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Systematic review of the anthropometric profile of female futsal players 2010-2020

Rossana Gómez-Campos (1,2), Ruben Vidal-Espinoza (3), Fredy Muñoz-Muñoz (1), Fernando Alvear Vasquez (4), Margot Rivera Portugal (5), Luis Urzua Alul (6), Jorge Mendez-Cornejo (1), Marco Cossio Bolaños (1,2)

(1) Universidad Católica del Maule, Talca, Chile; (2) Faculty of Education, Psychology and Sport Sciences, University of Huelva, Huelva, Spain; (3) Universidad Católica Silva Henriquez, Santiago, Chile; (4) Universidad Autónoma de Chile, Talca, Chile; (5) Universidad Nacional San Agustín de Arequipa, Arequipa, Perú; (6) Escuela de Kinesiología, Facultad de Salud, Universidad Santo Tomás, Chile.

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Abstract

The objective was to summarize the scientific literature on the anthropometric characteristics of female futsal players. A systematic review documentary study was carried out. SCOPUS, PUBMED and SCIELO databases were used to search for information on primary studies related to the anthropometric profile of women's indoor soccer (elite and non-elite). The keywords used were: futsal, female, anthropometry. The range of years for the search was from 2010 to 2020. To analyze anthropometric differences, two groups were formed: group A: elite and group B: non-elite. 31 primary studies were identified, 22 (71%) in Scopus, 5 (16.1%) in PUBMED and 4 (12.9%) in SCIELO. Three publication languages were considered (English, Spanish and Portuguese) and 6 countries were identified (Brazil, Spain, Iran, Turkey, Venezuela and Italy). Players in the elite group evidenced higher weight, height, and BMI relative to their non-elite counterparts. Discrepancy in anthropometric characteristics between elite and non-elite players was verified. These results suggest that in order to participate in competitions at the highest level in women's futsal, they should have greater weight, height and BMI than their non-elite counterparts.

Key Words: Futsal; women; anthropometry; professionals; non-professionals.

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Futsal is described as a sport modality that involves high intensity exercises, in which the physical demands come from aerobic and anaerobic pathways.¹ This modality is characterized by presenting several changes of direction with intermittent dynamics, with emphasis on the ability to make decisions in a short time and creativity to solve motor actions during competitions.² Since its creation in Uruguay around 1930, this version of futsal has gained worldwide popularity during the last decades and the number of registered players in recent years has been increasing in many countries.³ It is estimated for example that more than 1 million men and women are officially registered to play futsal.⁴ There are even more than 12 million players from all continents who are registered in more than 100 countries worldwide.5 Since its origin in South America it has spread in Europe, and especially in the last decade it has become popular in Asian countries such as Iran, Japan

and Kuwait.⁶ In general, the literature in the last 7 years has shown that sporting excellence and the pursuit of high performance have been the fruits of research that has been gradually developing, especially in female athletes.7-13 For investigating the physical and anthropometric profile of futsal athletes is relevant, since it can serve to characterize the body dimensions of elite and non-elite athletes. 14 Furthermore, knowledge of body composition and physical condition are essential for the proper development of sports performance.¹⁵ In fact, although it is not clear the differences between elite and non-elite athletes, elite athletes play at a higher level within a sport (division I) in relation to non-elite (level II, professional versus amateur). 16 Therefore, systematizing this information to know the differences between both groups of athletes can be of great interest, both for sports selection, as well as to describe the anthropometric characteristics and to monitor the control of the effectiveness of a sports training program.¹⁷ In this

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context, to our knowledge, no systematic review studies have been identified in Spanish language that have investigated the anthropometric profile of elite and non-elite female players worldwide. Therefore, this study raises the question: Will there be discrepancies in the anthropometric profile of female futsal players categorized as elite and non-elite? For which, this systematic review aimed to summarize the scientific literature on anthropometric characteristics of elite and non-elite female futsal players from 2010 to 2020 in three databases (PUBMED, Scopus and Scielo).

