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International society of sport psychology (ISSP): An overview

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Abstract

The ISSP is a multidisciplinary association of scholars whose research interests focus on some aspects of sport psychology. It is the only worldwide organisation of scholars explicitly concerned with sport psychology. The Managing Council of ISSP developed a Strategic Plan in spring 2015 to fully achieve the objectives of ISSP current mission. With the number of countries developing more international competitive athletic programs each year, the roles of the ISSP become more apparent and necessary. Guidance has been set by ISSP to uphold high levels of professionalism, ethical attitudes, and behaviour, as an ISSP- R practitioner. It is the ISSP-R practitioners' responsibility to aspire to the highest possible standards of conduct. The development of a dynamic ethical code for an ISSP-R practitioners' work-related conduct requires a personal commitment to a lifelong effort to act ethically; to encourage ethical behaviour by students, supervisees, employees, and colleagues, as appropriate; and to consult with others, as needed, concerning ethical problems.

Keywords: International society of sport psychology, sport psychology

Introduction

The International Society of Sport Psychology (ISSP) is an organization devoted to promoting research, practice, and development in the discipline of sport psychology throughout the world. The ISSP is a multidisciplinary association of scholars whose research interests focus on some aspects of sport psychology.

History

In 1965, the farsighted Italian sport psychologist Ferruccio Antonelli mounted a conference in Rome. This event attracted an attendance of 450 people from all around the world, who were interested in the application of psychology to sport and physical activity. The conference was entitled the First World Congress of Sport Psychology. During the conference Antonelli and his close colleagues held a business meeting, proposed the creation of global body in the field, and the International Society of Sport Psychology (ISSP) was born. In his Editorial for the inaugural issue of the International Journal of Sport Psychology, five years later, Antonelli (1970) stated: "I shall never forget that first meeting...The encouraging approval of the Pope who granted us an audience...the wealth of the contributions...the warm expression of friendship and esteem...regardless of all differences of politics, nation or race" (p. 3).

Mission

The International Society of Sport Psychology (ISSP) is an organization devoted to promoting research, practice, and development in the discipline of sport psychology throughout the world. The ISSP is a multidisciplinary association of scholars whose research interests focus on some aspects of sport psychology. The Society exists to (a) encourage and promote the study of human behaviour within sport, physical activity, and health settings; (b) facilitate the sharing of knowledge through a newsletter, meetings and a quadrennial congress, and (c) improve the quality of research and professional practice in sport psychology. The Society also endeavours to foster peace and understanding among people from all countries. Members of the Society include researchers, psychologists, educators, coaches, and administrators, as well as students and athletes interested in sport psychology.

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The ISSP is the only worldwide organisation of scholars explicitly concerned with sport psychology. It was formed in 1965 under the direction of Dr. Ferruccio Antonelli of Italy, since has had General Assembly meetings every four years during the World Congress. The truly international flavour of the ISSP is illustrated by its numerous members from a variety of countries, and the diverse locations of past World Congresses, which include: Rome, Italy (1965), Washington, USA (1968), Madrid, Spain (1973), Prague, Czechoslovakia (1977), Ottawa, Canada (1981), Copenhagen, Denmark (1985), Singapore (1989), Lisbon, Portugal (1993), Telaviv, Israel (1997), Skiathos, Greece (2001), Sydney, Australia (2005), Marrakesh, Morocco (2009) and Beijing, China(2013).

Strategic plan

ISSP is an organization devoted to promoting research, practice, and development in the discipline of sport and exercise psychology throughout the world. The Managing Council of ISSP developed a Strategic Plan in spring 2015 to fully achieve the objectives of ISSP current mission. A series of seven new initiatives follow, each explained in relation to the growth of ISSP during the time of the current strategic plan. These initiatives include:

- augmenting membership
- the development and launch of international certification
- Regional ISSP Conferences and continuing education
- the ISSP International Ambassadors Program
- expanding the International Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology
- launching the ISSP Fellows Status and extending member awards
- modernization of the ISSP website

Statutes

Preamble of The International Society of Sport Psychology: “We, the members of the International Society of Sport Psychology (ISSP) realize that sport needs to be supported and yet protected; supported in terms of scientific, educational, and information that can promote the most ideal outcomes, but protected against any dangerous threats to morality in sport and the welfare of the competitor. Sport psychology's mission is such as to make unique contributions about these considerations. Sport psychology as a discipline, as well as a service, is flourishing in certain countries; initiating modest trusts in others. With the number of countries developing more international competitive athletic programs each year, the roles of the ISSP become more apparent and necessary. In many ways, sport is a common denominator among people with diverse political, economic, occupational, and educational backgrounds. Sport, in its many forms and structures, touches directly or indirectly upon the lives of countless people in the world. Sport psychology should help to educate these people about the potential psychological benefits of sport to athletes and observers, to communities, clubs, and countries.”

