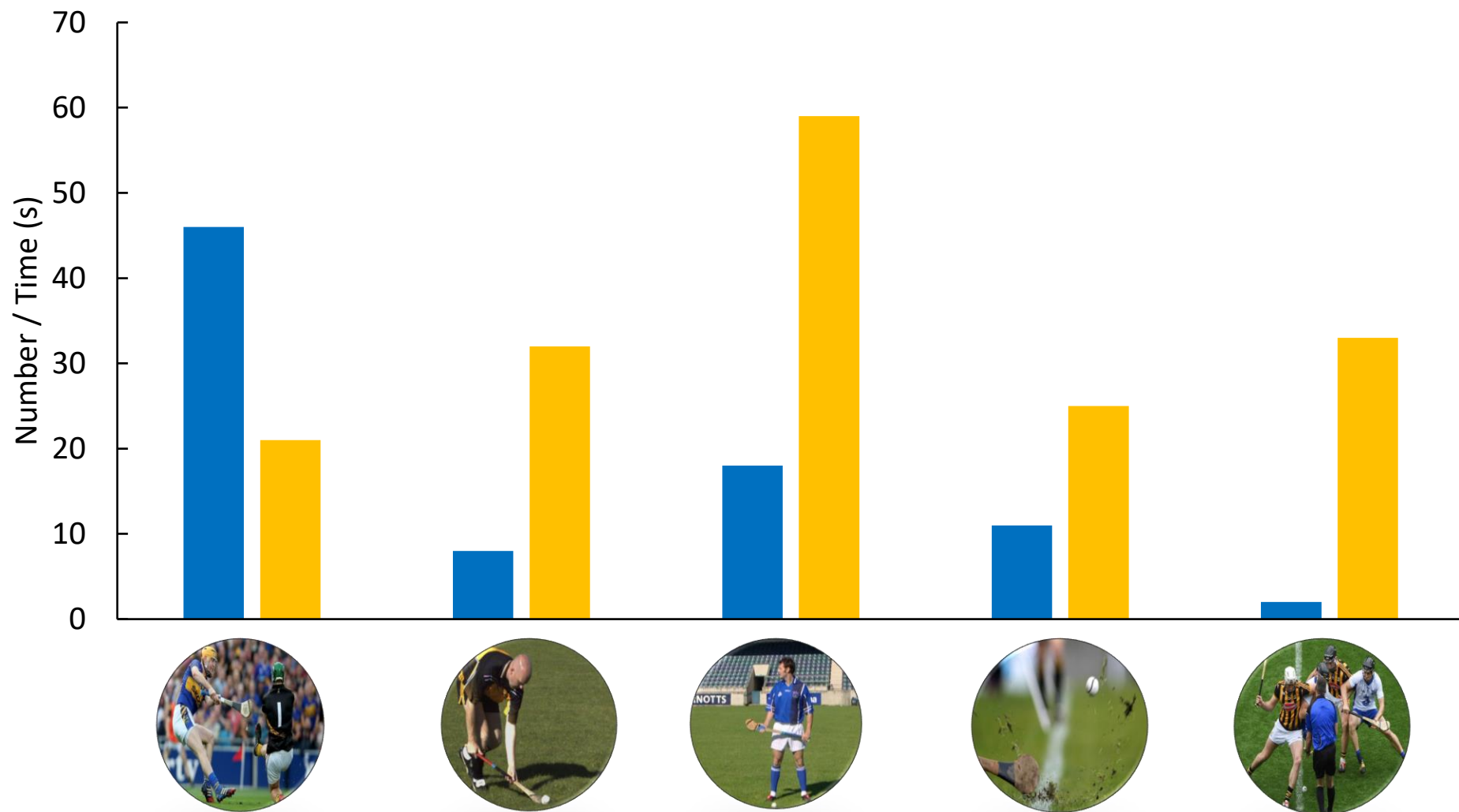




# GAME STOPPAGES



# GAME STOPPAGES





# Notes

## Duration Demands

- *Hurling is a stop-start game*
- $80\% \text{ BiP/BoP} < 30 \text{ s}$

## Stoppages

- *Shots at Goal - Puckouts*
- $\approx 20 \text{ s restarts}$

## Physical Demands

## Position

## Between Half



Random chaotic invasion-type game

Skills of the game require high levels of coordination

Ball can travel large distances

# Full Game – Positions – Temporal Decrement

## MATCH-PLAY TEMPORAL AND POSITION-SPECIFIC PHYSICAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL DEMANDS OF SENIOR HURLERS

DAMIEN YOUNG,<sup>1</sup> MARCO BEATO,<sup>2</sup> LAURENT MOUROT,<sup>1,3,4</sup> AND GIUSEPPE CORATELLA<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Unit EA3920 Prognostic Markers and Regulatory Factors of Cardiovascular Diseases and Exercise Performance, Exercise Performance Health, Innovation Platform, University Bourgogne Franche-Comté, Besançon, France; <sup>2</sup>Department of Science and Technology, Faculty of Health and Science, University of Suffolk, Ipswich, United Kingdom; <sup>3</sup>EA3920 Prognostic Factors and Regulatory Factors of Cardiac and Vascular Pathologies, Exercise Performance Health Innovation–EPHI, University Bourgogne Franche-Comté, Besançon, France; <sup>4</sup>Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia; and <sup>5</sup>Department of Biomedical Sciences for Health, University of Milan, Milan, Italy

### ABSTRACT

Young, D, Beato, M, Mourot, L, and Coratella, G. Match-play temporal and position-specific physical and physiological demands of senior hurlers. *J Strength Cond Res XX(X):* 000–000, 2019—The aims of the current study were to examine the temporal differences in match-running performances and heart rate (HR) in elite senior hurling players between halves of play and field positions. Global positioning systems (10 Hz) and HR monitors were used to collect data from 48 players over 18 games. Running performances (total distance [TD], relative distance, high-speed running [HSR], sprint efforts [SE], mean length of sprints, and sprint distance [SD]) and HR values (HRmean and HRpeak) were assessed. Decrements in TD ( $p = 0.009$ , effect size [ES] =  $-0.15$ ), relative distance ( $p = 0.009$ , ES =  $-0.18$ ), HSR ( $p = 0.001$ , ES =  $-0.28$ ), SE ( $p = 0.001$ , ES =  $-0.23$ ), SD ( $p = 0.001$ , ES =  $-0.24$ ), HRmean ( $p < 0.001$ , ES =  $-0.38$ ), and HRpeak ( $p < 0.001$ , ES =  $-0.21$ ) were found between halves. Half backs showed between-half

**KEY WORDS** team sport, performance, match-play demands, high-speed running, sprint distance, heart rate

### INTRODUCTION

Hurling is one of the national sports played in Ireland. All players represent their subelite (club) team where the best players are selected to represent their elite (intercounty) team (42). Elite-level games attract large attendances of over 80,000 people at the finals in Croke Park with several million people watching on television around the world (34). Counties compete for a Provincial and All-Ireland elite Championship during the playing season of February to September (34). The game is played on a pitch (140 × 90 m) that is 40% larger compared with a soccer pitch (110 × 70 m) and contested by 2 teams of 15 players (1 goalkeeper and 14 outfield players) over a duration of 70 minutes (35 minutes per half).