Materials and Methods

Type of study

A systematic review study on the anthropometric profile of women's futsal was conducted. To ensure the process of organization and systematized information we relied on the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement. ¹⁸

Techniques and instruments

The observation technique was used to systematize the types of study and the anthropometric variables used to characterize the anthropometric profile of elite-professional and non-professional female futsal. The instrument where the information was recorded was an index card, where the indicators of each of the studies analyzed were recorded.

Eligibility criteria

To achieve the relevance of this systematic review, the original articles included the following keywords 1) futsal; 2) women; 3) anthropometry; 4) elite and nonelite. Boilean "and" and "or" were used. Subsequently such words were grouped into two or three sets of words, and a new search was performed, such as, for example, futsal and women; futsal and anthropometry. Matching and combination strategies were also used to search for research, whose terms were searched in the study titles, abstract and keywords of the manuscripts. In addition, a manual search was performed for articles that were not in the databases searched, e.g., studies cited by other manuscripts. Due to differences in terminology and writing style, a list of synonyms for the terms of interest was used to identify all relevant articles. The search for information considered articles published in the period 2010-2020, including original studies published in English, Spanish and Portuguese that have been carried out internationally. Studies that included systematic reviews, bibliographic reviews and letters to the editor were excluded from the analysis. Therefore, this process was limited to original articles (descriptive, crosssectional, longitudinal, experimental) that investigated female futsal players. Original articles were also excluded if they met the eligibility criteria, but could not be accessed in the full version (because they were not available electronically or in hard copy or had been requested from the authors but were not sent).

Search strategy and selection of studies

The initial search strategy identified articles describing variables of the anthropometric profile of female futsal players. An electronic search was conducted in the databases of the National Library of Medicine of the United States called PUBMED, Scopus and Scielo. The electronic search was conducted from September 2020 to December 31, 2021. Targeted searches of the most cited journals and authors and reference lists of articles ensured that all relevant articles were located. After searching the electronic databases, all identified records were uploaded through the Mendeley Desktop bibliographic manager, which allowed easy identification of duplicates and their corresponding elimination. The basis for the search strategy was considered using the components of the PICOS tool Interventions, Comparators, Outcomes, and Study design). Being P: female indoor soccer players; I: anthropometric profile; C: performance level (elite, nonelite, university, amateur, amateur); O: describe the anthropometric profile (age, weight, height, BMI, fat percentage); S: descriptive, cross-sectional, longitudinal and experimental studies.

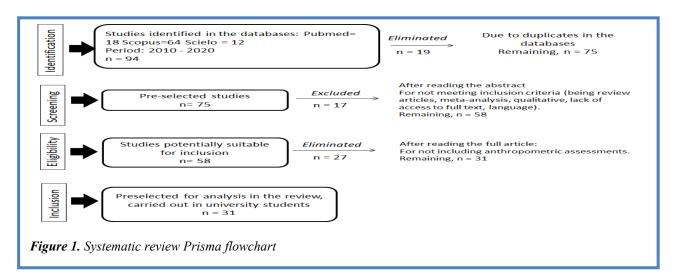
Methodological quality

The assessment of methodological quality was performed independently by two reviewers, who analyzed the studies selected from this systematic review and resolved disagreements in the analysis by consensus. The review of the methodological quality of the experimental studies (n=9) was performed using the PEDro scale19 based on the Delphi list20. This scale has 10 scoring questions, and each criterion is scored according to its presence (one point) or absence (zero points) in the study in question. In the case of studies involving non-experimental quantitative methods (descriptive, cross-sectional, longitudinal) (n=22), they were evaluated according to the review of methodological quality considering the 11 items recommended by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Each item has a score of "Yes", "No" or "Unclean" to judge in the systematized study. The evaluation scores ranged from 40% to 80% for the experimental studies. For the non-experimental quantitative studies they ranged from 25% to 90%.

