

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP POLICIES

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Policy: Special Interest Group (SIG) of the AOPT

Purpose: To ensure the SIG leadership and members understand and carry out their functions within the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy (AOPT)

Scope: The policy applies to all SIGs of the AOPT

Responsibilities: SIG elected and appointed persons, AOPT Staff

1. Serve the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy (AOPT) as a resource for practice, education, research, and advocacy for AOPT members.
2. Provide educational programming to AOPT membership in conjunction with the Education Committee.
3. Develop and recommend practice standards and terminology.
4. Identify changes in legislation, regulation, and reimbursement issues at state and national levels with the Practice Committee.
5. Identify and provide human resources and materials to accurately share practice, education, research, and advocacy information to address areas of concern related to the SIG domain with the AOPT.
6. Foster research initiatives within the SIG domain in conjunction with the Research Committee to promote best practice.
7. Any AOPT member in good standing is eligible to be a member of any or all of the SIGs at no additional cost.

A. Governing Board of the SIG

1. The SIG Governing Board is made up of the two elected SIG officers, President and Vice

- President/Education Chair, and the AOPT BOD Liaison assigned by the AOPT President.
2. The President and Vice President term is 3-years and cannot serve more than 2 consecutive terms.
 3. The President is elected in the first year; the Vice President/Education Chair in the second year.
 4. No member can be elected to more than 2 full consecutive terms in the same office.
 5. Each member of the SIG Governing Board shall have one 1 vote.

B. SIG Governing Board qualifications

President

- AOPT Member of the SIG in good standing
- Demonstrated leadership and engagement with the SIG
- Ability to effectively represent the SIG, AOPT, and the profession
- Responsible for facilitating and submitting website content and newsletters to *OPTP* as requested by the AOPT office or AOPT BOD's.

Vice-President

- AOPT Member of the SIG in good standing
- Demonstrated leadership and engagement with the SIG
- Ability to effectively represent the SIG, AOPT and the profession
- Ability to develop/identify educational programming that meets the needs of SIG members

C. Duties of the SIG Governing Board

President

1. Must attend every meeting of the SIG Governing Board.
2. Attends AOPT CSM Membership Meeting annually
3. Will ensure a SIG member officer staffs the AOPT booth annually at CSM for a minimum of 2 hours
4. Represents the SIG at the Fall Board of Directors meeting during strategic planning years as well as at other AOPT meetings when requested by the AOPT Board of Directors.
5. Provides a written report on SIG activities one (1) month prior to the July Board of Directors meeting and the CSM Board of Directors Meeting.
6. Provides a report to the AOPT Board prior to their CSM meeting during the third year of their presidency indicating how the SIG has fulfilled the six purposes documented in the SOPs.
7. Submits annual budget requests by June 15 for review at the AOPT Finance Committee meeting.
8. Submits a SIG informational and update article to *OPTP* at least one time per year or as requested by the Editor or Managing Editor.
9. Can only serve as a presenter for one (1) annual CSM educational session during each three-year term unless presented to the Education Chair and approved by the Board in advance.
10. Develops the agenda for and conducts the annual CSM SIG business meeting, whether held in person or virtually.
11. Develops the agenda for and conducts at least two (2) virtual meetings of the SIG Governing Board each year.

Vice President/Education Chair

1. Must attend each meeting of the SIG Governing Board.
2. Ensures submission of a proposal for 2 hours of educational programming each year at CSM.
3. Communicates proposal for submission of programming to the AOPT's Education Chair.
4. Serves as the moderator of the SIG educational session at CSM.
5. Can only serve as a presenter for one (1) annual CSM educational session during each three-year term unless presented to the Education Chair and approved by the Board of Directors.

D. Appointed / Standing Committees

- Education
 - Practice
 - Research
 - Public relations
 - Nominating
1. The formation of SIG Standing Committees is not a requirement. Each SIG will determine the need for Standing Committee(s).
 2. The names of potential Chairs for the SIG Standing Committees will be put forth by the Nominating Committee Chair and the membership at the annual SIG membership meeting or when a vacancy is presented and shall be appointed by the SIG Governing Board.
 3. A sub-committee or task force can be formed at the discretion and approval of the SIG Governing Board.

E. Nominating Committee

1. The SIG members shall elect the members of the Nominating Committee following the elections procedures described in Section F below.
2. The SIG Nominating Committee will consist of a Chair and two other members. The most senior member of the Nominating Committee will serve as the Chair.
3. Nominating Committee Members elected can only serve 2 consecutive 3-year terms.
4. The names of individuals willing to serve on Standing Committees will be put forth by the Nominating Committee Chair.

F. Elections

1. The election of the SIG officers (President and Vice-President) and Nominating Committee Members will be conducted in accordance with Section Bylaws Article XI. Section 3.B.
2. Elections shall be conducted via electronic ballot in November and coordinated by the Nominating Committee and AOPT office.

