

General

We would like to roll out a new initiative which we feel will improve workflow and remove one of the biggest barriers for section editors (that of securing reviewers). For lack of a better term, we are calling these “Reviewer Pods.” A reviewer pod will consist of one section editor (you), two other professionals, and three students (one student who is associated with one professional each).

To create your reviewer pod, we ask that you reach out to two professionals you know in your area of expertise. If they agree, we also ask that you invite them to recruit a student who they will work with over the next year (we are asking for a one-year commitment, with the ability to remain longer if they would like). Please pay attention to representation when you are considering invitations (this is important for the future of the journal as well as providing opportunities early for people). It is understood representation can take many forms (gender, ethnicity, international colleagues, etc.), so please interpret as makes sense to you.

The idea is that when a manuscript is assigned to you, you will already have professionals and students who will agree to provide evaluations (and the student will have a mentor through the process). Our aim is to assign a single manuscript to you at any one time (and the hope is that you will manage no more than 6 papers throughout the year [hopefully less]). Rotating through the professionals (including yourself) and students, each person in the reviewer pod would conduct an evaluation of around two manuscripts during the year (ideally: professional and student from different institutions). We hope this represents a manageable workload for the professionals you invite.

A benefit for the professional is that their name and affiliation will be added to the IJES website as a “Reviewer Mentor” and their student as a “Student Reviewer”, each of which may be added to their respective CVs and annual reports. A second benefit is that people in the reviewer pod, because they are members of the editorial board, are eligible for a 50% discount on any manuscript published in IJES. If the professional desires to become further involved with the journal, there is a pathway for them to eventually become a section editor. Similarly, there is an option for the students in the reviewer pod to remain engaged (or not, after the year has been completed).

Email Invitation to Join a POD

Subject: Invitation to join an IJES Reviewer Pod

Dear [Name],

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to invite you and one of your students to join a new initiative with the International Journal of Exercise Science (IJES) called a "Reviewer Pod."

The goal of this initiative is to improve our peer-review workflow by creating dedicated pods. Each pod consists of myself (as Section Editor), two professionals, and two students (one associated with each professional). We are asking for a one-year commitment, with the option to remain longer.

How it works & Workload:

- When a manuscript is assigned to me, I will draw from our pod for evaluations.
- I expect to manage no more than 6 papers throughout the year.
- By rotating through the pod, each person will only need to evaluate around two manuscripts per year. Ideally, the professional and student reviewers for a paper will be from different institutions.
- As a professional, you will also serve as a mentor to your students throughout their review process.

Benefits of joining:

- **Recognition:** Your name and affiliation will be added to the IJES website as a "Reviewer Mentor," and your students will be added as a "Student Reviewer." Both can be included on CVs and annual reports.
- **Publication Discount:** As members of the editorial board, pod members receive a 50% discount on any manuscript published in IJES.
- **Future Growth:** There is a pathway for professionals to eventually become Section Editors, and options for students to remain engaged after their year is complete.

In building this pod, prioritizing diverse representation (including gender, ethnicity, and international colleagues) is highly important to the future of the journal and for providing early opportunities.

If you are interested, please let me know, and we can identify a student to recruit alongside you.

Best regards,

[Your Name]

Section Editor, International Journal of Exercise Science