Study Extraction and Analysis

Two reviewers checked data extraction for completeness and accuracy. Both reviewers independently reviewed full text according to eligibility criteria, screened and agreed by consensus. Any disagreement in the inclusion process was resolved with the other authors. The results were organized in chronological order and tables were created to capture the information. The following data will be extracted: authors, country, language, age (years), weight, height, BMI, % fat and performance level. For the analysis of the synthesis of the systematic review, quantitative and/or qualitative procedures were used. In the first case, the data were organized by means of

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frequencies, range, percentages (%) and in the second case by means of content analysis of the indicators considered in the information recording form.

Results

Figure 1 shows the PRISMA flowchart showing the selection process of the studies developed. Ninety-four studies were identified worldwide, which were considered as possible potential studies and were loaded into the bibliographic manager, being eliminated 19 studies. Subsequently, they were reviewed and since they were not original studies and in female futsal players, 17 studies were eliminated. In the next stage, the titles and abstracts were read, considering the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and 27 articles were eliminated. In the third stage, of the 58 eligible studies, which were read in their entirety, 27 were eliminated because they did not include data on anthropometric variables. Finally, 31 articles were considered in this review. For a better systematization of the studies that evaluate the anthropometric profile, two groups were formed: eliteprofessional futsal female players (forming group A) and non-professional (forming group B). Group A, called elite-professional, includes elite, professional and semiprofessional players, and Group B, called nonprofessional university futsal players, includes amateurs, young and amateur players. Table 1 shows the indicators that characterize the systematized studies according to database, language and country of publication. Thirtyone studies on female futsal players were selected. Most of the articles were published in English (n=26, 83.9%), in the Scopus database (n=22, 71%) and the country with the highest number of publications was Brazil (n=13, 41.9%).baseline levels was detected. The anthropometric variables of the elite, professional and semi-professional players (group A) are shown in Table 2. The average ages of these female futsal players range from 19.2±2.0 years to 28.5± unknown (years), body weight from 56.9±7.7kg 70.3 ± 9.9 kg, height from 159.0 ± 2.7 cm 174.5±10.0cm and Body Mass Index (BMI) from 20.9 ± 1.9 kg/m2 to 26.7 ± 4.6 kg/m2.

Table 3 describes the averages and deviations of the anthropometric variables of the amateur, university, youth and amateur players (group B). The age of these female futsal players varied from 15±2.0 to 24.6±6.0 years, weight, from 55.2±6, kg to 62.9±9.5kg, height from 163.2±4.0 to 166.9±4.9cm and BMI from 20.9±1.74kg/m2 to 23.5±2.7kg/m2.

Table 1.Indicators characterizing
systematic studies

Indicators	f	%	
Database			
PUBMED	5	16.1	
Scopus	22	71.0	
Scielo	4	12.9	
Total	31	100	
Language			
Spanish	2	6.5	
English	26	83.9	
Portuguese	3	9.7	
Гotal	31	100	
Country of publication			
Brazil	13	419	
Spain	9	29.0	
Iran	3	9.7	
Turkey	4	12.9	
Venezuela	1	3.2	
taly	1	3.2	
Total	31	100	

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Table 2. Anthropometric characteristics of elite female futsal players (elite, professional and semiprofessional).