G. Education Courses

CSM Honorarium

1. SIG officers speaking at CSM for AOPT-sponsored and/or SIG-sponsored programming during the conference will not receive an honorarium.

2. SIG officers speaking at CSM for an AOPT-sponsored and/or SIG-Sponsored pre-conference programming are reimbursed according to the AOPT Policy on Speaker Reimbursement.

CSM Pre-Conference Courses

1. Confirmation of a pre-conference course will be determined based on reaching a breakeven registration number.
2. Profits from Pre-Conference courses co-sponsored by a SIG are shared with AOPT based on a 50/50 split of net profit (income minus expenses).
3. The SIG's 50% profit will be added to their encumbered funds.

Remuneration for educational opportunities that are sponsored/co-sponsored by a SIG

1. Remuneration for SIG co-sponsored ISCs will be determined by work effort and content by the ISC Editor, Managing Editor and SIG Governing Board.
2. If an idea for an ISC topic comes forward that was not initiated by a SIG, but is appropriately related to that SIG, it shall be brought to the SIG's attention for the opportunity to co-sponsor the ISC with the AOPT.

H. Budget and Encumbered Funds

SIG Encumbered Funds

1. Can be created through a variety of efforts.
2. Funds not used in a fiscal year will be rolled over to the following year and will continue to roll over annually until expended by that SIG.
3. These funds are held in the AOPT reserve account at LPL Financial.
4. The balance of all SIG encumbered funds held in the reserve account are restricted.
5. Tracking of individual SIG encumbered funds is handled by the AOPT Bookkeeper.
6. SIGs request use of their funds by supplying justification to the AOPT Executive Director who can approve the expense or decide to request approval from the Board if the request does not align with AOPT's bylaws, policies or strategic framework.
7. The AOPT Board may access the SIG encumbered funds for non-SIG purposes if fiscal necessity arises. When such use is necessary, the AOPT Board of Directors will notify the President of the SIG whose funds are to be used, at least 14 days before the AOPT Board of Directors finalizes such a decision by a vote.
 - a. The AOPT will explain the type and the amount of the proposed expense. The SIG will be allowed to express an opinion regarding the proposed use of the funds as specified. However, the final decision regarding the use of SIG funds will rest with the AOPT Board of Directors. Funds will be returned to the SIG's encumbered fund as soon as financially possible.
8. If a SIG ceases to exist all funds would revert back to the AOPT.

Annual Budget

1. The AOPT BOD allocates funds annually to each SIG which must be utilized during that budget cycle, or the SIG relinquishes their unused funds for that year.

I. SIG Website and Mastheads

1. The SIG President or Vice President will work with the AOPT office to maintain and update the SIG website.
2. SIG Mastheads
 - a. The AOPT “mark”/logo and the associated tagline is a registered trademark and the property of the AOPT, Inc., a component of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). The “mark”/logo can be used only as designated and approved by the AOPT.
 - b. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) must adhere to the AOPT Brand Standards for electronic and printed material.

J. SIG Authority and Limitations

A. SIG shall:

1. Operate under the policies or rules of order that are consistent with AOPT policy or Association bylaws and that shall be approved by the AOPT Board of Directors; and
2. Not levy special assessments that carry punitive action or loss of good standing; and
3. Be established and/or dissolved in accordance with the rules and conditions specified by the AOPT Board of Directors.

B. A SIG is subject to the following limitations:

1. The bylaws, policies, and SOPs of the Association and AOPT;
2. No SIG can profess or imply that it speaks for or represents the AOPT or members other than those currently holding an officer position in the SIG unless authorized by the AOPT Board of Directors; and
3. No SIG can profess, imply, or advertise that it is the sponsor of a continuing education course, symposium, or retreat, unless authorized by the AOPT Board of Directors.

C. Dismissal

1. Grounds for dismissal of an elected or appointed special interest group or committee member include but are not limited to
 - a. non-compliance with Academy standards, policies, positions, guidelines, or Code of Ethics
 - b. failure to perform assigned tasks
 - c. failure to attend 75% or more of the meetings
 - d. lapsed or dropped membership
 - e. disciplinary action by a licensing board
2. If a vacancy in a special interest group or committee arises either through a resignation or dismissal, it will be filled in accordance with the guidelines for appointment of a special interest group or committee member.

D. Any changes or modifications proposed by the AOPT Board of Directors to the SIG Policies shall be distributed for review and comment by the SIG leadership one

month prior to AOPT Board vote.

Revision	Date	Description of changes	Requested By
1	7/08/21	EIG & SIG policies split creating a new SIG policy.	Joe Donnelly, President
2	06/22/22	Added rolling over funds annually, elections will be electronic, added standing committee not a requirement.	Tara Fredrickson, