

*"How To Get Fit (And Stay Fit)
In World Record Time...With*

**7 SECRET
RECOVERY
"STRATEGIES"**

That Only The

PRO ATHLETES

Know And Use"!

*Quick Easy, Cost Free "Tips" And The EXACT Week-By-Week,
Start To End Recovery Plans Used By Pro Athletes...
For All Of The (7) Common Sports Injuries*

By Professional Football Physio Paul Gough (Value £52)

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About The Author Paul Gough



Paul Gough is a time served Professional Sports Physiotherapist and is recognised in the UK for being at the Leading edge of the Sports Science and Sports Injury Recovery Industries.

By the age of just 22, Paul was head Physio at a Professional Football Club in the North East of England and by the age of 25, had been head hunted by a Premier League Football Club and was working with multi-million pound professional footballers on daily basis.

Since quitting his job in professional-sport in 2007, Paul has established what is now the UK's biggest self built Private Physiotherapy Practice, has travelled extensively round the world to speak at industry seminars and has been hired as a Consultant Sports Physio by some of the worlds top coaching academies – including the Florida based Soccer Camp of Man Utd and England footballer Paul Scholes, where Paul Gough worked alongside the midfielder on a daily basis.



Paul with Paul Scholes
In the USA



In Australia with
Kevin Pietersen



On the pitch
match day

What's more, Paul has developed his own unique way of promoting sports and fitness at the grassroot level in the North East and his "Feel Great For Sport" Talk-in is a popular attraction for amateur and junior football clubs and others alike, and often features celebrity footballers who stand on stage next to Paul and pass on their own tips and insights of preparing correctly for sports performance.

Such has been the success of Paul's "Feel Great For Sport" project that the content and advice given out during, is now featured in a weekly health and fitness column in The Northern Echo – every Saturday morning, and is read by more than 50,000 readers each week.

Introduction

In this exclusive Special Report prepared for grassroot and amateur cyclists, runners, golfers, footballers and exercise enthusiasts aged 35+, I share with you the exact principles that I have used to help recover the fitness of multi-million pound professional athletes, from injury.

It's a "reference manual" that I recommend you print out and keep safe in your sports bag and constantly refer back to, should you happen to be struck down by any of these common sports injuries again in the future.

The first thing I want you to know is that if you are frustrated, feel stuck, or just not sure what to do next for the best, then you are NOT alone. That's how just about everyone I've ever met in my physio clinic, starts out.

These recovery plans, strategies and tips, I have used many times over in professional sport, I also give them out to members of my private physio clinic, who pay for this kind of advice.

I'm letting you have them all for FREE.

The injuries (and the recovery plans) are in no particular order of importance and they all have one thing in common – they all work.

There's a great saying that goes: Small hinges swing big doors. And it's often the simplest advice that wins in the end.

Truth is, without knowing you or your medical history intimately, I cannot tell you which of these will work best for you. And even if I did know the root cause of your sports injury, there are no guarantees that any one single strategy will work.

But over the last few years, I've been able to narrow down what really does and doesn't work when it comes to finding the fastest route possible back to fitness and a life "loaded with feel good endorphins".

And the principles you're about to read are included in that.

But imagine this... how great it would be if you try just one of my strategies every day for a few weeks...within a few weeks you could have gotten some way towards winning back your active, healthy "sporty" lifestyle.

So here's my challenge to you, now that you have this knowledge in your hands, take time every day to try out the tips and principles I'm giving you.

It really won't take long and most of them won't cost you anything but a few minutes of your time. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised by how much better, fitter and healthier you will feel.

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Okay...Here's How To Get Fit And Stay Fit With Secret Tips That Only The Pro Athletes Know And Use...

1. Hamstring Injury

Signs and symptoms:

Immediate sharp pain in the back of the thigh. Often when sprinting and it's not uncommon for bruising and swelling to appear behind the knee. Can be very disabling in the first few days.

*** Week 1**

This is always about Ice and rest. Not much else.