Performance level	Age±SD	Age±SD Weight±SD		BMI±SD	%Fat ±SD
i erioi mance levei	(years)	kg	(cm)	(kg/m2)	/orat±SD
Élite					
Rubio-Arias et al ¹²	20.3±2.7	62.2 ± 4.4	164.1±4.2	NS	27.1 ± 6.4
Teixeira et al ²¹	19.2 ± 2.0	58.7 ± 8.0	161.5±4.6	NS	18.8 ± 4.9
Queiroga et al ¹¹	22.0 ± 4.7	58.5 ± 7.3	161.8±6.4	22.3 ± 2.0	22.4 ± 5.1
Pelissari et al ²²	19.7 ± 3.4	60.3 ± 5.9	164±0.04	22.6 ± 2.6	20.8 ± 4.4
Ferreira et al ⁹	22.0 ± 3.9	58.6 ± 7.6	161.8±6.5	22.3 ± 2.1	22.1 ± 5.2
Rocha et al ²³	23.0 ± 5.0	58.8 ± 3.1	NE	NS	14.2 ± 1.7
Barbero-Álvarez JC et al ²⁴	21.2 ± 4.0	58.6 ± 5.6	161.3 ± 5.0	NS	17.6 ± 3.4
Sainz de Baranda et al ²⁵	22.3±4.94	57.7±7.03	166.1±4.7	NS	NS
Ramos-Campo DJ et al ²⁶	21.1 ± 2.3	61.8 ± 4.6 65.1 ± 1.6	$163.5 \pm 4.2 \\ 166.2 \pm 3.1$	26.7±4.6 26.1±5.4	NS
Valladares-Rodríguez et al ²⁷	23.3 ± 4.5	70.3 ± 9.9	174.5±10.3	NS	NS
Profesional					
Ayala et al ²⁸	26.0±4.5	62.9±8.1	168 ± 7.0	NS	NS
Cejudo et al ²⁹	22.4±5.3	59.4 ± 7.5	166.2±4.9	NS	NS
Semiprofesional					
Lago-Fuentes et al ³⁰	21.6±3.6	62.5 ± 3.4	165 ± 0.04	22.9 ± 1.6	NS
Beato et al ³¹	27.0±5.0	56.9±7.7	165±0.09	20.9±1.9	21.5±2.9
Ruiz-Pérez et al ³²	24.1±3.9	61.5±6.6	165.0±0.04	NS	NS
Queiroga et al ¹¹	22.00±3.9	57.8±9.1	161.8±6.5	22.3±2.1	22.2±5.2
Kassiano et al ³³	21.8±3.9	57.4±4.1	159.0 ± 2.7	NS	19.0 ± 3.3
Legend: NS: not specified; SD	: standard deviat	tion			

Figure 2 shows the variations in the anthropometric profile of the female futsal players in both groups. Note that the player's in-group (A) reflect a greater trend in age, weight, height and BMI in relation to those in-group (B) (university, amateur, youth and amateur). In Group A, the average ages of these female futsal players range from 19.2±2.0 years to 28.5±unknown (years), body weight from 56.9±7.7kg to 70.3±9.9kg, height from 159.0±2.7cm to 174.5±10.0cm and BMI from 20.9 ± 1.9 kg/m2 to 26.7 ± 4.6 kg/m2. In the case of Group B, the age of these female futsal players varied from 15±2.0 to 24.6±6.0 years, weight, from 55.2±6, kg to 62.9±9.5kg, height from 163.2±4.0 to 166.9±4.9cm and BMI from 20.9 ± 1.74 kg/m2 to 23.5 ± 2.7 kg/m2.

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Table 3. Anthropometric characteristics of non-elite female futsal players (university, amateur, youth and amateur).