Total distance

Relative distance

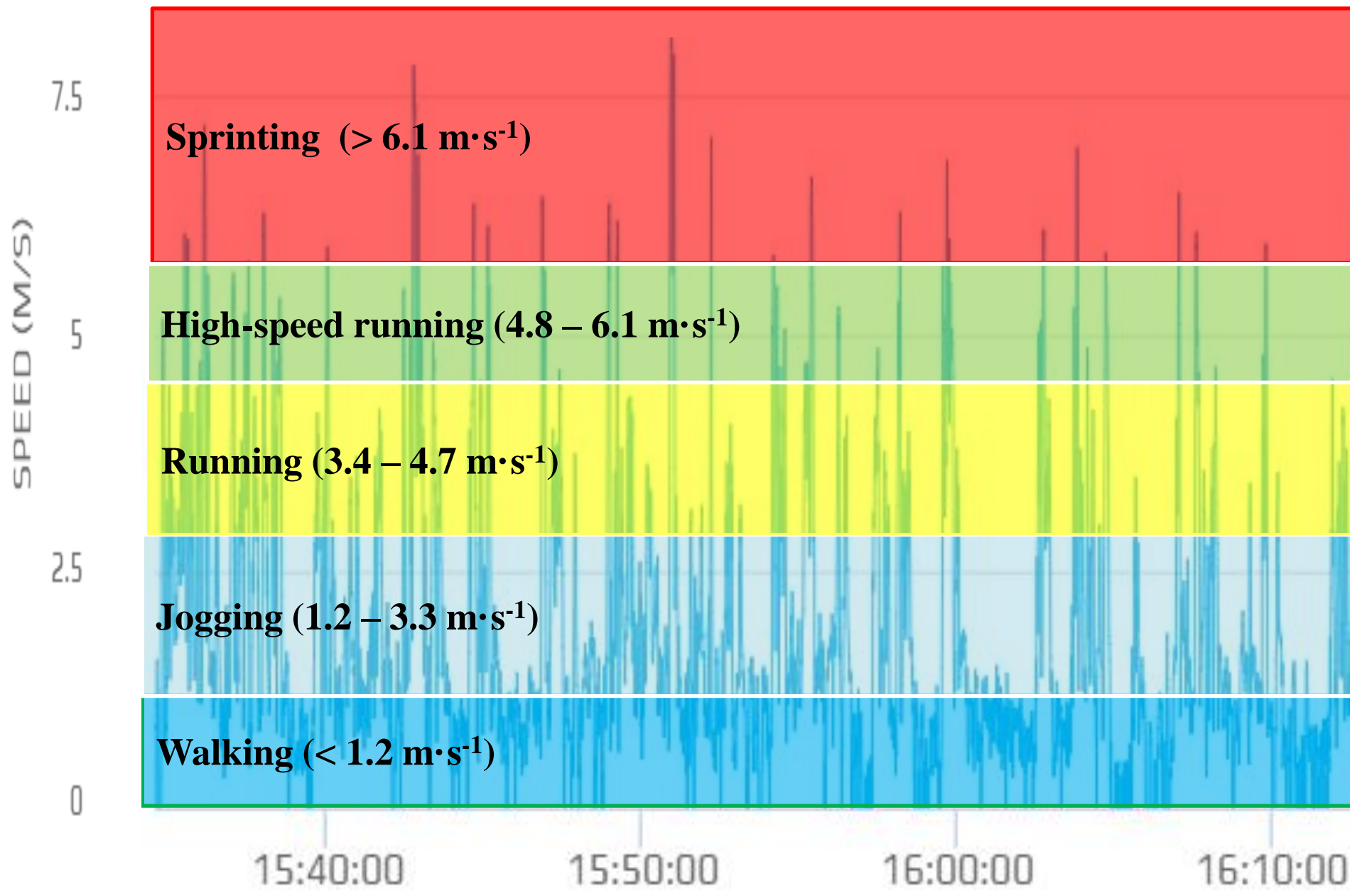
Distance at each speed

Peak speed

Number of sprints

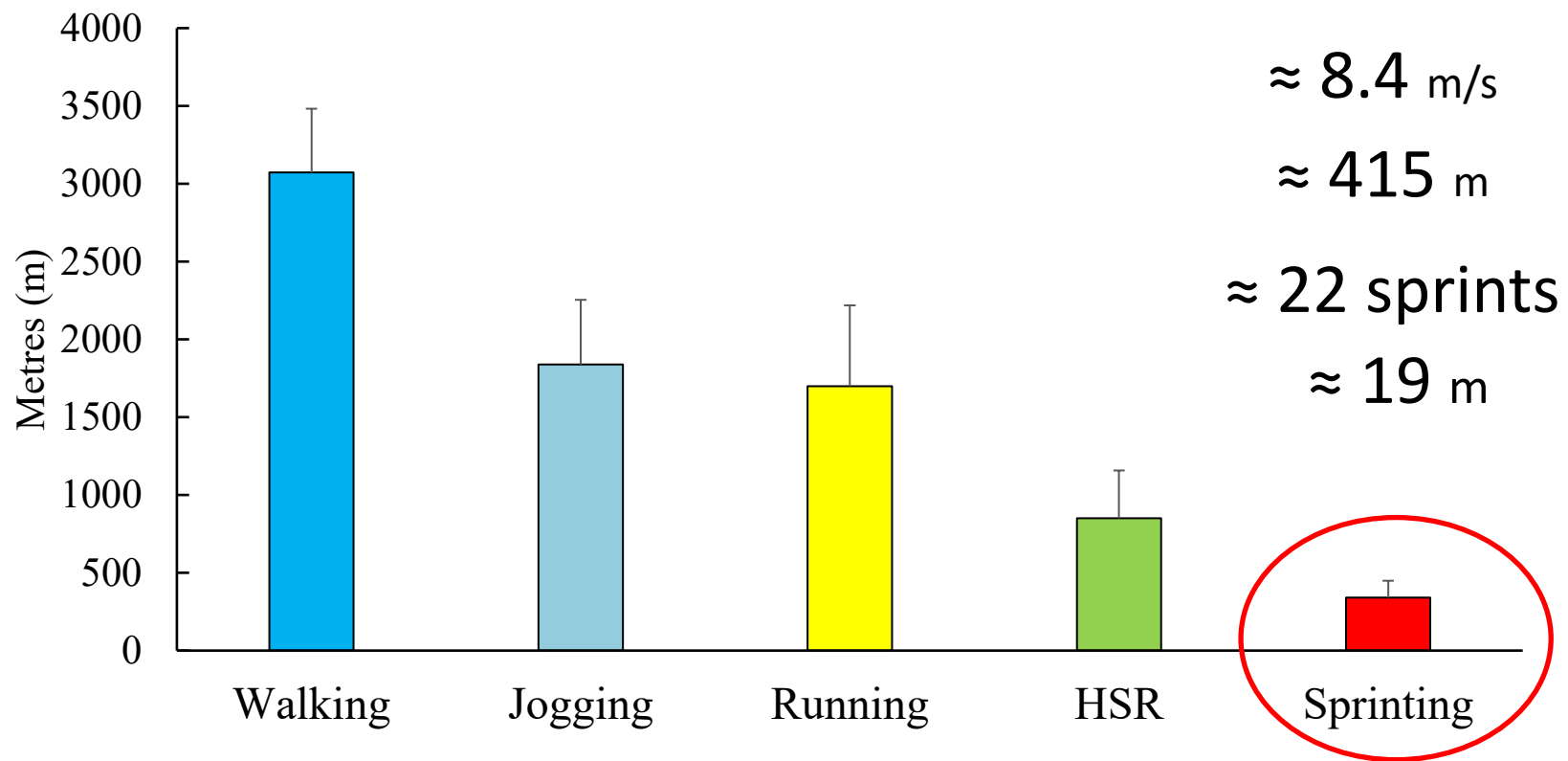
Length of sprint





# Results







Full Backs

Half Backs

Midfielders

Half Forwards

Full Forwards

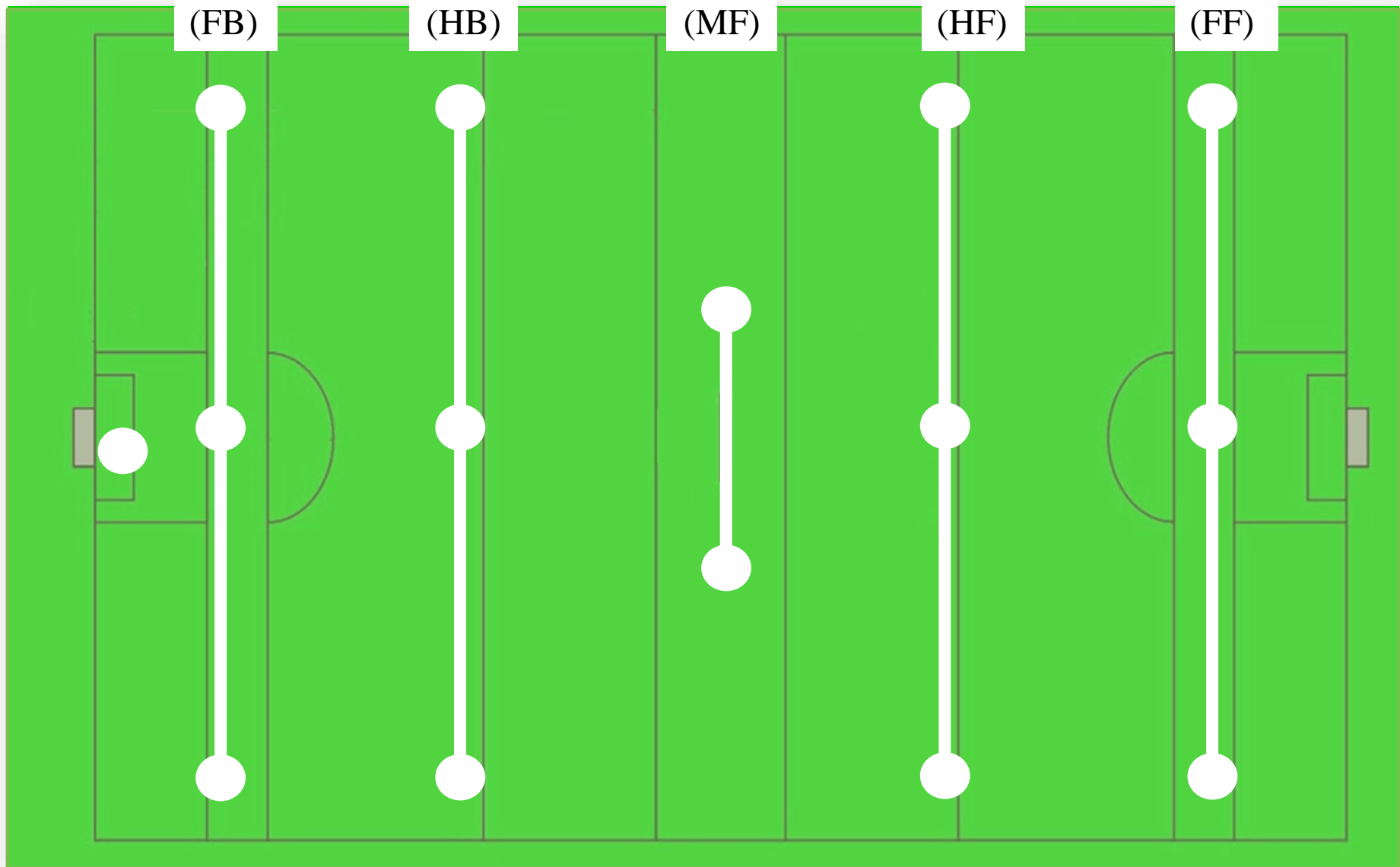
(FB)

(HB)

(MF)

(HF)

(FF)

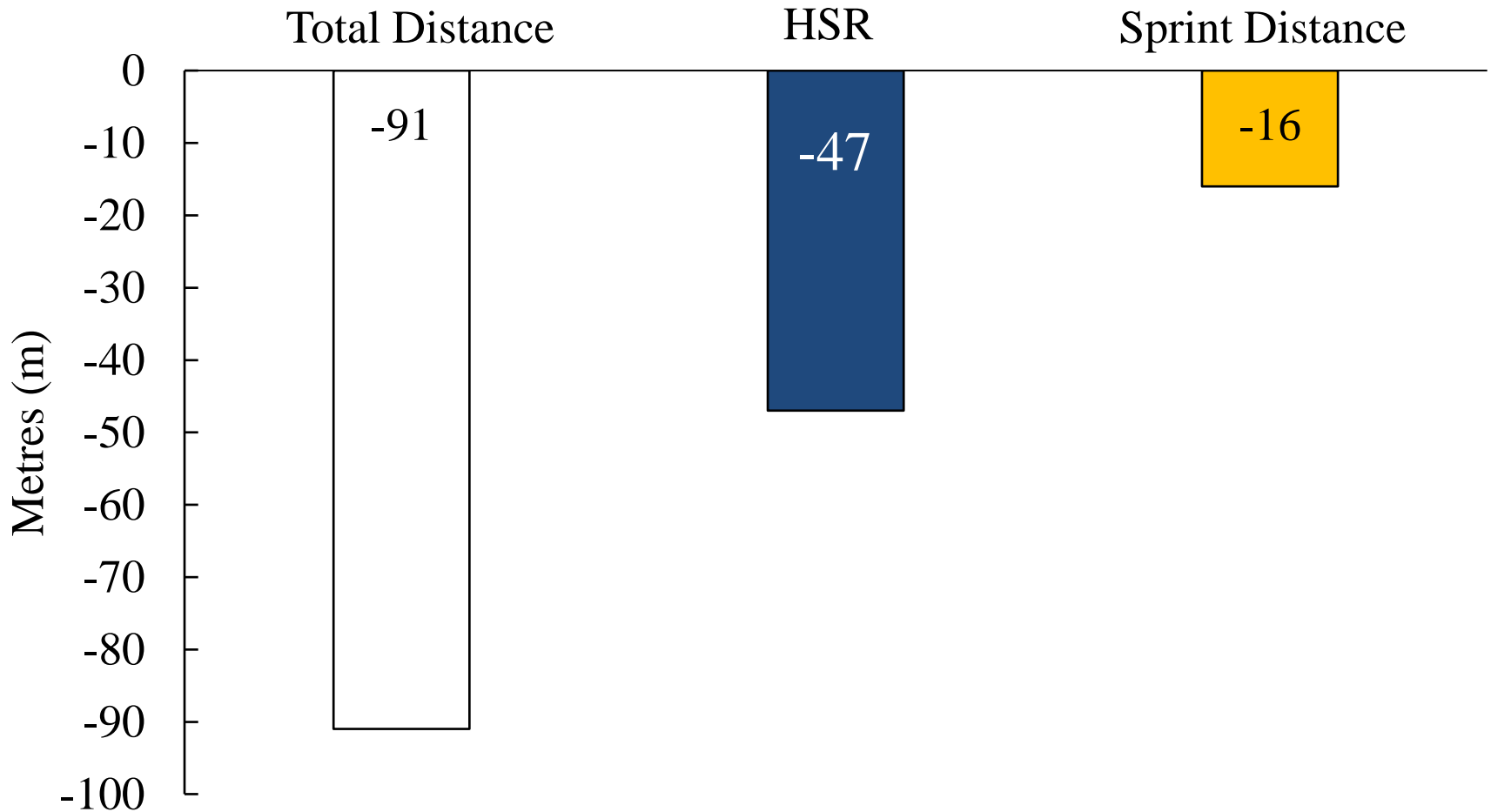


FULL BACK	TD (m) 7235	HSR (m) 671	SD (m) 318
HALF BACK	8516 <sup>a</sup>	1086 <sup>a</sup>	313
MID- FIELD	8679 <sup>a</sup>	954 <sup>a</sup>	330
HALF FORWARD	8217 <sup>a</sup>	954 <sup>a</sup>	374
FULL FORWARD	6770 <sup>bcd</sup>	657 <sup>bcd</sup>	353

a = diff from FB, b = diff from HB, c = diff from MF, d = diff from HF



# Between Halves



# Notes

## Duration Demands

- *Hurling is a stop-start game*
- *80% BiP/BoP < 30 s*

## Stoppages

- *Shots at Goal*
- *≈ 20 s restarts*

## Physical Demands

- *Perform at least 22 sprints*
- *Reach peak speeds of 8.4 m/s*

## Position

- *Extra TD, HSR for middle 3*
- *Everyone can perform sprint training together*

## Between Half

- *Minimal drop-off in TD, HSR, sprint distance*

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## The match-play sprint performance of elite senior hurlers during competitive games

