# **Intermediate Exercise: Interval Training**

Alternating intervals of low-intensity and high-intensity exercise can burn more total calories in a shorter time, reducing the amount of time you need to exercise each week.

## What is Interval Training?

Interval training combines short bursts of intense exercise (30 seconds) with longer periods of low-intensity (1-2 minutes) exercise. What "intense" exercise means is relative to your fitness level - for example, it could be 30 seconds of jogging mixed with one minute of walking, or even 30 seconds of brisk walking with two minutes of walking at a moderate pace.



## What are the Benefits of Interval Training?



#### **Burn more calories**

Increasing the intensity of your workout will result in burning more calories. You won't spend a lot of time in the Fat Burning Zone, but you'll burn more calories overall, which is the biggest factor in losing weight.



### **Decrease Time Exercising**

Interval training is ideal for people with less spare time. The recommendation for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours of exercise assumes a moderate activity level. A more vigorous activity level like interval training can reduce the amount of time per week to 75 minutes (1  $\frac{1}{4}$  hours).



### Improve Cardiovascular Health

Intense exercise improves your cardiovascular and aerobic capacity, which will improve your overall fitness level and reduce your risk of heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

### **Are There Risks to Interval Training?**

Interval training is adaptable to many fitness levels, however it's a more intermediate exercise technique and is not recommended for beginners. More intense interval training (often called High Intensity Interval Training or HIIT) can work in push-ups, squats, jumping jacks, burpees, etc. If you have a chronic health condition, speak with your doctor before starting an interval training program.