Typically, I'd advise a pro athlete to go swimming, take one or two gentle walks and when possible, work on core stability exercises with a balance ball.

From a physio point of view - after about day 5 I'd begin some deep massage and very gentle stretching.

*** Week 2**

Ice continues - often upto day 10 depending upon how much bleeding has taken place and how badly damaged the muscle tear is.

Typically, one of my players would now be exercising on a bike, swimming would continue and towards the end of week 2, I'd be aiming to have the athlete doing some very gentle jogging. The player or athlete can expect to feel some form of burning sensation, but as long as it isn't "cramping" or "biting" this is fine - and a good thing.

From a physio point of view - massage is now vital. It's now that the scar tissue build up is "dangerous" and if the massage isn't done, it's the number 1 reason for hamstrings tearing again in the first two weeks back to running or playing.

* Week 3

Ice has stopped. More heat is being used rather than ice in this stage.

Stretching is now vital. I'd be recommending the athlete to attend Yoga classes, increase the amount of Pilates exercises and that he or she be working on their balance (using an exercise/gym ball).

Fitness levels are increased significantly. Swimming, cycling, long distance running is stepped up. And the athlete may or may not be asked to be doing three quarter pace running by now.

From a physio point of view - hands on treatment is vital, massage continues and work on the gluteal muscles and lower back is essential to prevent future reoccurrence.

PNF stretching is also introduced.

* Week 4

Athlete 90% fit. CV work increases and a return to practice and full drills is possible and the goal, by the end of week 4.

Athlete is put through drills that will include sprints, shuttles and plyometric work.

From a physio point of view - hands on massage continues, PNF stretching is vital and passive and active stretching is stepped up.

* Week 5

Athlete returns to sport.

Fitness and performance work increases.

From a physio point of view - massage continues to prevent scar tissue build up and stretching is continued before, during and after training sessions.

Note: Daily Hands-on massage will be needed for approximately another 2-3 weeks to prevent scar tissue (collagen) tightening the muscles.

Review of recovery:

Take it very easy early on, stretch and mobilise the injury at just the right time and no hamstring can ever recover fully with out deep massage.

Secret Tip:

When jogging or running for the first time...a *burning* sensation is to be expected and is OKAY. There's no need to stop. But you must stop if it cramps or feels as though the muscle is "biting" sharply.

Too much rest in the first few weeks will increase the likelihood of re-injury.

Don't be fooled by the lack of pain after two weeks. It does not mean you are fit to play or run and if you haven't followed the rules listed above, you will damage the muscle again sometime soon.

2. Calf Strain

Signs and symptoms:

Immediate sharp pain the muscle at the bottom of the leg, just below the knee. Often people describe the pain as having felt like they'd been "shot" in the back of the leg.

* Week 1

This is always about ice, rest and compression.

Ice is best applied little and often. 10 mins every hour, should be enough.

Typically, a pro athlete would be advised to go swimming, take one or two gentle walks and when possible, work on core stability exercises with a balance ball.

The right selection of footwear is important - avoid plimsols or sandals. Find and wear a pair of trainers with a nice thick heel to prevent any tension on the muscle.

From a physio point of view - after about day 5, I'd begin some deep massage and very gentle stretching and work on the ankle joint to prevent any stiffness or get rid of any swelling.

* Week 2

Ice continues - often until day 10 depending upon how much bleeding has taken place and how badly damaged the muscle tear is.

Typically, one of my athletes would now be exercising on a bike and swimming would continue.

The athlete can expect to begin on a bike or start on the rowing machine to keep up with CV fitness but running should be avoided for now.

From a physio point of view - deep massage is now vital.

It's now that the scar tissue build up is "dangerous" and if the deep massage isn't done, it's the number 1 reason for calf muscles tearing again in the first two weeks back to running or playing.

* Week 3

Ice has stopped. Now, heat is being used rather than ice in this stage.

Stretching is now vital. I'd be recommending the athlete to attend Yoga classes, increase the amount of Pilates exercises and that he or she be working on their balance (using a ball).