Damien Young<sup>1\*</sup>, Giuseppe Coratella<sup>2\*</sup>, Shane Malone<sup>3,4</sup>, Kieran Collins<sup>3,4</sup>, Laurent Mourot<sup>1,5</sup>, Marco Beato<sup>6</sup>

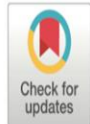
**1** Research Unit EA3920 Prognostic Markers and Regulatory Factors of Cardiovascular Diseases and Exercise Performance, Exercise Performance Health, Innovation Platform, University of Bourgogne Franche-Comté, Besançon, France, **2** Department of Biomedical Sciences for Health, University of Milan, Milan, Italy, **3** Gaelic Sports Research Centre, Institute of Technology Tallaght, Tallaght, Dublin, Ireland, **4** The Tom Reilly Building, Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, United Kingdom, **5** Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia, **6** Faculty of Health and Science, Department of Science and Technology, University of Suffolk, Ipswich, United Kingdom

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## Abstract

The typical sprint profile in elite hurling has yet to be established. The purpose of this study was to investigate the sprinting demands of elite hurling competition and characterize the sprinting patterns of different playing positions. GPS (10-Hz, STATSports Viper) were used to collect data from 51 hurlers during 18 games. The total sprint ( $\geq 22 \text{ km} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$ ) distance (TSD), the number of sprints (NOS) classified as length ( $< 20 \text{ m}$ ,  $\geq 20 \text{ m}$ ) and relative speed thresholds ( $< 80\%$ ,  $80\text{--}90\%$ ,  $> 90\%$ ), the between-sprint duration and the number of repeated-sprint bouts ( $\geq 2$  sprints in  $\leq 60 \text{ s}$ ) were analyzed. The NOS was  $22.2 \pm 6.8$  accumulating  $415 \pm 140 \text{ m}$  TSD. The NOS  $< 20 \text{ m}$ ,  $\geq 20 \text{ m}$  was  $14.0 \pm 4.7$  and  $8.1 \pm 3.6$  respectively. The NOS  $< 80\%$ ,  $80\text{--}90\%$  and  $> 90\%$  was  $10.6 \pm 4.3$ ,  $8.2 \pm 3.6$ ,  $3.4 \pm 2.4$  respectively. The between-sprint duration and the repeated-sprint bouts were  $208 \pm 86 \text{ s}$  and  $4.5 \pm 2.6$  respectively. TSD (ES =  $-0.20$ ), NOS (ES =  $-0.34$ ), NOS  $< 20 \text{ m}$  (ES =  $-0.33$ ),  $\geq 20 \text{ m}$  (ES =  $-0.24$ ),  $80\text{--}90\%$  (ES =  $-0.35$ )  $> 90\%$  (ES =  $-0.13$ ) and repeated-sprint bouts (ES =  $-0.28$ ) decreased between-halves. Full-backs performed a lower NOS  $< 80\%$  than half-backs (ES =  $-0.66$ ) and a shorter mean duration of sprints than half-backs (ES =  $-0.75$ ), midfielders (ES =  $-1.00$ ) and full-forwards (ES =  $-0.59$ ). These findings provide a sprint profile of elite hurling match-play that coaches should consider to replicate the sprint demands of competition in



## OPEN ACCESS

**Citation:** Young D, Coratella G, Malone S, Collins K, Mourot L, Beato M (2019) The match-play sprint performance of elite senior hurlers during competitive games. PLoS ONE 14(4): e0215156. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0215156>

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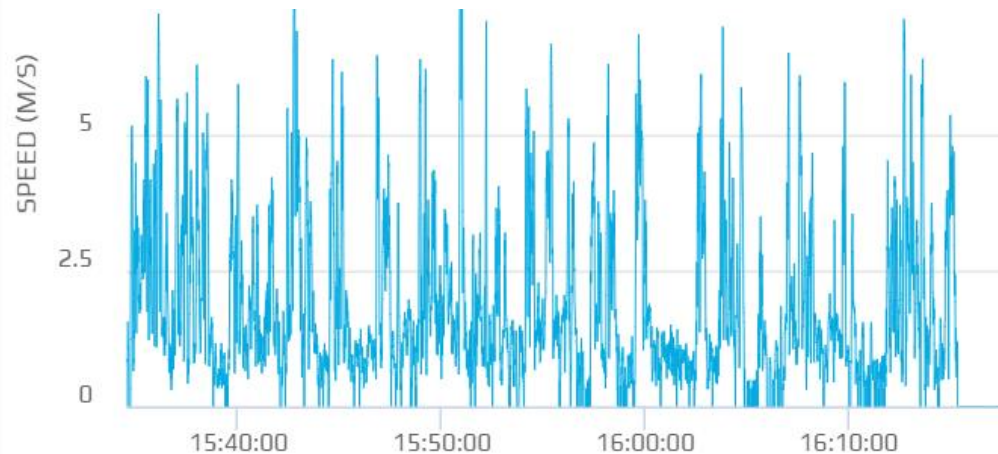
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# NOS < 20 m, > 20 m

