

# **International Society of Sport Psychology**

## **Fellow Status**

## **ISSP 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 behavior 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 endeavors 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.

The **ISSP** is the only worldwide organization 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 flavor 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), Beijing, China (2013), and Sevilla, Spain (2017).

## **ISSP Recognitions**

Presently there are three formats of recognition offered by the International Society of Sport Psychology. Each award is discussed in turn, to situate the current proposal.

**The Distinguished International Sport Psychology Award** is the highest award given by the ISSP. This award is given in recognition of outstanding and distinguished, long term, original contributions to the advancement of sport psychology. These award recipients (a) Have made substantial and original contributions to research through peer-reviewed publications, articles in professional journals, books, and conference presentations, over a significant period of time; and (b) Be recognized for their academic and professional leadership in sport psychology at the highest level over a significant period of time.

Upon review of this award, it is bestowed upon one (in one occasion twice) longstanding member each four years at the ISSP Conference. There are also instances when a four-year cycle does not include an award recipient for this award. Presently there are only ten award winners listed at the ISSP website, spanning 1989-2017.

**The ISSP Honor Award** is presented in recognition of significant contributions to national and international sport psychology through leadership, research, and/or other professional service. Award recipients meet the following criteria: (a) Hold a doctorate degree (or its equivalent) for a least 10 years standing; and/or (b) Have published extensively in recognized sport psychology and sport science journals; and/or (c) Have made a significant contribution in the areas of professional practice over at least a 10 year period; and/or (d) Have provided significant service to national and international professional societies over a period of at least 10 years.

This award has been granted with more frequency than the aforementioned Distinguished International Sport Psychology Award. From 1989-2017, 15 members were granted this recognition. Of these people, five members were granted this award during the inaugural launch, with ten additional members spanning 1993-2017. There are also instances when a four-year cycle does not include an award recipient for this award.

**The ISSP Developing Scholar Award** is presented to developing sport psychologists in acknowledgement of their contributions to excellence in research and scholarly activity. This award specifically focuses on emerging scholars with no more than seven years post-graduation with a doctorate. This recognition is bestowed upon applicants who've achieved significant contributions to the global field of sport and exercise psychology within this formative time period of a career.

This award has been granted to ten ISSP members spanning 1993-2017. During each quadrennial conference since 1993, one or two members have received this distinction.

### **A Void in the Organization**

Presently, the International Society of Sport Psychology does not offer a formal ISSP Fellows Status to its most significant contributing members. More generally, without ongoing benefits such as status to remain a member of ISSP, there will always be an ebb and flow membership, resulting in a society that is mostly inactive for two of every four years. Furthermore, it is the mission of ISSP to advance sport and exercise psychology globally. ISSP can only undertake this action by retaining its most established and profound members to draw upon. Through this format of retention, the established scholars serve to attract and retain younger scholars, with all of the aforementioned being affiliated with ISSP as they undertake any international outreach. Finally, members must feel that the societies they align with have ongoing membership benefits. Otherwise, societies are unable to compete for ongoing engagement from prospective and current members.

A few established societies in allied fields and in sport and exercise psychology offer a fellows status. For example, AASP began recognizing AASP Fellows since 1985. In 2017,

four members gained this status, included among these is one member of the ISSP. In total, AASP has 81 members with this status of over 2000 members (see <http://www.appliedsportpsych.org/about/aasp-fellows/>). All of these people are active AASP members. We have drawn upon the AASP Fellows status to help situate the current proposal and structure.

A noteworthy society that also offers Fellows status is the American Psychological Association (see <http://www.apa.org/membership/fellows/index.aspx>). APA is perhaps the most well-known psychological society worldwide. We have drawn upon their submission requirements in order to propose those found below.

Within the field of sport and exercise psychology, only AASP offers this status – not FEPSAC and not NASPSPA. Offering this designation within the only global sport psychology society would permit ISSP to hold the most prestigious Fellows designation – one heavily sought after within the international field.

### **Rationale**

The term Fellow is an awarded status bestowed on a member within a society, granted based on long-standing and continuous significant involvement in the society. The Distinguished International Sport Psychology Award and the ISSP Honour Award overlap to some degree with the proposed ISSP Fellow Status. The overlaps are in regards to a substantive contribution to ISSP or the broader global landscape of sport and exercise psychology.