N	Performance level	Age±SD (years)	Weight±SD (kg)	Height±SD (cm)	BMI±SD (kg/m²)	%Fat ±SD
Unive	rsity students		. 2/	, ,		
18	Noormohammadpour et al ³⁴	23.2 ± 3.6	61.5 ± 9.9	164.9 ± 9.5	22.5 ± 2.4	NE
19	Da Cruz et al ⁸	21 ± 1	64 ± 2.6	168.0 ± 2	NS	14.0± 1.5
20	Zar et al ³⁵	19 a 22	57.5 ± 1.8	164.1 ± 3.4	21.4±1.3	NS
21	Da Silva et al ³⁶	19.5 ± 1.3	62.5 ± 8.8 59.8 ± 8.7	$165.1 \pm 5.8 \\ 161.1 \pm 9.6$	23.5 ± 2.7 22.1 ± 0.9	$16.5{\pm}1.8\\15.1\pm3.2$
22	Ünveren ³⁷	20.9 ± 1.9	61.7 ± 9.07	166.9 ± 4.57	NS	NS
23	Campos et al ³⁸	21.2 ± 1.4	61.3 ± 17.6	163.2 ± 4.0	NS	NS
24	Silva et al ³⁹	NS	58.6 ± 11.6	158.5 ± 6.8	22.3 ± 3.7	NS
25	Karahan ⁴⁰	20.2 ± 2.4 20.7 ± 2.1	59.7 ± 7.3 54.3 ± 6.4	166 ± 6.2 166 ± 4.1	NS	NS
Amate	eur players					
26	Baches et al ⁴¹	18-20	58.2	161.8	22.2	NS
27	Rabello et al ⁴²	13 a 17 (15)	62 ± 9.3	166 ± 0.05	$22.0\ \pm2.8$	NS
Young	g players					
28	Atakan et al ⁴³	19.8 ± 1.1	56.2 ± 6.3	164.2 ± 6.5	NS	NS
Not sp	pecified					
29	Saeedy et al ⁴⁴	23.3 ± 3.9	55.2 ± 6.3	162.3 ± 5.9	20.9 ± 1.74	NS
30	Lago-Fuentes et al ⁴⁵	23.7 ± 5.1	63.9 ± 7.5 63.9 ± 6.8	$166.5 \pm 5.9 \\ 164.8 \pm 4.8$	NS	NS
31	Karavelioglu ⁴⁶	20.5 ± 1.7	$61.06 \pm 2.5 \\ 68.6 \pm 4.6$	166.9±4.9 166.9 ± 6.10	NS	NS

Legend: NS: not specified.

Discussion

This study has reported 31 articles published in the SCOPUS, PUBMED and SCIELO databases from 2010 to 2020. The highest percentage of publications were in English (83.9%), followed by Portuguese (9.7%) and Spanish (6.5%). In addition, we can highlight that most of the publications are of Brazilian origin (41.9%), Spanish (29%), Turkish 12.9%, Iranian 9.7%, and Venezuelan and Italian 3.2%. Of the 31 studies analyzed, they have been categorized into two study groups, the first considered as elite female futsal players and the second non-elite group. Twenty-two studies were identified that have reported results of the anthropometric profile in the elite group and 24 studies in the non-elite group. In fact, sport-specific physiological and morphological characteristics have become a real target and at the same time are gaining interest in recent years among researchers to find the best type of morphology for each sport context.⁴⁷ Systematized studies have shown that players from the elite group generally present relatively higher average weight and height values and consequently a higher BMI than their counterparts from

the non-elite group. These discrepancies are favorable for the elite players, being higher by approximately ~7.4kg of body weight, ~7.6cm of height and ~3.2kg/m2 of BMI. These results confirm that anthropometric measures are globally used in sports training monitoring as an important determinant of sports performance, 48 so that teams and selections of elite female players often reflect a better anthropometric profile than players categorized as non-elite. The structure of body composition and posture play an important role in sports performance.⁴⁹ Thus, these favorable discrepancies in weight and BMI of elite female players may be due to a higher percentage of skeletal muscle mass, favoring physical performance, as it contributes to energy production during high-intensity activities and consequently improves strength production capacity among female athletes.⁵⁰ On the other hand, excess adiposity and body fat in athletes is considered an aggravating factor, since it acts as dead weight against physical performance impairing gravity. consequently producing sports injuries. This becomes a cause for concern,47 among professionals working not

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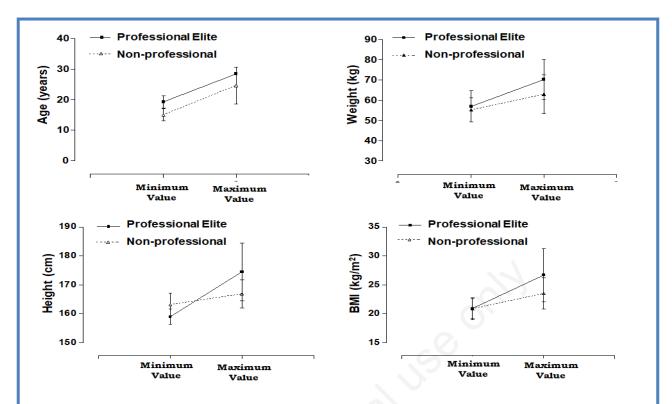