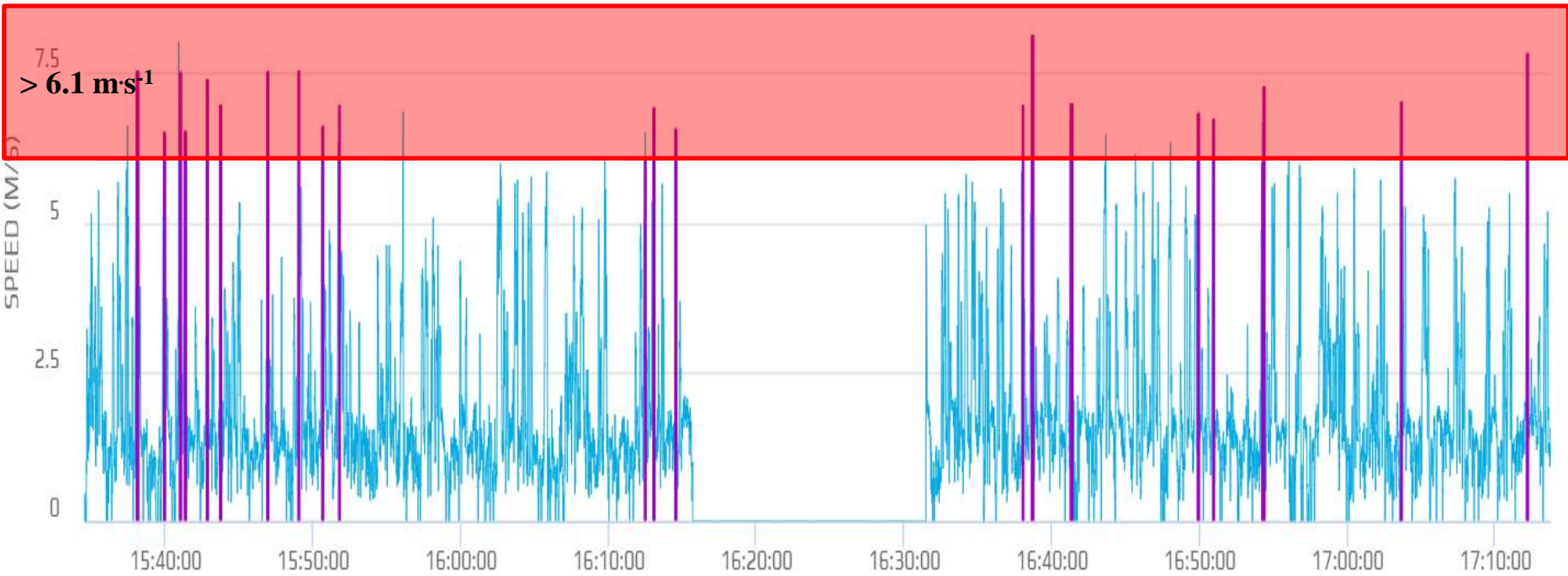
## NOS < 80%, 80-90%, > 90%

### Duration between sprints

### Repeated-sprint bouts



SPEED DSL METABOLIC POWER ACCELS DECELS SPRINTS IMPACTS HML EFFORTS



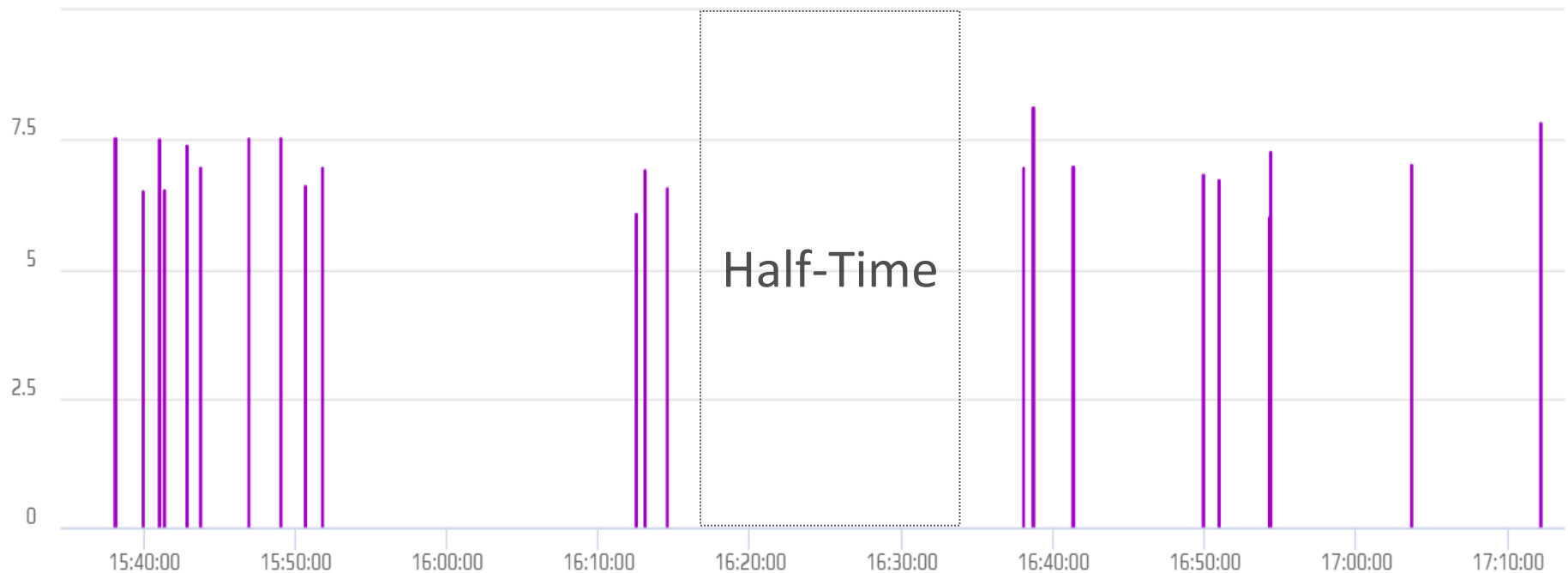


**Number**  
 $\approx 14, \approx 8$

**Duration**  
 $\approx 208 \text{ s}$

**Repeated-sprint  
bouts**  
 $\approx 5$

— SPEED — DSL — METABOLIC POWER — ACCELS — DECELS — SPRINTS — IMPACTS — HML EFFORTS

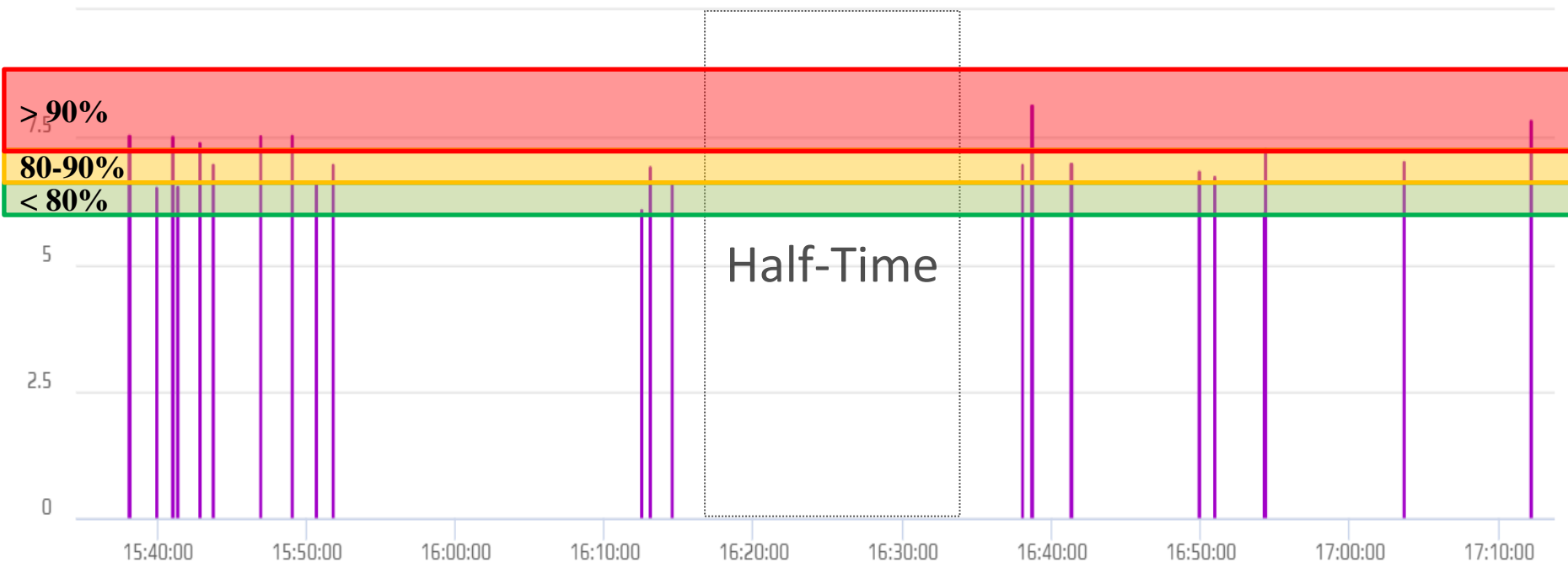


**< 80%**  
**≈ 11**

**80 - 90%**  
**≈ 8**

**> 90%**  
**≈ 3**

— SPEED — DSL — METABOLIC POWER — ACCELS — DECELS — SPRINTS — IMPACTS — HML EFFORTS



**Number of  
Sprints**

**< 20 m, > 20 m**

**Peak Speed**

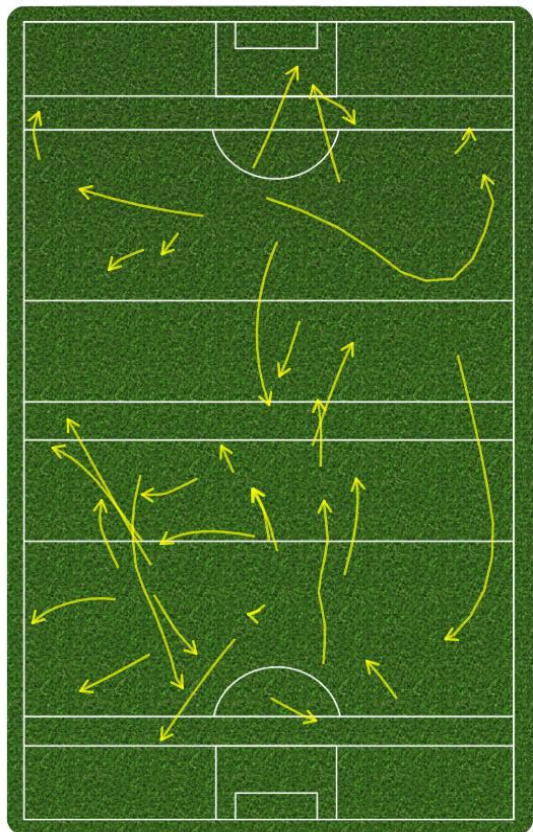
# **POSITIONS**

**< 80%, 80-90%,  
> 90%**

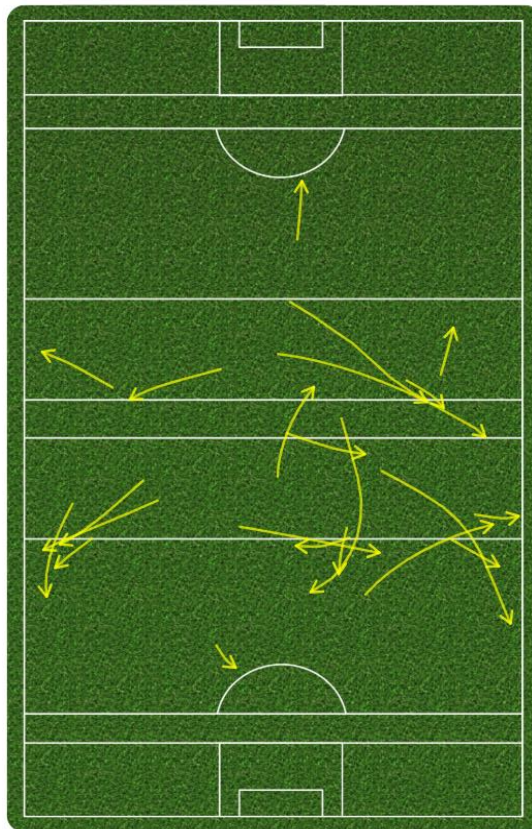
**Duration  
Between Sprints**

**Repeated-Sprint  
Bouts**

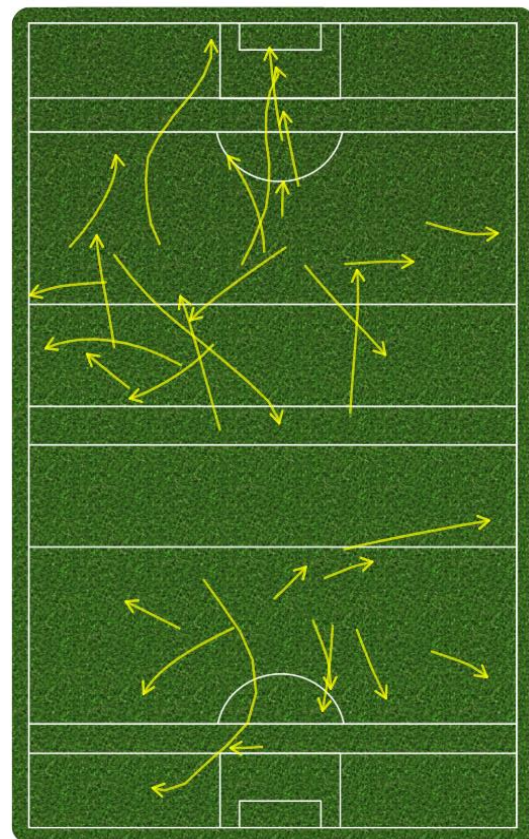
## Half Back Line



## Midfield



## Half Forward Line



**Number of  
Sprints**  
 $\approx -2$

$< 20 \text{ m} \approx -1$   
 $> 20 \text{ m} \approx -1$

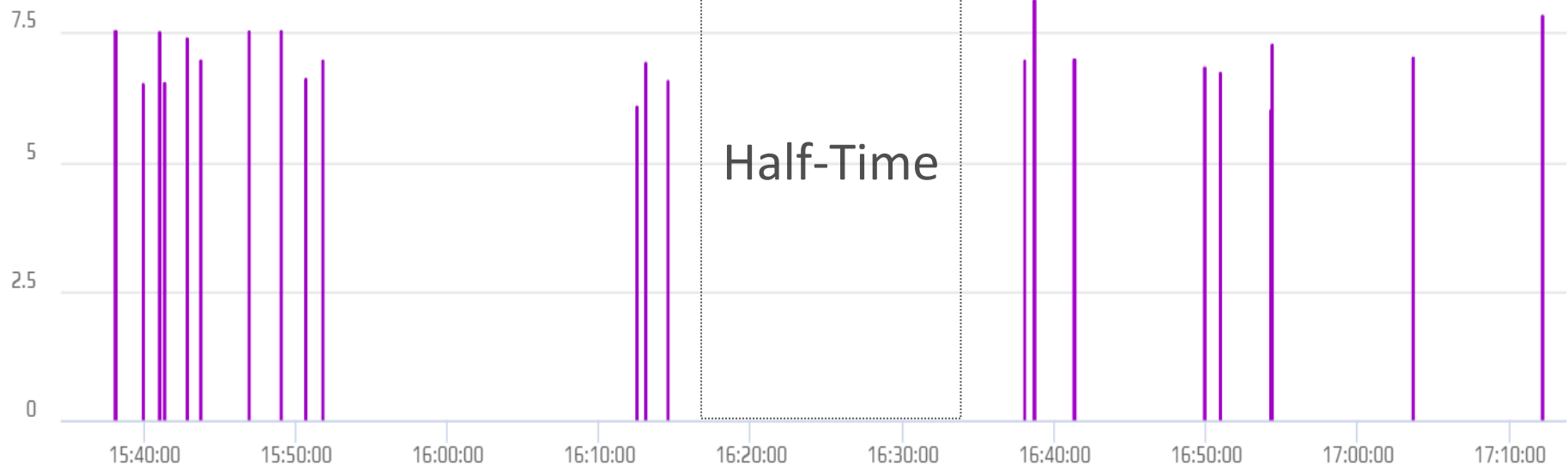
$< 80\% \approx -1$   
 $80-90\% \approx -1$   
 $90\% \approx 0$