Fitness levels are increased significantly. Swimming, cycling, gentle jogging is stepped up. And by the end, the athlete may or may not be asked to be doing half pace running by now.

From a physio point of view - hands on treatment is vital, massage continues and work on the Achilles, hamstrings, gluteal muscles and lower back is essential to prevent future reoccurrence.

PNF stretching is also introduced.

* **Week 4**

Athlete 90% fit. CV work increases and a return to practice and full drills is possible and the goal, by the end of week 4.

Athlete is put through drills that will include sprints, shuttles and plyometric work.

From a physio point of view - hands on massage continues, PNF stretching is vital and passive and active stretching is stepped up.

* **Week 5**

Athlete returns to sport. Fitness and performance work increases.

From a physio point of view - massage continues to prevent scar tissue build up and stretching is continued before, during and after training sessions.

Note: Daily hands-on massage will be needed for approximately another 2-3 weeks to prevent scar tissue (collagen) tightening up the muscles.

Review of recovery:

Take it very easy early on, stretch and mobilise the injury at just the right time and no calf injury can ever recover fully without deep massage.

Secret Tip:

Too much rest in the first few weeks will increase the likelihood of re-injury.

Don't be fooled by the lack of pain after two weeks either. It does not mean you are fit to play or run and if you haven't followed all of the protocol listed above, you will damage the muscle again sometime soon.

3. Achilles Tendon Tear

Signs and symptoms:

Immediate sharp pain in the back and bottom of your leg. Right above the ankle joint. Often happens when running or jumping and gets worse/comes on gradually as you run.

* Week 1

Complete rest.

Apply lots of ice. Swap footwear to soft, comfy, high heeled shoes. No need for strapping or supports other than to apply ice.

Every one hour for 10 minutes is recommended.

Typically, a pro athlete suffering with an Achilles tendon issue would be advised to go swimming, take one or two gentle walks (on the flat) and when possible, work on core stability exercises with a balance ball.

The right selection of footwear is important - avoid plimsoles or sandals. Find and wear a pair of trainers with a nice thick "heel" to prevent any tension on the tendon.

From a physio point of view, after about days 2-3, I'd begin some deep massage and very gentle stretching and work on the ankle joint to prevent any stiffness or get rid of any swelling.

I'd also massage the calf muscle and check the lower back for any stiffness to rule out any nerve problems that could create more long-term problems.

* Week 2

Ice continues - often until day 10 depending upon how much bleeding has taken place and how badly damaged the muscle tear is.

Typically, one of my players would now be exercising on a bike, swimming would continue and towards the end of week 2, I'd be aiming to have the athlete doing some very gentle jogging.

The player or athlete can expect to feel some form of burning sensation, but as long as it isn't "cramping" or "biting" this is fine - and a good thing.

From a physio point of view, massage is now vital.

It's now that the scar tissue build up is "dangerous" and if the massage isn't done, it's the number 1 reason for an Achilles tearing again in the first two weeks back to running or playing.

* Week 3

Ice has stopped. Now, heat is being used rather than ice in this stage.

Stretching is now vital. I'd be recommending the athlete to attend Yoga classes, increase the amount of Pilates exercises and that he or she be working on their

balance (using a ball).

Fitness levels are increased significantly. Swimming, cycling, gentle jogging is stepped up (still on the flat). And by the end of this phase, the athlete may or may not be asked to be doing three quarter pace running by now.

From a physio point of view - hands on treatment is vital, massage continues and work on the Achilles, calf, hamstrings, gluteal muscles and lower back is essential to prevent future reoccurrence.

Ankle joint and balance work is important too.

PNF stretching is also introduced.

* Week 4

Athlete 90% fit.

CV work increases and a return to practice and full drills is possible and the goal, by the end of week 4.

Athlete is put through drills that will include sprints, shuttles and plyometric work, including running backwards.

Note: Hill running and sand is disqualified for at least 3 more months for this type of injury.

