

Nomination for President International Society of Sport Psychology 2025-2029



Professor Kristoffer Henriksen, PhD
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Nominated by Chris Harwood
Seconded by Natalia Stambulova

Biography

I am a professor of sport psychology and head of the research lab "Psychology of Sport, Excellence and Health" at the University of Southern Denmark.

As a scientist-practitioner, I am driven by the ambition to to harvest the potential of psychology in human performance, and ultimately to promote positive experiences, performance and mental health in talent and elite sport.

My research in sport psychology takes a holistic approach. I am particularly interested in uncovering the nature of sport environments that foster sustainable talent development, high performance and mental health.

As a sport psychology practitioner, I focus on developing mentally strong athletes and coaches, and high-performance cultures in national teams. I have enjoyed the privilege of supporting athletes on-site at numerous championships and three Olympic Games.

I believe research should serve society and involve key stakeholders. Across all my work, I aim to promote a greater focus on athlete wellbeing and environmental factors in talent development and performance.

I have had a longstanding and active involvement with the ISSP. In 2013, I was honored to receive the ISSP Developing Scholar Award. Four years later, in 2017, I joined the Managing Council. Over two consecutive terms, I have attended all meetings and contributed actively to a wide range of society initiatives. For example, I have led the Think Tank initiative and played a key role in drafting the society's consensus statements. Additionally, I have been involved in the development of the ISSP Registry.

<https://portal.findresearcher.sdu.dk/en/persons/khenriksen/publications/>

Vision

The International Society of Sport Psychology: A respected voice and a community for members to share and be inspired.

Under the current leadership, the ISSP has developed tremendously. With the Think Tank initiative, the position stands and the growth of our journal, the ISSP has become a visible voice. With the ISSP registry and the Master Classes, it has expanded its relevance for the membership.

I will work to sustain and expand this positive development of the society through three main agendas:

- A recognized voice. The ISSP has the potential to be even more active in shaping international agendas. By engaging with organizations such as the IOC, FIFA and WHO, and by popular dissemination initiatives, the ISSP can promote a psychology-informed approach in the world of sports and physical activity.
- A society for the members. The ISSP should engage even more with our membership. Our excellent offers should be supplemented by facilitating member-driven initiatives, and discussions.
- Beyond sport. The ISSP is the perfect platform to engage with other performance domains in common exploration of sustainable human performance. All performers experience pressure and may struggle to combine high performance and mental health. I see a potential to expand the sport psychologist's scope of practice.

In Denmark, I have extensive experience engaging with sport organizations to promote a psychology-informed agenda. I also have deep knowledge of the ISSP society. Together, this makes me confident to lead the ISSP towards promoting a positive, sustainable and healthy future for sport.

Short statement for online promotion

I see sport psychology as a global force for excellence and wellbeing at all levels of sports engagement. As ISSP president, I will strive global impact, deepen member engagement, and connect with other high-performance fields. As a professor, researcher, and Olympic-level practitioner deeply rooted in ISSP, I aim to shape a society that inspires, connects, and leads the field forward.

I apply for the position of President