## BETWEEN HALVES

**Peak Speed**  
 $\approx -0.05 \text{ m/s}$

**Duration  
Between Sprints**  
 $\approx 16 \text{ s}$

**Repeated-Sprint  
Bouts**  
 $\approx -1$



# Notes

## Duration Demands

- *Hurling is a stop-start game*
- *80% BiP/BoP < 30 s*

## Stoppages

- *Shots at Goal*
- *≈ 20 s restarts*

## Physical Demands

- *Perform at least 22 sprints*
- *Reach peak speeds of 8.4 m/s*
- *Vary the length of sprints*
- *Allow enough space to reach > 90% peak speeds*
- *Perform different intensities of sprints*

- *Vary the direction of sprints*
- *Repeated sprints are rare but do happen*

## Position

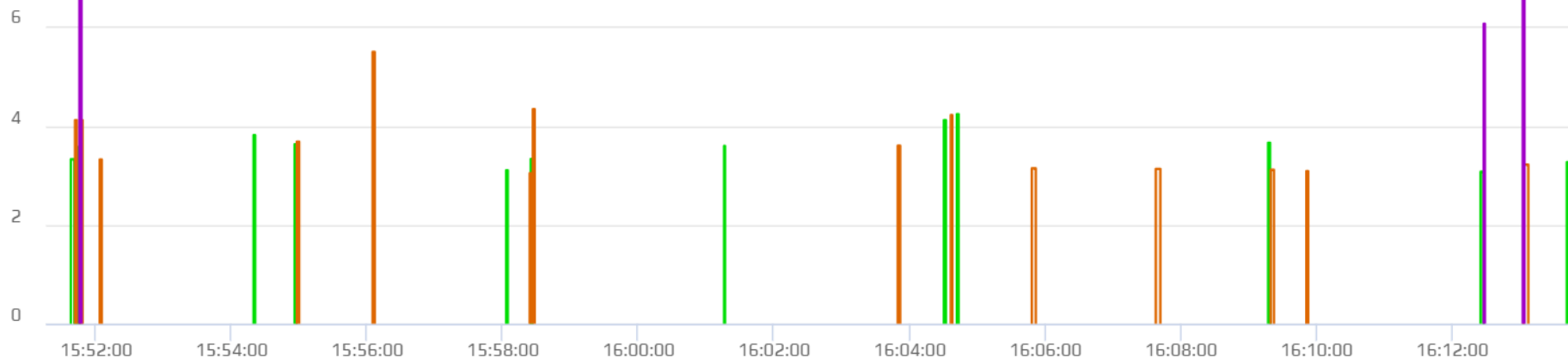
- *Extra TD, HSR for middle 3*
- *Everyone can perform sprint training together*
- *Various directions of sprints*

## Between Half

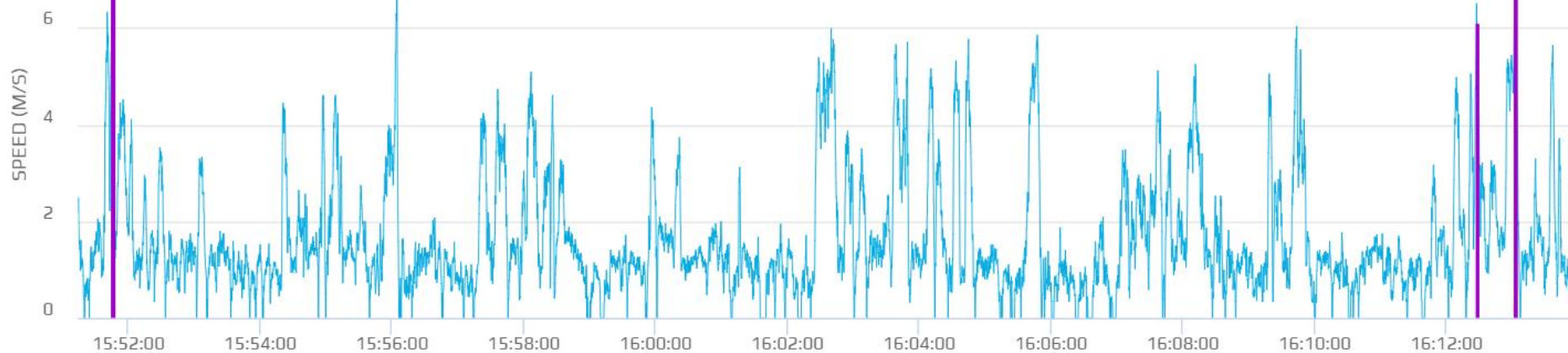
- *Minimal drop-off in TD, HSR, sprint distance*

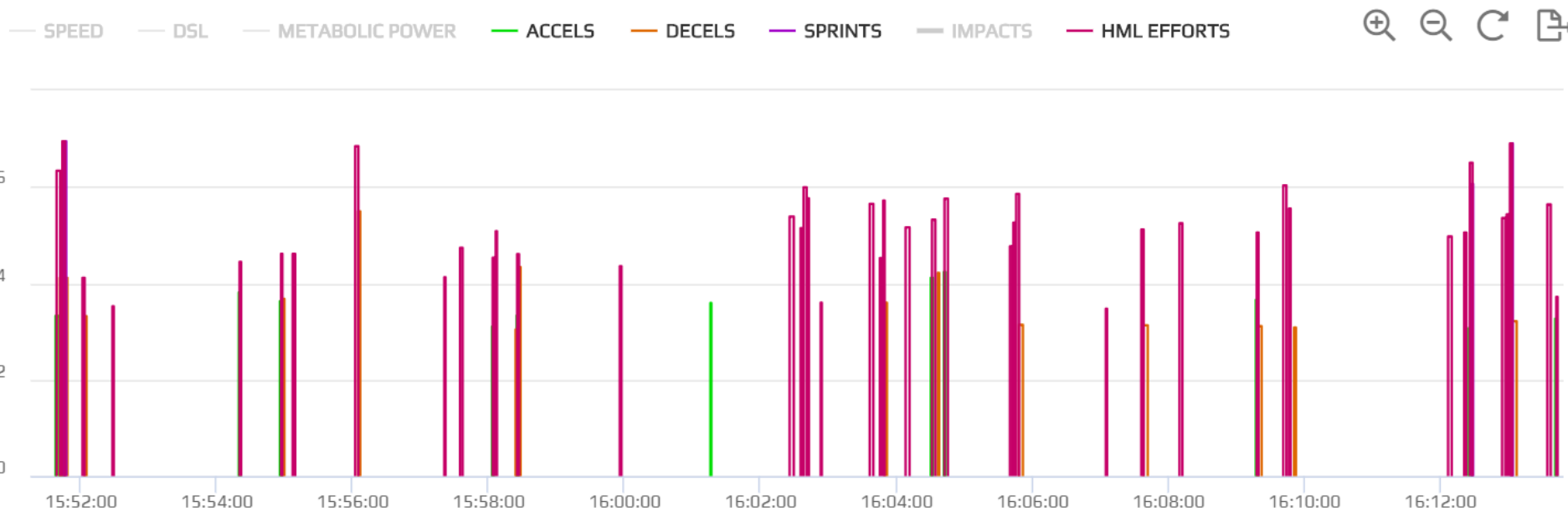
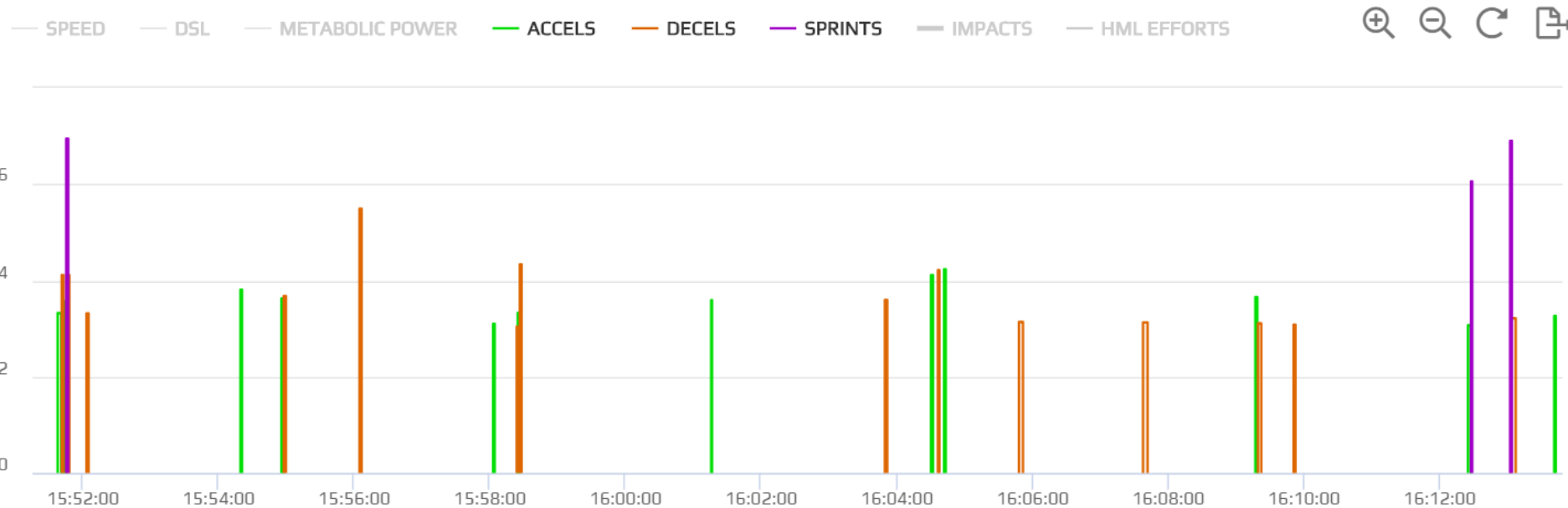