From a physio point of view - hands on massage continues, PNF stretching is vital and passive and active stretching is stepped up.

* Week 5

Athlete returns to sport.

Fitness and performance work increases.

From a physio point of view - massage continues to prevent scar tissue build up and stretching is continued before, during and after training sessions.

Note: Daily hands-on massage will be needed for approximately another 2-3 weeks to prevent scar tissue (collagen) tightening the muscles.

Review of recovery:

Take it very easy early on, stretch and mobilise the injury at just the right time and no Achilles injury can ever recover fully without deep massage.

Secret Tip(s):

Too much rest in the first few weeks will increase the likelihood of re-injury.

Stay off the beach when running for at least 3 months post injury.

Don't be fooled by the lack of pain after two weeks either. It does not mean you are fit to play or run and if you haven't followed all of the Protocol listed above, you will damage the muscle again sometime soon.

4. Ankle Sprain

Signs and symptoms:

Likely to have landed awkwardly, twisted, or fallen causing pain, stiffness and immediate swelling, mainly on the outside of the ankle joint, below the ankle bone.

* Week 1

Immediate ice, compression and elevation.

Begin gentle walking ASAP. Often 3-4 days post injury. Note it is expected (and okay) to be painful. However, straight line walking only.

Non whatsoever twisting or turning of the ankle joint can be tolerated in week 1.

Swimming is encouraged when possible and if pain allows.

From a physio point of view - deep friction massage and very gentle massage of calf and Achilles would begin after just 4-5 days.

* Week 2

Very gentle (but prolonged) walking on the flat, is vital and to be encouraged. Towards the end of week 2, the goal will be for gentle jogging on a treadmill.

Swimming continues, cycling and cross trainers are all ok.

From a physio point of view - massage continues of ankle ligaments and of the calf and Achilles tendon to prevent tightness and future problems. Stretching of all muscle groups is a must and balance work is now added to both ankles.

* Week 3

Exercise and CV work is increased.

Straight line running is picked up and athlete will aim to be at three quarter pace by the end of this phase.

Slowly, but surely, uneven surfaces are introduced and twisting and turning begins to be allowed.

From a physio point of view - all deep massage work continues, muscles and ankle joints are stretched to the max and proprioception exercises are now top priority along with full movement of the ankle joint.

* Week 4

Athlete returns to training and possibly performance.

CV work increases and continues.

From a physio point of view - all treatment and stretching continues for approx' 3-4 weeks and athlete pays attention to proprioception exercises.

Review of recovery:

Take it very easy early on. But in the case of nearly all ankle sprains, too much rest will be harmful.

Stretch and mobilise the injury at just the right time and no ankle injury can ever recover fully with prolonged rest.

Secret Tip(s):

Too much rest in the first few weeks will increase the likelihood of re-injury and a plateau. Do not be fooled by lack of pain when walking straight - Twisting and turning "pain free" must be achievable.

Note: It's not uncommon for ankle sprains to feel not much better even 6 weeks down the line. And it's often because of too much rest in the first few weeks.

Stay off the beach and avoid uneven woods/hilly areas when running, for at least 3 months post injury.

Don't be fooled by the lack of pain after two weeks either.

It does not mean you are fit to play or run and if you haven't followed all of the Protocol listed above, you will damage the ligament again sometime soon.

5. Knee Ligaments

Signs and symptoms:

Athlete likely to have landed awkwardly, twisted, or fallen causing pain, stiffness and immediate swelling of the knee joint, often on the inside.

* Week 1

Immediate ice, compression and elevation of the injured knee.

Begin gentle walking ASAP.

Often 3-4 days post injury.

Note: it is expected (and okay) to be painful. However, straight line walking only.

Non whatsoever twisting or turning of the knee joint can be tolerated in week 1.

Swimming is encouraged when possible and if pain allows (Tip: Athletes will often use a float between the legs to keep the knee straight and limit pain).

From a physio point of view - deep friction massage and very gentle stretching and massage would begin after just 4-5 days.

