**Journal of Sports Sciences –**

**Expression of Interest for “Special Issue” proposals**

**Journal of Sports Sciences (JSS)** publishes research on various aspects of the sports and exercise sciences, including anatomy, biochemistry, biomechanics, performance analysis, physiology, psychology, sports medicine and health, as well as coaching and talent identification, kinanthropometry and other interdisciplinary perspectives.

JSS welcomes **expressions of interest** for Guest Editors to curate Special Issues in relevant topical areas. Special Issues feature dedicated collections of 14-16 papers, serving as platforms for emerging research areas or in-depth investigations of existing topics. Please ensure your Special Issue proposal aligns with the [journal's scope](https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=aimsScope&journalCode=rjsp20) and follows JSS editorial and [author guidelines](https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?show=instructions&journalCode=rjsp20) before submission.

The **Guest Editor(s)** will oversee one Special Issue, ensuring quality throughout the process. They will also manage a rigorous peer review process to deliver agreed content within a set timeframe. Successful Guest Editor(s) should be willing to collaborate with the JSS Special Issues Executive Editor and the editorial board, including the Editor-in-Chief, Section's Executive Editor, and co-Associate Editors.

JSS aims to publish three to four [Special Issues](https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/rjsp20/special-issues#siProp) per year focusing on topical areas aligned with and having a multidisciplinary focus across the journal’s [five sections](https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=aimsScope&journalCode=rjsp20).

**Instructions:**

Please fill out all sections of the form and send your proposal to the JSS Special Issues Executive Editor, Olivier Girard (olivier.girard@uwa.edu.au), with the subject line “Application for JSS Special Issue”.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your idea before submitting your proposal, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at the same email address.

**Relevant journal section(s):**

*Please select more than one box for a multidisciplinary proposal*

[ ]  Physical Activity, Health and Exercise
[ ]  Physiology and Nutrition
[ ]  Sport and Exercise Psychology

[ ]  Sports Medicine and Biomechanics

[ ]  Sports Performance

Please refer to the Guiding Principles *below* for detailed information about the procedure.

**Procedure to submit a Special Issue proposal**

**1. Name(s) of the Guest Editor(s):**

*Please indicate Guest Editor(s) name(s) and affiliation (s).*

**2. Background of the Guest Editor(s)**

*Please provide a brief outline of the Guest Editor(s)' qualifications for handling the proposed Special Issue, including a short biography highlighting their expertise and academic accomplishments. Note that we assess your ability to complete projects within set timelines, even if you lack prior experience managing a Special Issue (250 words max).*

**3. Type of Special Issue**

*Please select the box corresponding the type of Special Issue for your proposal.*

[ ]  Open-call-Special Issue – Guest editor(s) submit(s) a proposal to the Special Issue Executive Editor

[ ]  Closed-call-Special Issue – The Special Issue Executive Editor approaches Guest Editor(s) with a request to submit a proposal

OR

[ ]  Output from a themed conference or seminar

*Please indicate conference name, date, location (and other relevant information)*

**4. Special Issue tentative title and 4-6 relevant keywords**

*The themed issue title should be short, informative, and engaging for both experts and the general audience (max. 150 characters).*

Title:

Key words:

**5. Focus of the Special Issue**

*Please provide a concise, jargon-free description (max. 300 words) explaining the motivation behind the proposed Special Issue, the main topic, key areas/themes, and compelling evidence of its significant theoretical contribution to the field.*

**6. Alignment with JSS scope**

*Explain in a concise manner (max. 200 words) how the proposed Special Issue aligns with the aims and scope of JSS and why it will be of interest to the journal's readership. For 'Open-call-Special Issue,' also make a brief case (max. 100 words) for the expected level of interest in topic submissions.*

**7. Likely impact of the Special Issue**

*Explain the benefits of this issue for the sport science community, its potential to impact future research, and any anticipated broader public interest or policy influence in this section (max. 200 words).*

**8. Timeline of the Special Issue**

*Outline the timeline for the initial submission and review process. If you have a specific publication schedule in mind for the issue, please provide details (max. 150 words).*

**9. Plan for advertisement**

*Establish a timeline for promoting the call for papers to ensure a diverse range of high-quality submissions (max. 150 words).*

