

Epoc: The phrases EPOC and **EPOC Training** get Thrown around a lot these days. A lot of people have heard about EPOC but are unaware what the term really means.

Let me^lclarify.

When we begin to exercise, our body decides which energy system to use depending on the intensity of the exercise. At the start of exercise, depending on the difference between the demands before exercise and during exercise, there is usually a short delay in meeting necessary oxygen demands. This is why a

warm-up is so crucial!

What Are Plyometric?

Plyometrics is a type of training that involves fast, explosive movements. This type of exercise is often done by athletes to help improve power output and sports performance. Aqua plyometrics is simply doing the exercises in a pool that are normally done on land.

Aqua Plyometrics

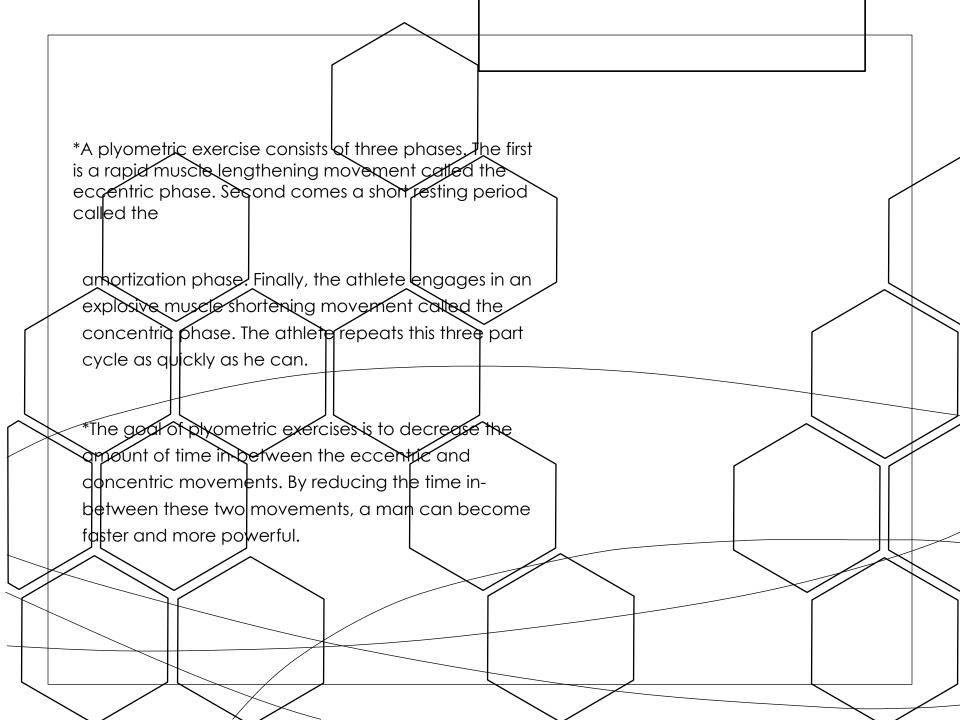
The advantage of doing plyometric exercises in the pool is a big one -- your risk of injury and post-workout soreness is substantially reduced, according to researchers at Ohio State and Appalachian State universities. Yet water plyometrics produces similar benefits as land plyometrics. In the Ohio State study, one group of athletic women did plyometric exercises in the water, and another group the exercises on land. Muscle strength and mass increased for both groups. The water group also did as well as the land group when their improvement was measured on skill tests such as vertical jumps or 40-meter sprints.