* Week 2

Very gentle (but prolonged) walking on the flat is vital and is to be encouraged. Towards the end of week 2, the goal will be for gentle jogging on a treadmill.

Swimming continues (not breast stroke), cycling and cross trainers are all ok.

From a physio point of view - massage continues of damaged knee ligaments and of the quads, hamstring and calf muscles.

Stretching of all muscle groups is a must and balance work is now added for both legs.

* Week 3

Exercise and CV work is increased.

Straight line running is picked up and the athlete will aim to be at three quarter pace by the end of this phase.

Slowly, but surely, uneven surfaces are introduced and twisting and turning begins to be allowed.

From a physio point of view - all deep massage work continues, muscles and knee joint are stretched to max and proprioception exercises are now top priority along with full movement of the knee joint.

* Week 4

Athlete returns to training and possibly performance.

CV work increase and continues.

From a physio point of view - all massage treatment and stretching continues for approx' 3-4 weeks and athlete pays attention to proprioception exercises.

Review of recovery:

Take it very easy early on.

But in the case of nearly all knee ligament sprains, too much rest will be harmful.

Stretch and mobilise the injury at just the right time and no knee ligament injury can ever recover fully with prolonged rest.

Secret Tip(s):

Too much rest in the first few weeks will increase the likelihood of re-injury and a recovery plateau will occur.

No breast stroke in the swimming pool.

Do not be fooled by lack of pain when walking straight - twisting and turning "pain free" must be achievable.

Note: It's not uncommon for knee sprains to feel not much better even 6 weeks down the line. And it's often because of too much rest in the first few weeks.

Stay off the beach and avoid uneven woods/hilly areas when running, for at least 3 months post knee injury.

Don't be fooled by the lack of pain after two weeks either.

It does not mean you are fit to play or run and if you haven't followed all of the Protocol listed above, you will damage the ligament again sometime soon - often when you least expect it on an uneven surface.

6. Runners Knee (ITB)

Signs & Symptoms:

Burning sensation/pain that comes on gradually on the outside of the knee. Common in cyclists and runners. Often confusing as there is no major incident or trauma, yet the pain and or burning comes on gradually and appears to her worse.

* Week 1

Ice is vital. As is rest.

Walking is fine and swimming is great too. With this kind of injury, maintaining flexibility and core strength, is important.

From a physio point of view - I'd be working on deep tissue massage of the IT Band as well as stretching the band, quads and hip region.

It's also possible that the Athlete's "back" will have stiffened so I'd be working to loosen that area too. It's really important for the Athlete to be working on strength work of the Gluteal muscles and the core stability muscles using a balance ball.

* Week 2

Continue with ice and rest from cycling or running.

Swimming is encouraged and the rower is also possible and unlikely to reproduce any pain on the outside of the band. If it does, stop.

Continue with gluteal and core exercises and stretching in the gym.

From a physio point of view - deep therapeutic massage of the IT Band is vital and will continue x3 daily, immediately followed by passive and active stretching.

* Week 3

Cycling and or running will be able to be introduced in this phase, providing the athlete has followed the treatment plan noted above.

Gentle, half pace jogging is introduced and cycling (both on the flat). Athlete should not be expecting to feel any burning sensation. Fatigue and stiffness is okay.

From a physio point of view - deep therapeutic massage continues as does stretching.

Increase gluteal and core exercise and begin re-introduction to 3/4 level activity and or practice.

Ice remains important after every session (use heat before).

* Week 4

Athlete steps up to training. Trainers are checked and or orthotics applied to footwear to re-correct the position of the foot.

From a physio point of view - massage and stretching continue for at least 2-3 weeks and athlete continues working on core stability and gluteal strength and control exercises.

Review of recovery:

Complete rest needed early on.

Stretch and massaging is pivotal to the successful recovery. As is doing the right core and gluteal exercises.

Secret Tip(s):

Check your trainers and change them every 3 months, consider custom foot orthotics and ice packs are the best thing that you can be doing to help your self.

Let your physio do everything else.

Do not be fooled by the absence of pain when you rest. The IT Band is only painful in a weigh bearing situation (such as running) or cycling due to excessive over use.

Note: Stay off the beach and avoid uneven woods/hilly areas when running, for at least 3 months post knee injury.

7. Shin Splints

Signs and symptoms:

Pain on the inside of the shin bone - usually appears gradually and gets worse the more running on the hard surface that you do.

* Week 1

Complete rest is advised for the athlete.

Speak to the GP about anti-inflammatories and apply ice regularly to the damaged shinbone.

In this phase it's important to check trainers for "wear" and loss of support. Also, consider custom orthotics that are proven to reduce the effects of shin splints and limit pain during exercise.

Athlete can cycle, swim and use the cross trainer and rowing machine to maintain CV fitness. Running is to be avoided at all costs.

From a physio point of view - deep massage of the calf and Achilles muscles is urgent as is stretching of both.

* Week 2

Rest from running continues.

Ice continues to be applied, little and yet very often.

Maintain/increase fitness with Gym work and immediately begin Pilates and core control style exercises. Add in gluteal, quad and hamstring strengthening exercises too. All of which are vital.

From a physio point of view - continue with deep therapeutic massage of the calf muscle and Achilles tendon and stretching of both.

Begin deep tissue massage of IT Band, quads and hamstrings and stretching of the Athlete's lower back.

* Week 3

Consider gradual return to running. Note: Treadmill running is advised first due to less impact. If fine, progress to grass and or sand.

All other fitness options are continued and core/pilates is increased.

From a physio point of view - athlete continues to receive deep tissue massage, PNF stretching and hands-on work to the lower back region.

* Week 4

Continue with ice.

Insert custom orthotics and begin gradual return to pre-injury activity.

Athlete will continue to apply ice immediately after any running for at least 6 weeks.

Core and pilates exercises maintained, as is all strength and flexibility work to the surrounding muscle groups.

From a physio point of view - deep therapeutic massage of the calf muscle and surrounding muscles continues for approx 2-3 weeks.

Review Of Recovery:

Complete rest from running needed early on.

Stretch and massaging of calf and Achilles is pivotal to the successful recovery. As is doing the right core, Pilates and gluteal strength and control exercises.

Secret Tip(s):

Check your trainers and change them every 3 months, consider custom foot orthotics and ice packs is the best thing that you can be doing to help your self with shin splints.

You must also be doing regular core control and back strength exercises, too.

Let your physio do everything else.

Do not be fooled by the absence of pain when you rest. Shin Splints are likely to only be painful in a weight-bearing situation (such as running).

Note: Return to running progressively and start with treadmill --> grass --> sand --> road.

Conclusion

So, there you have it: The 7 recovery plans that the Pro Athletes use every day to recover from a sports injury.

There's obviously much more to it, and I could go much more in-depth on ways to recover from injury quick, than just the principles I've given you here, but these fundamentals, if you apply them rigorously and are disciplined, will make a huge difference to the pace at which you recover.

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Dedicated to Restoring Your Health,

Paul G.

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Health Advice Disclaimer

We make every effort to ensure that we accurately represent the injury advice and prognosis displayed throughout this Guide.

However, examples of injuries and their prognosis are based on typical representations of those injuries that we commonly see in our physiotherapy clinics. The information given is not intended as representations of every individual's potential injury. As with any injury, each person's symptoms can vary widely and each person's recovery from injury can also vary depending upon background, genetics, previous medical history, application of exercises, posture, motivation to follow physio advice and various other physical factors.

It is impossible to give a 100% complete accurate diagnosis and prognosis without a thorough physical examination and likewise the advice given for management of an injury cannot be deemed fully accurate in the absence of this examination from one of the Chartered Physiotherapists at Paul Gough Physio Rooms Ltd.

We are able to offer you this service at a standard charge. Significant injury risk is possible if you do not follow due diligence and seek suitable professional advice about your injury. No guarantees of specific results are expressly made or implied in this report.

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