**10. Conflict of Interest (COI) disclosures**

*Please disclose any conflicts of interest (COIs) held by the proposed authors with the Guest Editor(s) and explain how these conflicts will be managed. This should cover actual, perceived, and potential COIs, with each COI addressed individually.*

**11. Diversity**

*If applicable, please explain the rationale behind your choice of contributors for this issue. If there are any deliberate exclusions, kindly provide the reasons. If the information above does not reflect balanced representation, such as unequal gender distribution among lead authors, limited participation from early career researchers, or minimal representation from regions outside North America, Europe, and Australia, please provide relevant diversity information (max. 150 words)*

**Guiding principles**

*Origin of Special Issues*

Special issues can originate from three main sources:

* Open-call-Special Issue: In this scenario, the Guest Editor(s) identify a relevant theme they believe the journal should address. Suggestions for such article collections should be discussed with the Special Issues Executive Editor. The Guest Editor(s) take on the responsibility of overseeing the peer-review process. It is worth noting that the Editor-in-Chief retains the authority to reject papers and/or request further revisions, if necessary.
* Closed-call-Special Issue: A theme can be suggested either by one (or a group of) external researcher(s) or a member of the editorial team. In another scenario, the Special Issues Executive Editor approaches reputable Guest Editor(s) known to the editorial team with a request to submit a proposal.
* Output from a themed conference or seminar: When a themed conference or seminar generates papers for a potential Special Issue, typically, one (or more) of the event organisers takes on the role of Guest Editor(s). The Guest Editor(s) hold the responsibility of assisting authors in refining their papers and establishing a cohesive theme for the Special Issue.

*Developing and submitting a proposal*

* When ready, please submit a Special Issue Proposal Form (download the template from this *link*) to the Special Issues Executive Editor (olivier.girard@uwa.edu.au).
* The Special Issues Executive Editor, in consultation with the Editor-In-Chief, may suggest possible additions to the collection (i.e., original articles, reviews).

*Evaluation process*

* Upon submission, each Special Issue proposal undergoes review by the Special Issues Executive Editor, and may be shared with editorial board members for additional feedback.
* After the review process, you will receive feedback on the proposal’s status. Please note that all proposals require approval, and not all submissions progress to become Special Issues in the journal.
* We check each proposal for potential overlap with existing proposals and past Special Issues.
* The final approval for all Special Issues and the acceptance of journal papers are at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.

*The role of the Guest Editor(s)*

The Guest Editor(s) are responsible for standard editorial process steps, including:

* (i) Selecting suitable submissions/authors and securing their participation.
* (ii) Submitting the Special Issue Proposal Form to the Special Issues Executive Editor
* (iii) Collaborating with individual authors to ensure that each manuscript adheres to the correct format (refer to the journal's Instructions for Authors).
* (iv) Overseeing the peer-review process (with the Special Issues Executive Editor having a consultative role), including:
	+ a. Identifying and inviting suitable reviewers for each paper.
	+ b. Monitoring the review progress.
	+ c. Providing recommendations to the Special Issues Executive Editor based on reviewer reports and their own assessment of the manuscript.
	+ d. Resolving any discrepancies arising from reviewer comments and/or recommendations. The Special Issues Executive Editor and/or Editor-in-Chief will make the final decision for each manuscript.
* (v) Corresponding with authors to assist them in revising their papers and preparing responses to reviewers' comments.
* (vi) Writing an Editorial to provide an overview to the themed issue and the rationale for the collection. Typically, the editorial is not subject to peer review but will be reviewed by the Special Issues Executive Editor and/or Editor-in-Chief, who may suggest revisions.

*Time scale*

* When Guest Editors propose special issues, they should consider the time required for the reviewing and editing process. Typically, it takes approximately two to three months from submission to the Journal for the first round of peer review. After that, authors are given roughly three months to revise their papers. A second round of peer review usually takes one to two months, followed by additional revisions, which may take an additional month. Guest Editors then make the final decision. Therefore, the process from the submission of articles for a Special Issue to the final acceptance of those papers can take between six to nine months.

*Managing conflict of interest*

* If any member of the guest editorial team plans to submit a paper for the Special Issue, they should indicate this in the proposal (in the 'COI disclosures' section) and provide justification. If the proposal is accepted, the Special Issues Executive Editor (or an associate editor) will manage these submissions