

# Application for the ISSP Managing Council

## **Dr. Michael Schmid**

Applicant: Member-at-Large



University of Bern  
Bremgartenstrasse 145  
+41 (0)76 429 96 89  
[michael.j.schmid@unibe.ch](mailto:michael.j.schmid@unibe.ch)

## **Biography**

Michael Schmid was born and raised in Switzerland. He studied Sport Science and Psychology (BSc) as well as Psychology (MSc) at the University of Bern, where he also completed his PhD in the Department of Sport Psychology and Research Methods (supervisor and first reviewer: Prof. Dr. Achim Conzelmann; second reviewer: Prof. Dr. Ansgar Thiel). His dissertation, titled "Person-Oriented Analyses of Careers During and After Elite Sport," examined various phases of athletic careers from a developmental perspective and was situated at the intersection of sport psychology and sport sociology. For example, he investigated the motivational profiles of young talented athletes as well as the influence of engagement in elite sport on life after sport.

Currently, he works as a postdoctoral researcher with Prof. Dr. Noora Ronkainen at the University of Bern. His research expands on career development during and after elite sport, with particular attention to identity and interest development as well as the role of meaning in the lives of elite athletes. Alongside his academic work, he has completed additional training in applied sport psychology and is an active member of the Swiss Association of Sport Psychology (SASP).

Until 2019, he was a member of the Swiss national rowing team for more than ten years, competing at the Olympic Games and winning several medals at World and European Championships.

## **Position statement outlining my vision**

As a former elite athlete, I have experienced firsthand how essential sport psychology is for sustained well-being and success. Psychological support can transform athletes, not only by enhancing performance but also by helping them manage the pressures and challenges inherent in competitive sport. However, some federations still do not recognise its full value. Closing this gap is one of my core motivations.

I believe the ISSP plays an important role in promoting our discipline, advancing standards, and advocating for its relevance worldwide (e.g., through congresses or position statements).

In addition, I see an important opportunity for the ISSP to strengthen its recognition among international sport federations. Serving on the Managing Council would allow me to contribute to these aims. I offer a combination of high-performance sporting experience and an interdisciplinary academic perspective, enabling me to bring practical insights and scientific expertise to the Society's mission.

If elected, I would focus on two priorities: supporting the Council's leadership, particularly the President and Vice Presidents, in developing and implementing strategic initiatives, and strengthening connections, both between sport psychology and across sport science, and between our profession and governing bodies. *My main goal would be to leverage Switzerland's unique role as host to numerous international federations (e.g., IOC), helping the ISSP build and maintain partnerships that increase the influence of sport psychology, particularly within elite sport.*

I am committed to strengthening the credibility and impact of sport psychology, and I would be honoured to work with colleagues worldwide to advance these shared goals.

### **Short statement for online promotion**

I am a sport psychologist and former elite athlete dedicated to advancing sport psychology's recognition and impact. I aim to bring my combination of high-performance experience and interdisciplinary expertise to the ISSP Managing Council, strengthening global connections and ties with sport science and international federations, and ensuring psychological support becomes an even more recognised element in the elite sport system.

### **Position I am applying for**

- Member-at-Large of the ISSP Managing Council

### **Link to university or professional website**

- University of Bern, Institute of Sport Science: [www.ispw.unibe.ch](http://www.ispw.unibe.ch)
- ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Michael-Schmid-21>

### **Official supporters (ISSP members)**

- Prof. Dr. Kristoffer Henriksen, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
- Prof. Dr. Jean Côté, Queen's University, Canada