SPEED DSL METABOLIC POWER ACCELS DECELS SPRINTS IMPACTS HML EFFORTS



SPEED DSL METABOLIC POWER ACCELS DECELS SPRINTS IMPACTS HML EFFORTS





# IDENTIFICATION OF MAXIMAL RUNNING INTENSITIES DURING ELITE HURLING MATCH-PLAY

DAMIEN YOUNG,<sup>1</sup> SHANE MALONE,<sup>2,3</sup> MARCO BEATO,<sup>4</sup> LAURENT MOUROT,<sup>1,5,6</sup> AND GIUSEPPE CORATELLA<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Unit E.A3920 Prognostic Markers and Regulatory Factors of Cardiovascular Diseases and Exercise Performance, Exercise Performance Health, Innovation Platform, University of Bourgogne Franche-Comté, Besançon, France; <sup>2</sup>Gaelic Sports Research Center, Institute of Technology Tallaght, Dublin, Ireland; <sup>3</sup>The Tom Reilly Building, Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, United Kingdom; <sup>4</sup>Faculty of Health and Science, Department of Science and Technology, University of Suffolk, Ipswich, United Kingdom; <sup>5</sup>E.A3920 Prognostic Factors and Regulatory Factors of Cardiac and Vascular Pathologies, Exercise Performance Health Innovation (EPHI), University of Bourgogne Franche-Comté, Besançon, France; <sup>6</sup>Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia; and <sup>7</sup>Department of Biomedical Sciences for Health, University of Milan, Italy

## ABSTRACT

Young, D, Malone, S, Beato, M, Mourot, L, and Coratella, G. Identification of maximal running intensities during elite hurling match-play. *J Strength Cond Res XX(X)*: 000–000, 2018—The current study aimed to describe the duration-specific running intensities of elite hurling players during competition with respect to position using a rolling average method. Global positioning systems (10-Hz Viper; STATSport, Viper, Newry, Northern Ireland) were used to collect data from 36 elite hurling players across 2 seasons. Players were categorized according to playing positions (full-backs, half-backs, midfielders, half-forwards, and full-forwards). A total of 230 full match samples were obtained from 22 competitive games for analysis. The velocity-time curve was analyzed using a rolling average method, in which the maximum relative total distance (TD;  $\text{m} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ ), high-speed running distance (HSR;  $\text{m} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ ), and sprint distance (SD;  $\text{m} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ ) intensities were calculated across 10 different rolling time durations (1–10 minutes) within each game. There were large to very large (effect sizes [ES] = 0.66–4.33) differences between 1 minute rolling averages and all other durations for TD, HSR, and SD. However, pairwise comparisons between 6 and 10 minutes for TD, HSR, and SD were smaller and more variable (ES = 0.07, trivial to ES = 0.85, moderate). Half-backs, midfielders, and half-forwards achieved a higher maximal relative TD and HSR in all duration-specific fields when compared with full-backs and full-forwards. No positional difference was observed in 1- and 2-minute durations for SD. Because the rolling average duration increased

the maximum TD, HSR and SD running intensities decreased across all positions. These data provide knowledge of the peak running intensities of elite hurling competition and can be used to design training activities to sufficiently prepare players for these “worst-case scenarios.”

**KEY WORDS** GPS, rolling average, high-speed running, worse-case running, sprint distance

## INTRODUCTION

Hurling is an intermittent stick and ball invasion team sport and one of the national sports of Ireland. It is a physically demanding and highly skillful game with periods of high-intensity efforts similar to other team sports (7,26,27). The game is 70 minutes (35 minutes per half) in duration and is played on a pitch 140 m long and 90 m wide. Two teams of 15 players (1 goalkeeper and 14 outfield players) contest for possession, and the aim is to outscore the opposing team by striking the ball through their goalpost, under or over the crossbar earning 3 points (goal) and 1 point, respectively (24). Players' physical, tactical, and technical roles differ between the 5 distinctive positions (full-backs, half-backs, midfielders, half-forwards, and full-forwards) (7,26,27). Ten elite teams each representing a county compete for Provincial and All-Ireland senior championship, which attract large attendances of over 80,000 spectators for the final (24).

Recently, there has been an increase in the utilization of

# Maximum Intensity Periods

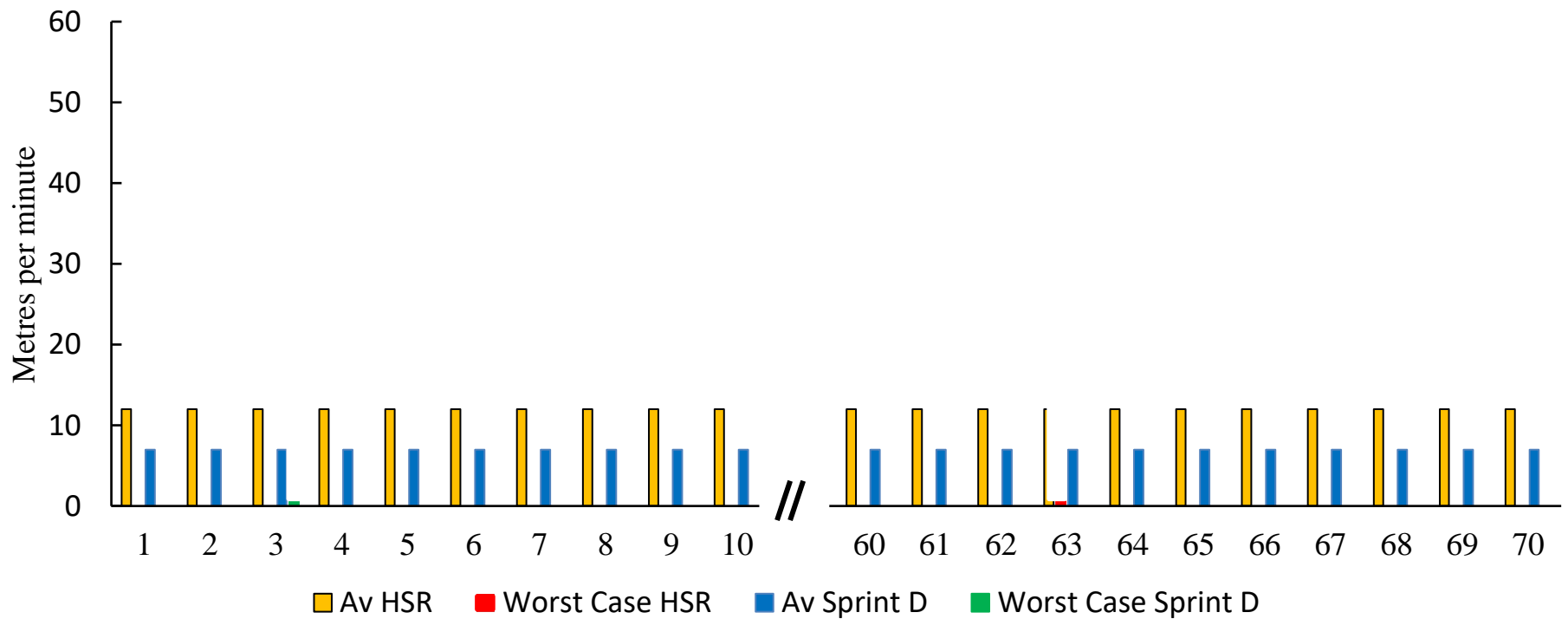
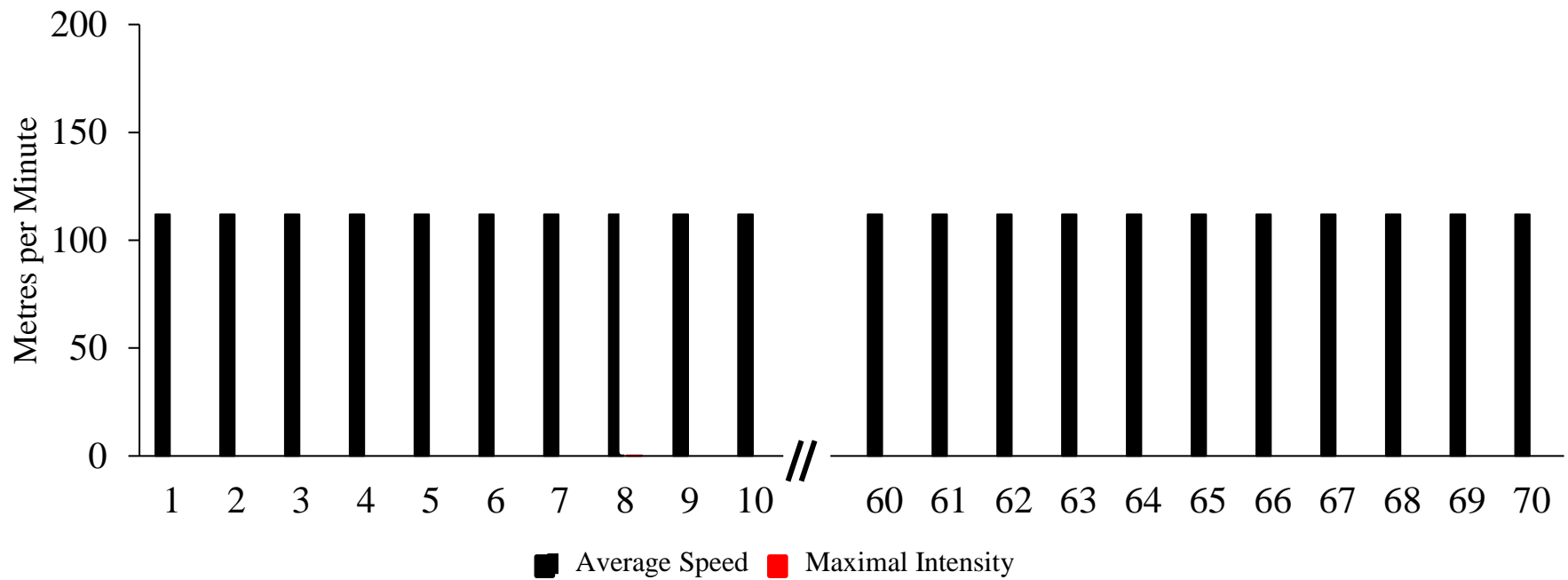
Total Distance

High-Speed Running

Sprint Distance

Full Game

Positions



**Total Distance**

**HSR Distance**

**Full Back**

**Half Back  
Midfield  
Half Forward**

**Full Forward**

# **POSITIONS**

**Sprint Distance**

**Full Back**

**Half Back**

**Midfield**

**Half  
Forward**

**Full  
Forward**

4 – 5<sup>th</sup> min



MIP – TD:  $178 \text{ m} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ , HSR: 40 m, SD: 40 m





# Notes

## Duration Demands

- *Hurling is a stop-start game*
- *80% BiP/BoP < 30 s*

## Stoppages

- *Shots at Goal*
- *≈ 20 s restarts*

## Physical Demands

- *Perform at least 22 sprints*
- *Reach peak speeds of 8.4 m/s*
- *Vary the length of sprints*
- *Allow enough space to reach > 90% peak speeds*
- *Perform different intensities of sprints*

- *Vary the direction of sprints*
- *Repeated sprints are rare but do happen*
- *Acceleration & Deceleration together and separate*
- *Include “MIP scenarios”*

