

A FICTITIOUS STUDY ON HOW TO HAVE YOUR ISBS 2007 PAPER ACCEPTED

Joseph Sport and Mary Biomechanics*

Institute for Applied Sports, University of Biomechanics, City, Country

* Mary's Institute of Mechanics, Mary's University, City, Country

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INTRODUCTION: The International Society of Biomechanics in Sports (ISBS) was established to disseminate useful and scientifically sound information on the biomechanics of sports. The ISBS has recently called for papers to be presented orally or as posters at the XXV International Symposium on Biomechanics in Sports (Moore & Info, 1997). This is a sample for short papers (Work in progress).

METHOD: A survey was administered to 95 reviewers of papers for proceedings of scientific conferences. All reviewers had reviewed at least 10 conference papers exceeding 1000 words in length in the last two years. The items were:

1. Problem identification: Have the authors clearly stated the purpose of the investigation?
2. Experimental design: Have the authors used a valid approach to the problem?
3. Analytical methods: Are the methods used in the design valid, reliable and clearly described?

Reviewers involved in this study were permitted to list items not included in the above list. They were also given the opportunity to make comments. Frequencies of each response were determined by simple addition. Responses by each reviewer carried equal weighting.

RESULTS: Frequencies of each response are shown in Table 1. Separate the header of the table by a top and bottom line. Draw a solid line also on the bottom of last item in the list.

Table 1 Frequency of Responses

Item	Frequency
1. Problem identification	53
2. Experimental design	95
3. Analytical methods	65

DISCUSSION: The high response rates for 'experimental design', 'analytical methods', and 'identification of problem' indicated that reviewers were concerned about the manner in which the studies were conducted. It is not possible to interpret specific reasons for these concerns due to the limitations of the survey instrument.

CONCLUSION: This study identified the most common causes of rejection of papers from conference proceedings. Although there were many reasons why papers were rejected, the most common were the use of unscientific methods or poor reporting of methods and a general lack of clarity. Another cause of rejection was failure to establish the relevance of the study. Some guidelines for improving the chances of acceptance were discussed.

REFERENCES:

Moore, C. & Info, E.Z. (1997). A survey of authors of rejected conference papers. *Journal of Useful Information*, 50, 105-11.

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