The challenges for the ISSP, broadly speaking, are to:

- Such functions are enhanced when efforts among people and countries are integrated and coordinated. Mutual collaborations and understandings depend upon a unifying body or organization. It was with this perception that ISSP was formed in 1965. ISSP encourages sport psychology scientists and field workers from all parts of the world to share ideas and to work together, to advance

science as well as to promote excellence and decency in sport. The organization believes in promoting peace and understanding among people from all countries. It will not tolerate any form of discrimination. Through the ISSP such goals can be realized.

- The ISSP extends its hand to all those psychologists, scientists, educators, coaches, athletes, and anyone else concerned with the advancement of sport psychology in every region in the world.
- It also takes initiative in promoting programmatic and scientific activities that can be considered within a broad cultural, political, and geographical mosaic.
- The ISSP endorses scholarly activity of individuals as well and the formulation of national and regional organizations oriented to improving the science and services associated with sport psychology. It respects the sovereignty of its individual members and the membership countries represented in ISSP.
- Whether initiating or supporting scientific and professional thrusts, ISSP is committed to continually upgrading standards related to sport psychology research, information, services, programs, and guidelines, and ultimately to all kinds of sport and physical activity.

Code of ethics

The International Society of Sport Psychology (ISSP) aims to be the leading international and inclusive organization focused on the development of sport psychology in all regions and cultural areas of the world, promoting professional impact in the global community through research and practice. As a global organization, ISSP encompasses professionals that render services to individuals, groups, and the society at large, who ought to have ethics to guide their engagement in rendering services. Such code of ethics will protect the members' interest to comply with their underlying practice as well as it will contribute to guarantee the protection of the clients. The ISSP members realize that the domain of sport needs to be supported and yet protected; supported in terms of scientific, educational, and philosophical information that can promote the most ideal outcomes, but protected against any dangerous threats to morality in clients. Sport, in its many forms and structures, touches directly or indirectly upon the lives of countless clients, and is a common denominator among people with diverse political, economic, occupational, and educational backgrounds. The ISSP is dedicated to the development and professionalization of the field of sport psychology from a global perspective. This Code is intended to provide the general principles and specific ethical standards for managing many situations that ISSP Registered (ISSP-R) practitioners¹ may encounter. This Code of Ethics encompasses six principles and 16 standards. The six ethical principles are guidelines that are intended as a guide to help inspire and support practitioners in acting responsibly and ethically in the provision of services, to insure the dignity and welfare of individuals, athletes, professionals, volunteers, administrators, teams, and the general public. These principles also apply to 'ethical supervision' and the services provided by supervisors to practitioners. The 16 ethical standards are expectations of conduct, practical recommendation, that can lead to professional and, depending on the country of practice, possibly legal ramifications when violated. These standards are expressed in general terms and their application may vary depending upon the context (i.e., country with its unique legal standards and cultural practices). The ethical standards outlined in this statement are not exhaustive, and the fact that

a conduct is not addressed by these principles does not indicate that ISSP endorses it as either ethical or unethical. This is guidance set by ISSP to uphold high levels of professionalism, ethical attitudes, and behaviour, as an ISSP-R practitioner. In any circumstances, ISSP-R practitioners may need to make decisions in difficult, and/or unclear situations, the Principles and Guidelines in this Code should be referred as part of the decision-making process, according to the specific contexts. ISSP-R practitioners are encouraged to use their own professional and ethical judgement based on the ISSP's Code of Ethics. This Code's primary goal is the welfare and protection of the individuals and groups with whom ISSP-R practitioners may work. It is the ISSP-R practitioners' responsibility to aspire to the highest possible standards of conduct. It is expected that each professional will act in accordance, and not violate, the values and rules described in the ethical principles, in addition to the values and norms of one's culture. ISSP-R practitioners should maintain the highest level of ethical awareness of one's role and responsibilities and must be aware of and accept appropriate responsibility for what is within their authority and power, control or decision making. Awareness of responsibility ensures that the trust of others is not abused, the power of influence is responsibly managed and that duty towards others is always prioritized. The development of a dynamic ethical code for an ISSP-R practitioners' work-related conduct requires a personal commitment to a lifelong effort to act ethically; to encourage ethical behaviour by students, supervisees, employees, and colleagues, as appropriate; and to consult with others, as needed, concerning ethical problems. Each ISSP-R practitioner supplements, but does not violate, the Ethics Code's values, based on the guidance drawn from personal values, culture, and experience.