Figure 2. Comparison of the anthropometric profile of female futsal players (group A: elite, professional and semi-professional and group b: university, amateur, youth and amateur).

only at the elite-professional level, but also at the nonprofessional level. Therefore, anthropometric characteristics (i.e., height, body mass and body composition) are important components of physical fitness,50 being necessary to maintain and preserve adequate levels to ensure an optimal level of physical performance. In relation to % body fat we observed that the elite group evidenced a % body fat from ~14.2 to 27.1%. However, the non-elite group in most studies did not specify the % body fat, only three studies (ranging from ~ 14.0 to 16.5%). These results preclude comparisons between the two groups, although, clearly the % fat observed in the original studies in this review are in the 25 to 28% range suggested as ideal for young non-athletic women.⁵¹ Notwithstanding the above, it is noted that high-level competitive players are usually subjected to ~ 90 minutes of duration per training session and between 6 to 9 sessions with one day of competition and rest.^{24,25} In the case of non-professional groups, they have less rigor in the systematization and periodization of training,⁵², therefore, these differences in effort and rigor in the planning and periodization of training make the female futsal players reflect anthropometric patterns typical of the modality and level of competition. Consequently, the results obtained in this study are useful to sport science professionals and specifically to those working in futsal. This information can be used to compare with other specific groups within the sport

modality, as well as to verify secular trend changes at the anthropometric level and to analyze and interpret according to the role played in the sport modality (coach, physical trainer, sports doctors, nutritionists physiotherapists). This study was limited anthropometric profile analyzes (weight, height, and body mass index), so future studies should broaden their information search to include physical performance and body composition variables. It is also suggested to systematize information related to training load control, as there is currently little information on this in women's futsal. This study demonstrated differences anthropometric characteristics between elite and nonelite players. These findings suggest that to participate in elite competition in women's futsal, they would need to be of greater weight, height and body mass index than their non-elite counterparts. It should be emphasized that this is the first systematic study carried out in Spanish countries and, due to its results, can be considered a reference to be compared with future research in women's futsal.

List of acronyms

AHRQ - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality BMI - body mass index PEDro - Physiotherapy Evidence Database PRISMA - Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

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Contributions of Authors

MCB, RGC: conception, design, drafting of the manuscript, analysis and interpretation of the data, critical review and final approval of the version to be published, agreement to be responsible for all aspects of the work to ensure that issues related to the accuracy or completeness of any part of the work are adequately investigated and resolved; MCB, RGC, RVE, JST, CTC: critical review of important intellectual content; and final approval of the version to be published; FM, FAV, LUZ: systematization of the studies, critical review and final approval of the version to be published.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no competing interests.

Ethical Publication Statement

We confirm that we have read the Journal's position on issues involved in ethical publication and affirm that this report is consistent with those guidelines.

Corresponding Author

Marco Cossio Bolaños, PhD, Av San Miguel s/n Talca,

Chile.

ORCID iD: 0000-0001-7230-9996 Email: mcossio1972@hotmail.com

E-mails and ORCID iD of co-authors

Rossana Gómez-Campos: <u>rossaunicamp@gmail.com</u>

ORCID: 0000-0001-6509-5707

Ruben Vidal-Espinoza: rvidale@gmail.com

ORCID: 0000-0002-8593-5248

Fredy Muñoz-Muñoz: <u>freddy.munoz.pef@gmail.com</u>

ORCID: 0000-0002-9782-422X Fernando Alvear-Vasquez:

fernandoalvearvasquez@gmail.com

ORCID: 0000-0002-9461-1384

Margot Rivera Portugal: mar2608@hotmail.com

ORCID: 0000-0003-0548-2750
Luis Urzua Alul: <u>lurzua@hotmail.com</u>
ORCID: 0000-0002-5792-2191

Jorge Mendez-Cornejo: <u>imendez@ucm.cl</u>

ORCID: 0000-0002-3925-170X

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