

EXERCISE INTENSITY GUIDELINES

INTENSITY CATEGORY	HEART RATE MEASURES	PERCEIVED EXERTION MEASURES	DESCRIPTIVE MEASURES
SEDENTARY	< 40% HRmax	Very, very light RPE# < 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities that usually involve sitting or lying and that have little additional movement and a low energy requirement
LIGHT	40 to <55% HRmax	Very light to light RPE# 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An aerobic activity that does not cause a noticeable change in breathing rate An intensity that can be sustained for at least 60 minutes
MODERATE	55 to <70% HRmax	Moderate to somewhat hard RPE# 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An aerobic activity that is able to be conducted whilst maintaining a conversation uninterrupted An intensity that may last between 30 and 60 minutes
VIGOROUS	70 to <90% HRmax	Hard RPE# 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An aerobic activity in which a conversation generally cannot be maintained uninterrupted An intensity that may last up to about 30 minutes
HIGH	≥ 90% HRmax	Very hard RPE# ≥ 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An intensity that generally cannot be sustained for longer than about 10 minutes

= Borg's Rating of Perceived Exertion (RPE) scale, category scale 0-10