Principles

- Beneficence and Concern for Others' Well-being
- Respect for Peoples' Rights and Dignity
- Social Justice and Responsibility
- Competence, Expertise and Proficiency in Professional Work
- Professional and Scientific Responsibility
- Integrity and Propriety

Standards

- Avoiding Harm in Professional Practice
- Multicultural and Diversity Awareness in professional practice
- Exploitation of clients
- Multiple Role Relationships
- Confidentiality in Professional Work
- Impaired Professionals
- Informed Consent in Professional Practice
- Documentation and Record Keeping of Professional Work
- Conflicting Demands/Conflicts of Interest in Service Provision
- The Use of Technology in Professional Practice/Service Provision
- Referrals in Professional Work
- Competence of Professional work
- Supervision in Professional Practice
- Bartering and Financial Arrangements in Service Provision

- Assessment in Professional Work
- Termination of Services

Publications

ISSP develops several publications that are written for ISSP members, sport and exercise psychology researchers and practitioners, students of sport and exercise psychology, and the public. Publications included with ISSP membership include:

- International Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology

Publications for members and non-members

- Statutes
- Code of Ethics
- ISSP Position Stands ^[1]
 - Career development and transitions of athletes Revisited (2020)
 - Social Missions Through Sport and Exercise Psychology
 - Culturally Competent Research and Practice in Sport and Exercise Psychology
 - Career Development and Transitions of Athletes
 - To Sample or to Specialize? Seven Postulates About Youth Sport Activities that Lead to Continued Participation and Elite Performance
 - To Test or Not to Test? The Use of Physical Skill Tests in Talent Detection and in Early Phases of Sport Development
 - Ethical Principles of the International Society of Sport Psychology
 - Physical Activity and Psychological Benefits
 - Aggression and Violence in Sport
 - The Use of the Internet in Sport Psychology
 - The Use of Anabolic-Androgenic Steroids (AAS) in Sport
 - Competencies (Occupational Standards, Knowledge, and Practice), and Their Accomplishment (Learning Specification; Essential Knowledge and Skills) in Sport and Exercise Psychology
 - International Society of Sport Psychology Position Stand: Athletes' Mental Health, Performance, and Development
 - Training and Selection of Sport Psychologists: An International Review

Current ISSP consultant registry (ISSP-R)

Applications are now open for established sport psychology practitioners. ISSP is pleased to announce that applications to the ISSP-Registry (ISSP-R) for established practitioners is now open. Please refer to the ISSP-R section of the website for full details; however below is some of the key information. There are two routes to being accepted onto the ISSP-Registry – the Established Practitioner route and the Emerging Practitioner route. Presently, we are only accepting applications for the Established Practitioner route in this round. The deadline for submission of applications will be Friday July 17th, 2020. We appreciate that many practitioners who also have academic roles will be entering into both a busy and unusual period with student education and assessments, and therefore we want to offer at least 2.5 months to allow sufficient time for an application. The Established Practitioner route to ISSP-R is for those well-established practitioners (i.e., greater than 8 years of consulting experience post-MSc degree qualification) to apply to the Registry in recognition of their longer standing work in the field. This route will be time-limited, but it is important to encourage our more senior colleagues to become part of the

ISSP-Registry and continue to serve as role models for the profession. On the website, applicants will find several documents that will clarify the criteria and process, as well as two sets of example applications. Please read through the criteria to judge whether you feel an application as an Established Practitioner is the right route for you. Later in the year we will be launching the Emerging Practitioner route.

Taiwan world Congress, September 30- October 4, 2021 ^[2]

The International Society of Sport Psychology (ISSP), with more than fifty-five years of experience, organise a World Congress every 4 years in different countries, creating a unique opportunity where professionals and interested in the world of sport psychology share and exchange their knowledge's with the rest of the world. Professional experts from every part of the world will meet to communicate and share knowledge's, creating a forum where they can present and debate science news around sport psychology and its applications. The Congress Theme is: "The Next Decade of Sport and Exercise Psychology: Pursuing Innovation and Inclusiveness"

References

1. <https://www.issponline.org/index.php>
2. <https://issp2021.com/>