What differentiates a Fellows award from the other awards already in existence is that the ISSP Fellows status is a longstanding title bestowed upon an active ISSP member, which then becomes part of one's past accomplishments. The Fellows status then becomes a title that can add to one's credentials, so long as the ongoing requirements denoted for the title continue to be met.

### **Benefits**

The term Fellow offers a level of recognition and branding within the society for its longstanding contributors, who've made significant contributions to the society itself and the broader field of sport psychology at a global level. The benefits of this bestowed title are as follows:

1. The ISSP Fellow is instantly recognizable within the society and broader domain as a scholar, practitioner, or both aspects, and as a statesperson of the highest level.
2. The titling of this designation could be listed as part of the ISSP member's professional credentialing, so long as she/he remains an ISSP member.
3. These recognized members are listed on the ISSP website with the year of title bestowment.
4. These members are invited to a Fellows Council meeting during the conference where these members are asked to provide feedback regarding the current challenges of ISSP.

In addition, future directions for the society are explored and discussed with the current ISSP Managing Council.

### **Guidelines and Eligibility**

1. **Deadline:** Applicants should submit their applications for Fellows award status no later than September 30th of each calendar year.
2. The applicant will be required to demonstrate high standards of professional involvement and contribution to ISSP and the global landscape of the domain by committing directly to the goals and long-range activities of ISSP. Evidence of these activities might include (a) efforts to grow the domain in one's region whilst contributing to its connection with ISSP, (b) highly recognized international scholarship and/or practice within the field, (c) significant contributions to the growth of ISSP's reputation within the global landscape, and (d) significant contributions to the inner workings of ISSP evidenced through organizational efforts within ISSP regional conferences and the ISSP global conference, longstanding membership in the Managing Council, and significant contributions to ISSP through historical, theoretical, empirical and/or practical publications. The applicant should also be a member in good standing for at least six years and an active member during the tenure of the fellowship, and be adherent to the ISSP Ethics Code.
3. The applicant should have a doctorate from an internationally recognized institution in a field related to sport and exercise psychology, though exceptional circumstances of a graduate degree (e.g., MA, MSC, MHK, MEd) might be considered in relation to applicants from emerging / developing countries.
4. The applicant must also receive approval by the Awards Committee, led by the current ISSP Past President.

### **Required Application Materials**

We encourage members to nominate their colleagues in ISSP or to nominate themselves for ISSP Fellow status when there is a belief that a candidate meets the qualification for this distinction. What follows are the required materials to submit a complete application.

- **Initial Fellows Application** — To be completed by the nominee via the ISSP Fellows Online Application Platform. Required sections are as follows:
  - a. Contact Information
  - b. Graduate/Postdoctoral education history
  - c. Name and email address of at least three endorsers (current / Past ISSP MC members who have agreed to support the nomination in writing)
  - d. Curriculum vitae, including significant publications in peer-reviewed and professional outlets; and/or evidence of leadership; and/or evidence of significant applied contributions. Must be in Microsoft Word or PDF format with a maximum file size of 4MB.
  - e. Nominee's Self Statement: This sets forth accomplishments on why the ISSP member feels they warrant nomination to fellow status. The self-statement must be in Microsoft Word or PDF format with a maximum file

size of 4MB.

- **Awards Committee Chair Statement** — To support the nomination for ISSP Fellow Status, the Awards Committee Chair provides rationale for each nomination in written format. Within the statement, the Awards Committee will summarize how the applicant has met the ISSP Criteria for Fellow Status, summarize national/international impact, and provide evidence of a thorough consideration of the nominee's application, endorsements and other supporting materials.
- **Optional but Highly Recommended Materials** - Any other supportive documentation: This can be any information that you believe will help your nomination. Each file must be in Microsoft Word or PDF format with a maximum file size of 4MB.

### **Awarding of Fellows Status**

1. The applicants will be notified of their application outcome by December 31st yearly, three months after the application deadline. First notice will be in the form of a letter provided by the Past President on behalf of the Awards Committee by electronic mail.
2. Original signed letters from the Chair of the Awards Committee will be sent thereafter by regular mail to the correspondence address provided by the applicant.
3. All Inducted Fellows will be presented with a certificate of recognition at the following ISSP Congress General Assembly, presented by the current Past President during the formal rewards ceremony.
4. Upon induction, each new Fellow will be invited to serve on the Fellows Committee so long as membership remains current.
5. All ISSP Fellows will be recognized at the ISSP website.