

Periodization Models

Model Primary Focus Best For Linear Periodization (Traditional) Gradual intensity ↑ with volume ↓; typically hypertrophy → strength → power → peak → recovery Beginners, off-season prep, general development Reverse Linear Periodization Periodization (Nonlinear) High intensity/low volume → gradually ↑ volume while ↓ intensity Endurance athletes, peaking for longer events Undulating Periodization (Nonlinear) Frequent (daily/weekly) variation in intensity and volume to train multiple qualities simultaneously Intermediate/advanced lifters, avoid plateaus Focused 2-6 wk blocks: Accumulation (volume) → Transmutation (intensity/skill) → Realization (peaking) Elite athletes, powerlifting Conjugate Periodization Concurrent max-effort, dynamic-effort, and repetition-effort days to develop strength, power, strength programs Westside powerlifting, tactical strength programs
hypertrophy → strength → power → peak → recovery
Periodization while ↓ intensity longer events Undulating Periodization (Nonlinear) Frequent (daily/weekly) variation in intensity and volume to train multiple qualities simultaneously Intermediate/advanced lifters, avoid plateaus Block Periodization Focused 2–6 wk blocks: Accumulation (volume) → Transmutation (intensity/skill) → Realization (peaking) Elite athletes, powerlifting (peaking) Conjugate Periodization Concurrent max-effort, dynamic-effort, and repetition-effort days to develop strength power
(Nonlinear) volume to train multiple qualities simultaneously avoid plateaus Focused 2–6 wk blocks: Accumulation (volume) → Transmutation (intensity/skill) → Realization (peaking) Concurrent max-effort, dynamic-effort, and repetition-effort days to develop strength power Conjugate Periodization repetition-effort days to develop strength power
Block Periodization Transmutation (intensity/skill) → Realization (peaking) Concurrent max-effort, dynamic-effort, and Conjugate Periodization Transmutation (intensity/skill) → Realization (peaking) Concurrent max-effort, dynamic-effort, and Transmutation (intensity/skill) → Realization (peaking) Westside powerlifting, tactical
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hypertrophy strength programs
Concurrent Training Simultaneous endurance & strength work CrossFit, military, MMA, sport-specific prep
Daily UndulatingDay-to-day variation in rep ranges/loads (e.g., M: Intermediate/advanced lifters,Periodization (DUP)3×10 hypertrophy; W: 5×5 strength; F: 6×2 power) fatigue management
Tactical PeriodizationIntegrated technical, tactical, physical & mental components in context-specific trainingTeam sports (soccer, basketball, rugby)
Flexible / Autoregulatory Adjusts volume/intensity per readiness (RPE, RIR, Advanced lifters, rehab, fatigue- Periodization HRV, mood) sensitive
Wave Periodization Waves of load within cycle (e.g., 70–75–80% then deload) Olympic lifting, advanced strength templates
Seasonal / Macrocycle Periodization Year-long plan aligned with competitive calendar (off-season \rightarrow pre-season \rightarrow in-season \rightarrow post-season) Seasonal athletes in organized sports
Hybrid Periodization Combines multiple models (e.g., block + DUP, linear + autoregulated) Coaches, CrossFit athletes, generalists
Step Loading / StaircaseWorkload \uparrow over several weeks, then deloadFatigue management,Periodization(e.g., 3 wk up \rightarrow 1 wk down)consolidating gains
Flat Loading Constant volume/intensity for weeks before a sudden jump Technical skill mastery, technique refinement
Undershoot / Tapering ModelsLoad ↓ to peak for competition via linear, step, or exponential taperCompetition peak preparation
Cluster Periodization Multiple short cycles ("mini-peaks") throughout the year to maintain readiness Athletes with frequent competitions
RehabilitationPhased post-injury reintroduction: restore ROMInjury rehab, motor control &Periodization→ stability → load capacity → powertissue adaptation
Energy SystemTargeted development of aerobic, anaerobic, and Periodization (Metabolic)Conditioning sports (boxing, CrossFit, combat)
Mental/Emotional Periodization Aligns load with psychological stress & focus, integrating mindfulness, visualization, or cognitive training Elite athletes emphasizing mental performance