## Position

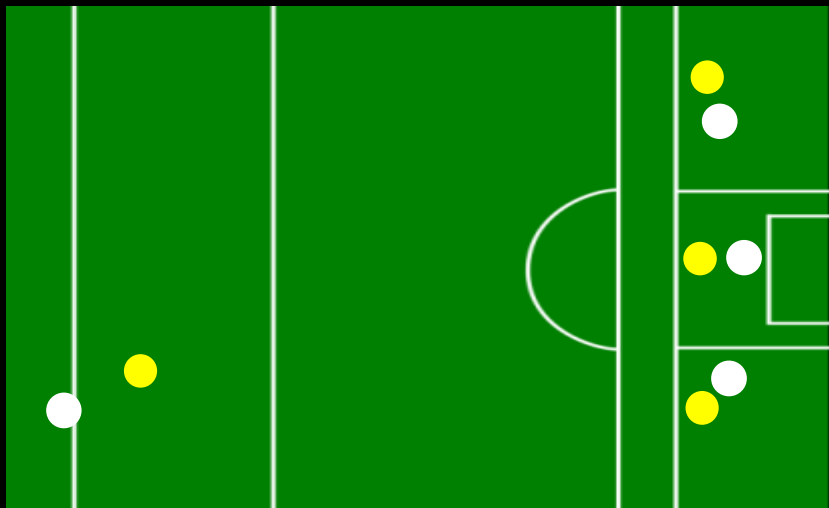
- *Extra TD, HSR for middle 3*
- *Everyone can perform sprint training together*
- *Various directions of sprints*
- *Similar MIP for SD*

## Between Half

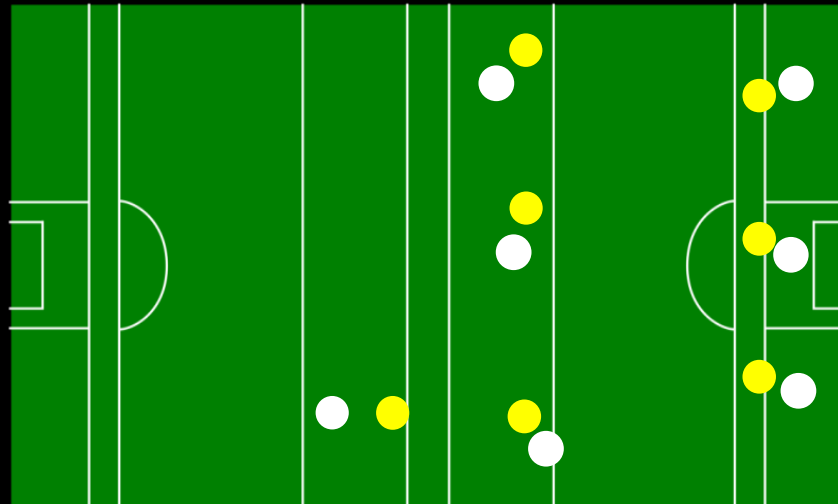
- *Minimal drop-off in TD, HSR, sprint distance*
- *Vary “MIP” over a session*

# Practice Shots at Goal

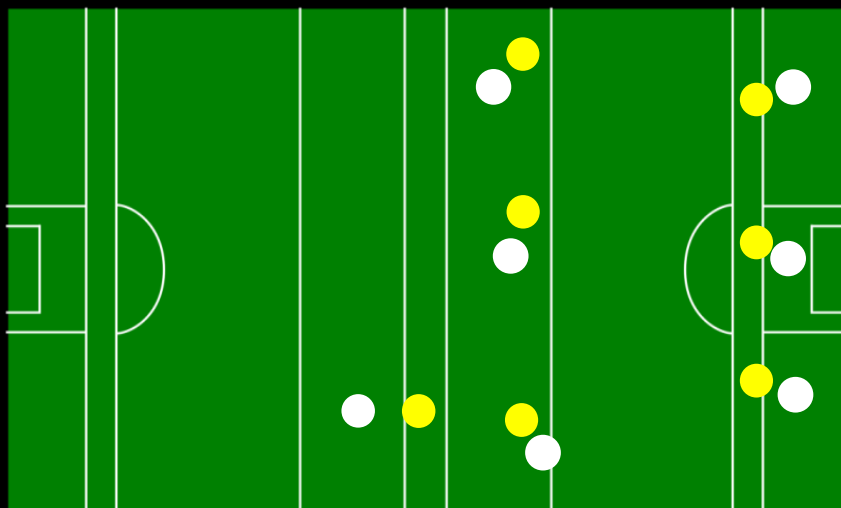
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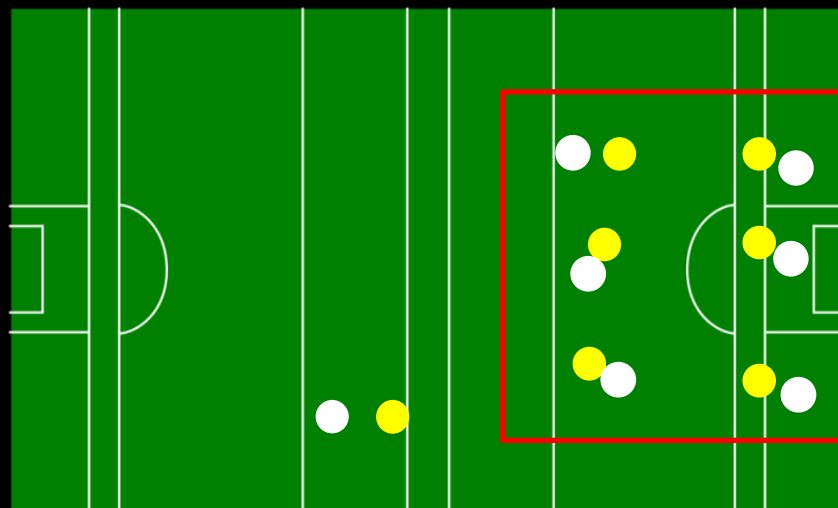
C



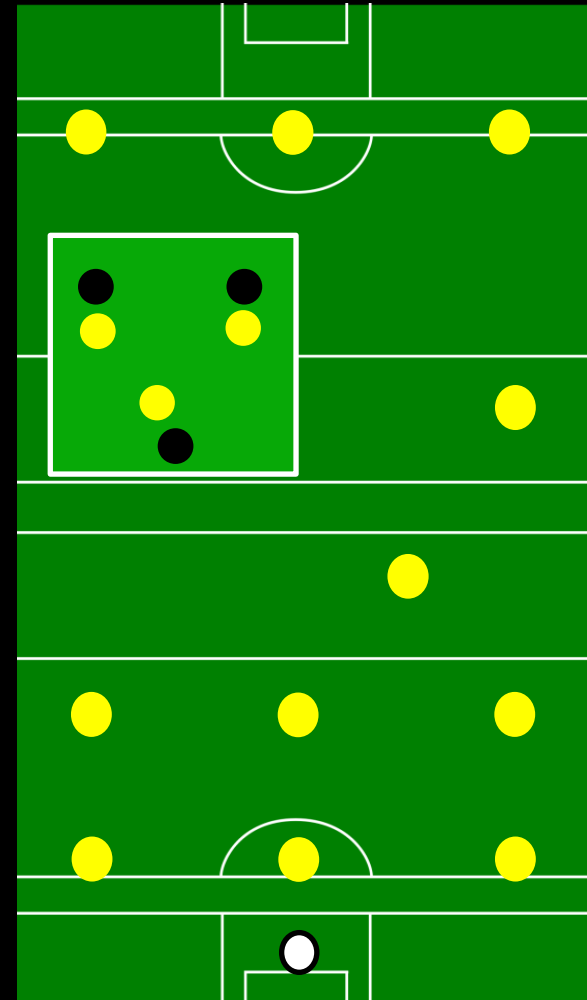
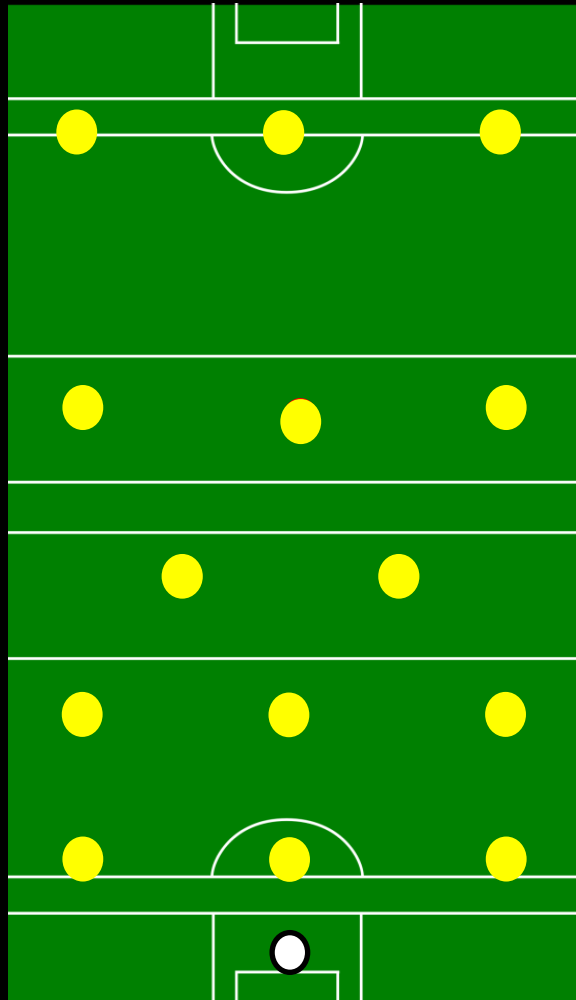
B