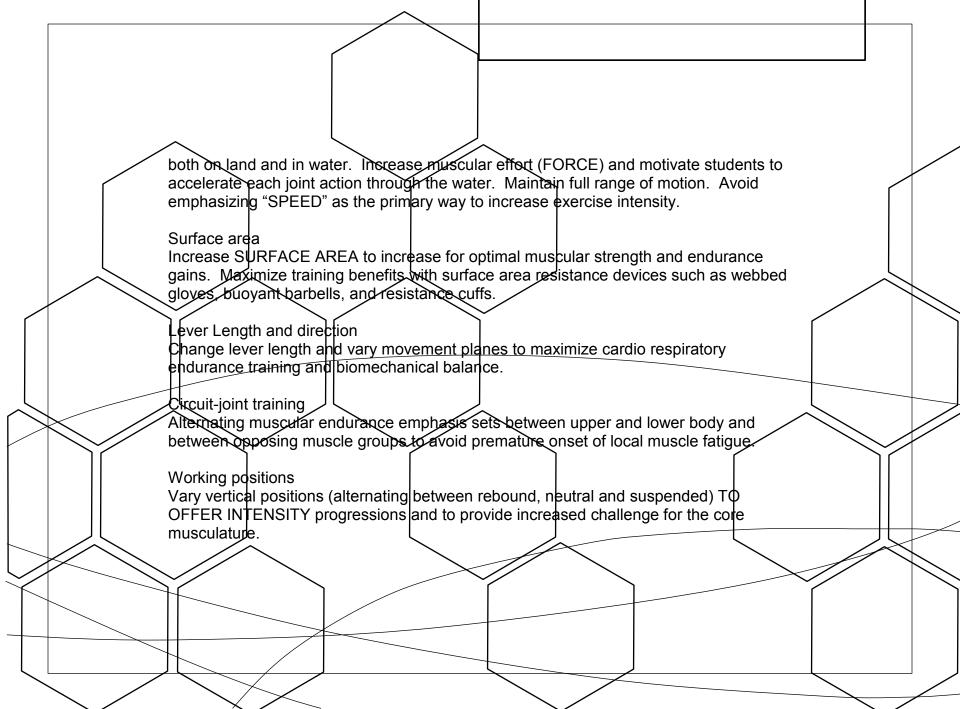
Standard Exercises

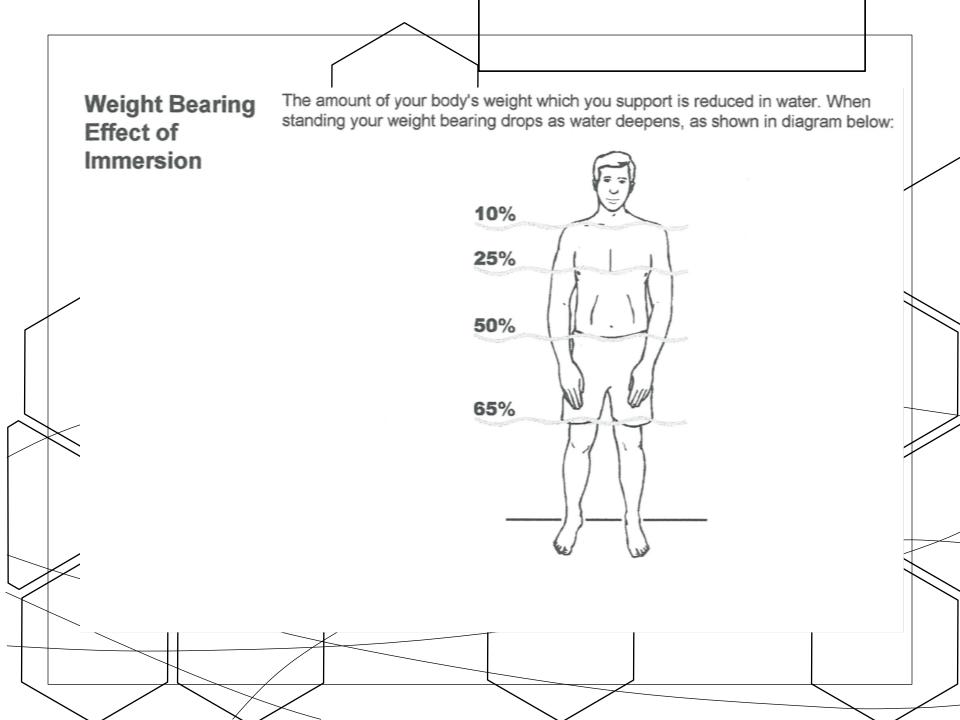
Water plyometrics use many of the same exercises as land plyometrics. Standard exercises include combinations of hopping, bounding and jumping on and off a pool step. In water up to your chest, for example, you can start with your feet together and jump forward and backward, raising your knees as if you were jumping over a large log.

Plyometrics for the Masses

Plyometrics on land is recommended for people who already have achieved a decent level of fitness -- otherwise the risk of injury is too great. But those who are less fit can utilize plyometrics in the pool, since the water greatly lessens the impact on their joints. Some exercises that are appropriate for plyometric beginners include jumping jacks and jumping from side to side as if you were jumping over moguls in the snow.







Squat Jumps

Squat jumps are a common plyometric exercise used in basketball training. Stand in the pool with your feet shoulder-width apart. Lower your body down until your knees are bent 90 degrees and jump up as high as you can. Extend your arms above you head, land back on your feet and repeat.

Tuck Jumps

Tuck jumps are similar to squat jumps with a few variations. Stand with your feet shoulder-width apart and place your hands on the sides of your head. Squat down slightly and burst up in the air. As you do this, tuck your knees into your chest. Land back on your feet and repeat. You can also do this in motion by jumping forward with each rep.

Leaping Lunges

teaping lunges are an exercise that is performed in a split stance. Stand with your right foot in front of you and your left foot behind you. Hower your body down until your right thigh is parallel with the bottom of the pool and your left knee is an inch above it. Explosively jump in the air and switch your foot position so your left leg is now in front and your right leg is behind you. Do another lunge and repeat.

Bounding

Bounding is a type of exaggerated running. Take a few paces forward in the pool to get momentum then leap off your right foot. Land on your left, leap up again and land on your right. Keep taking long strides like this through the water. Every time you push off, try to get as high and as far as you can before you land with the other foot.

Single Leg Hops

Single leg hops are not only good for power output, but they also help improve balance. Stand on your right foot and curl your left lower leg behind you. Hop laterally to your right as far as you can, then hop to your left laterally as far as you can. Go back and forth for a series of reps, then s

