

Quick Tips for Abstract Submission

Hello, and thank you for considering proposing an abstract for the 2018 Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Symposium. The SWATA Free Communications & Research Committee welcomes the opportunity to provide a platform that allows clinicians, scholars, and students to share the fruits of their labors. As you prepare your abstract, you must first decide if your abstract is appropriate for submission. To do so, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is my research original?
- Is my research complete, or is there a possibility that the information included in this abstract could fundamentally change?
- If I am proposing a case report, does it align with the most recent executive summary released by the National Athletic Trainers' Association (linked below)?

[Clinical Contributions to the Available Sources of Evidence \(CASE\) Reports: Executive Summary](#)

If after careful deliberation you determine that your research or case report is appropriate for submission please take into account the following information as well.

Follow the provided abstract guidelines.

This information is available when the committee releases its call for abstracts. One of the main reasons that abstracts are rejected is improper formatting. Please thoroughly review all guidelines to make sure that your abstract complies prior to submission.

Be mindful of the criteria being used to determine acceptance of abstracts.

After you submit your abstract, the committee will be using a rubric designed to account for the different aspects (see below) that constitute a worthwhile study. Each of these aspects are assessed on a point scale by two blinded reviewers.

Abstract Assessment Rubric Categories	
Significance of Research	Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Does it address an important clinical question? Has the abstract presented sufficient background information to adequately justify the need for this research/case report? Is the objective clearly stated?
Approach	Are the overall research strategy, description of procedures (or case), study design, methodology and analyses described in adequate detail and appropriate for the proposed research question or purpose? Are the analyses aligned with the stated objectives or research questions?
Innovation	Does the research abstract or case report challenge or build on current knowledge in athletic training and sports medicine? Is the approach or are the results of the abstract novel and/or useful to athletic trainers (clinicians, researchers and/or educators)?

Impact on Athletic Training	What is the overall impact on AT research, education and/or clinical practice? What is the clinical significance of the study in relation to AT practice? What is the practical application of the findings?
Global Rating	Takes into consideration the abstract in its entirety.

Be mindful of these other common mistakes that prospective authors have made in the past.

- Incorrect Formatting
 - Warrants automatic rejection.
- Poor Grammar
 - Sentence fragments
 - Run-on sentences
 - Poor use of punctuation
 - Anything else that might disrupt the reviewer’s read of your submission
- Conversational Tone
 - Lack of professional/scientific tone can make it difficult for reviewers to truly appreciate the novelty and impact of your submission.
- Lack of Transitions
 - The lack of smooth transitions or a narrative that “flows” can draw the reviewer out of their reading process. If this happens too often, the reviewer will have a hard time truly appreciating the merits of your submission.
 - As you move through your case, make sure the chronology is not confusing.
- Improper Use of Sections
 - Make sure to utilize the sections that are outlined in the most recent SWATA Free Communications and Research Committee Abstract Guidelines. Utilizing different headings or putting information under improper headings may be grounds for rejection.
- Lack of Uniqueness
 - If some portion of the topic is new or novel it will likely be rejected. That being said, if one can make a case for a unique aspect of the report, a well done abstract may still get accepted.
- Miscellaneous Errors
 - Abstract exceeds word count
 - Lack of final diagnosis
 - Lack of clear definition of the athletic trainer/athletic training student’s role in the case
 - Differential diagnosis is incomplete
 - Case does not focus on the relevance to athletic training clinical practice
 - Case was mismanaged within standard of care