D

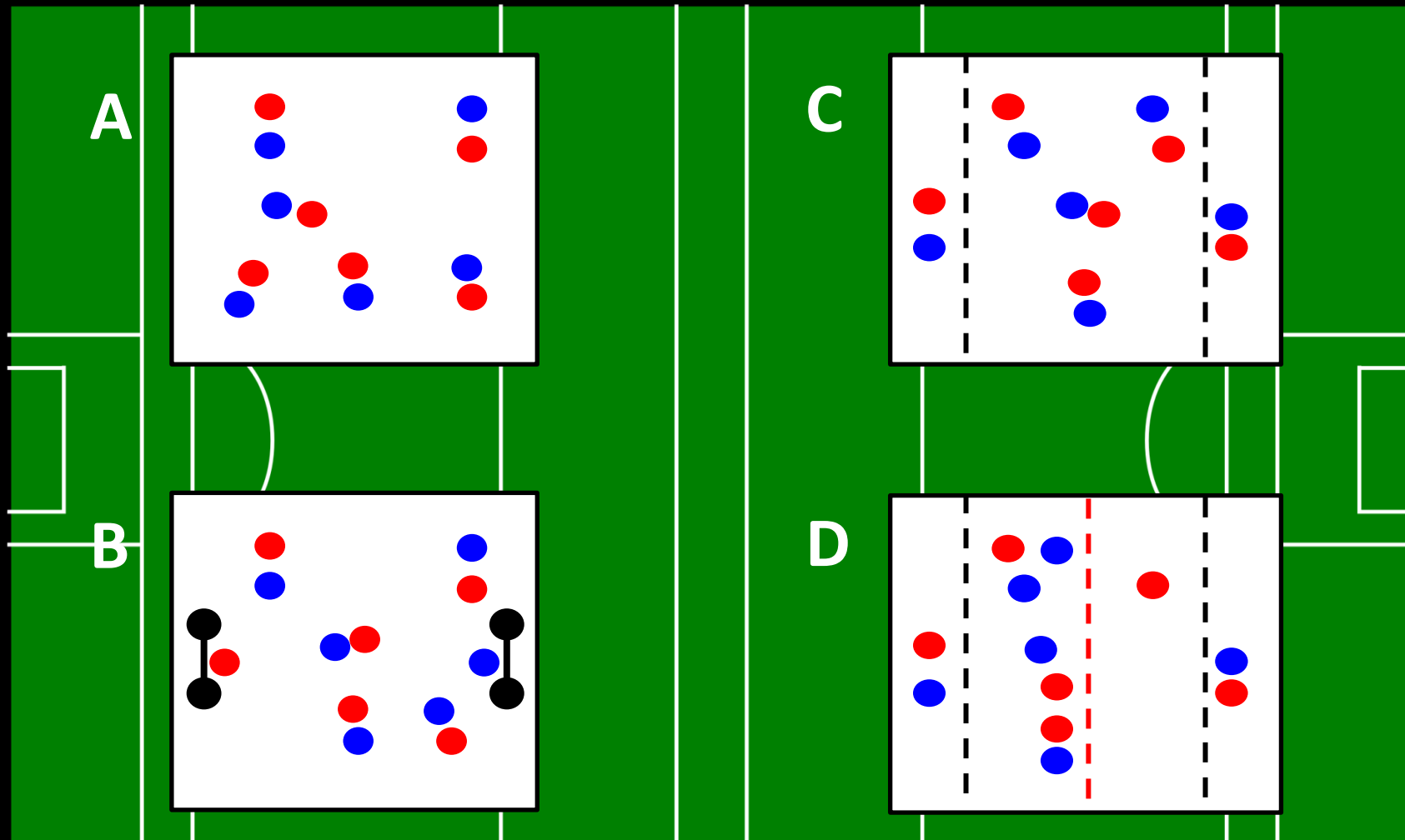


# Practice Puck Outs

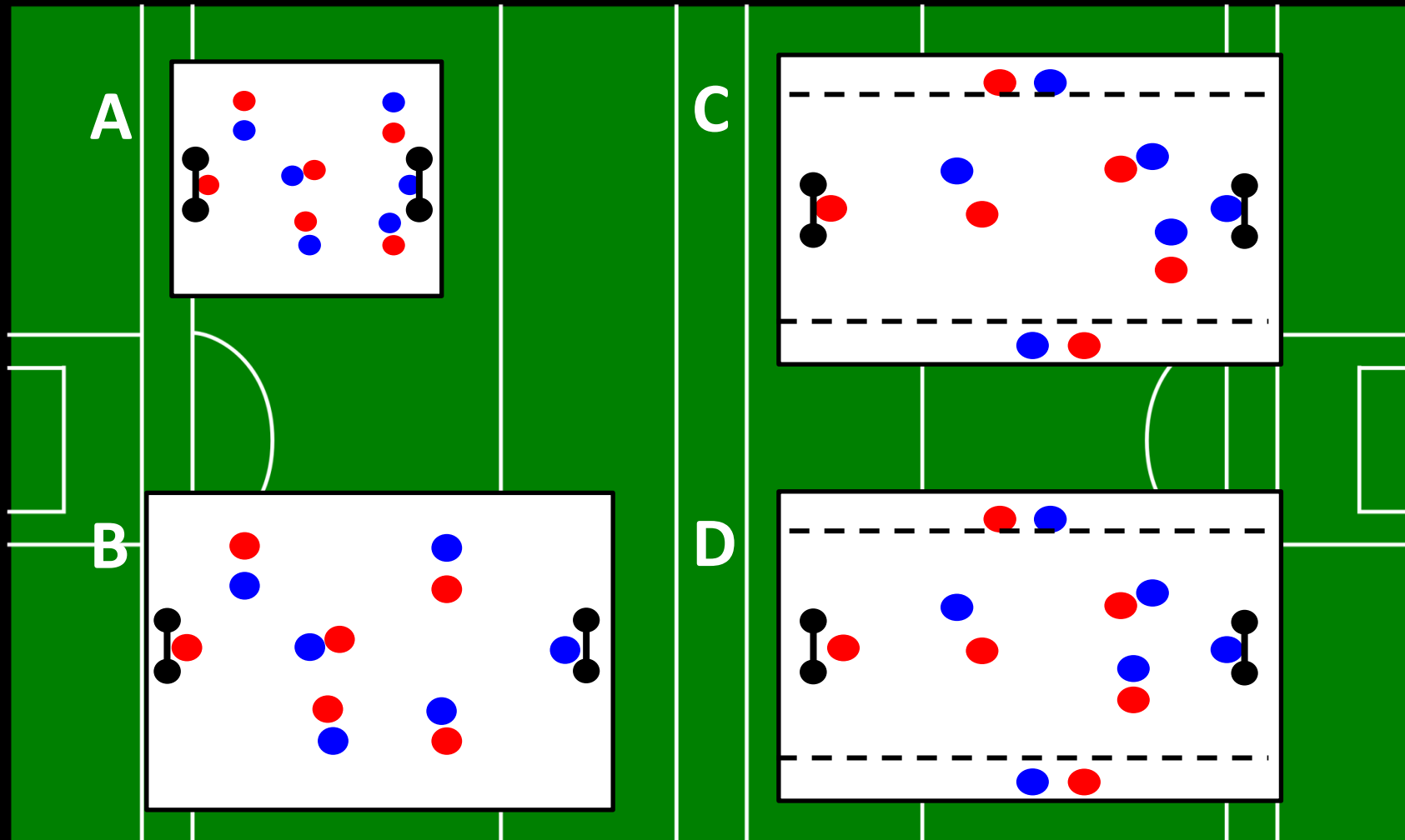


**Space    Time    Task    Equipment    Players**

# Start-Stop Activity

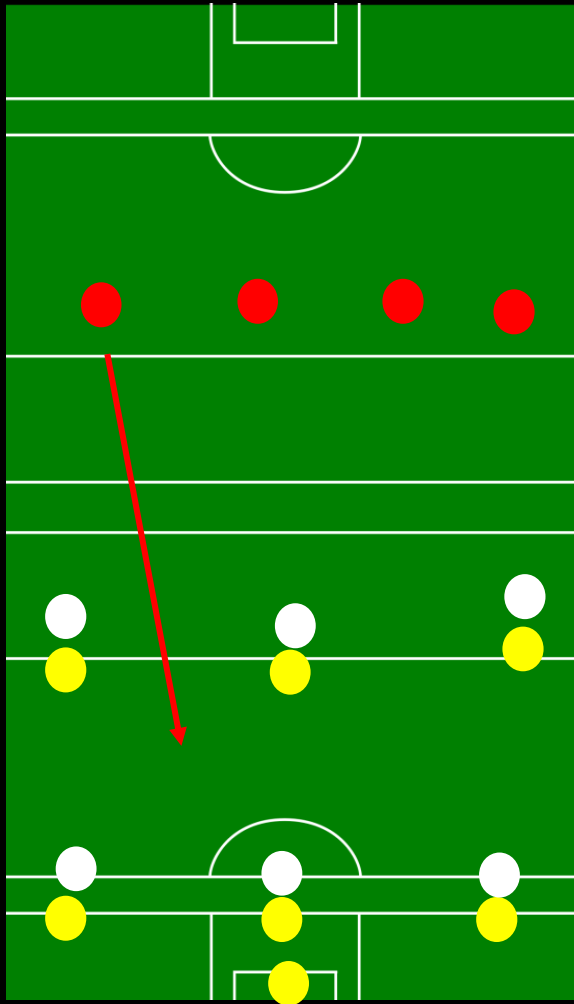


# Sprinting



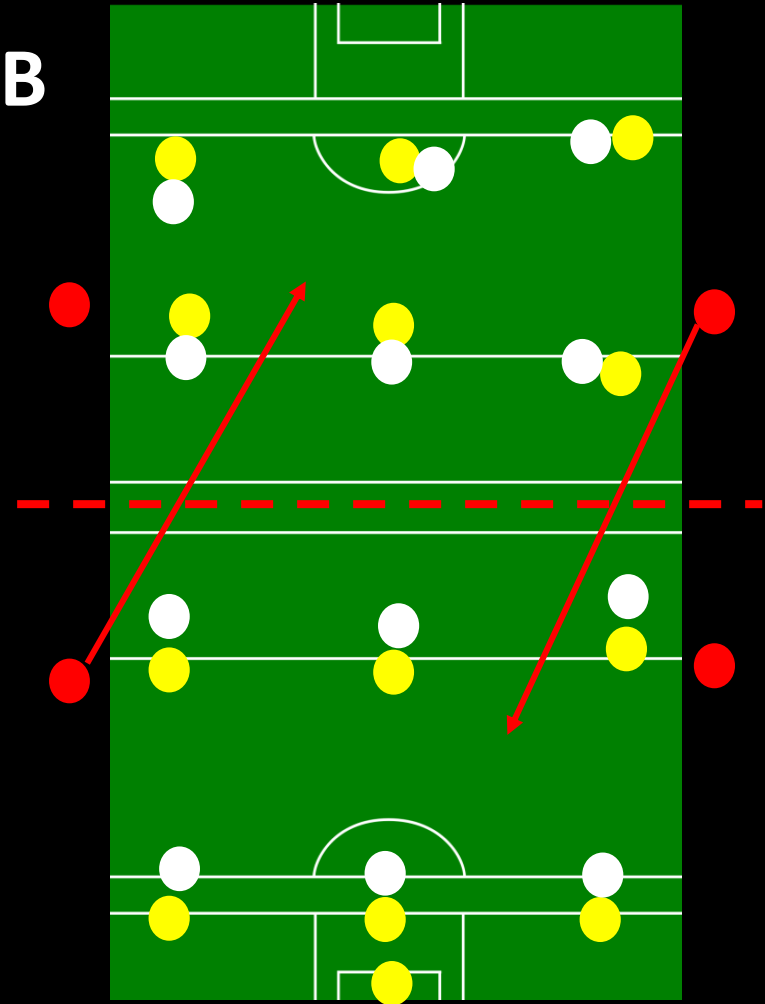
# Maximal Intensity Periods

A



**Backs v Forwards**

B



**Backs v Forwards**

# Notes

## Duration Demands

- Hurling is a stop-start game
- 80% BiP/BoP < 30 s

## Stoppages

- Shots at Goal
- $\approx 20$  s restarts

*Damien  
Young  
16.4.20*

## Physical Demands

- Perform at least 22 sprints
- Reach peak speeds of 8.4 m/s
- Vary the length of sprints
- Allow enough space to reach > 90% peak speeds
- Perform different intensities of sprints

- Vary the direction of sprints
- Repeated sprints are rare but do happen
- Acceleration & Deceleration together and separate
- Include "MIP scenarios"

## Position

- Extra TD, HSR for middle 3
- Everyone can perform sprint training together
- Various directions of sprints
- Similar MIP for SD

## Between Half

- Minimal drop-off in TD, HSR, sprint distance
- Vary "MIP" over a session





**THANK YOU**

**The Match-Play  
Demands of  
Hurling**

**3 years in the making**

**Dr. Damien Young**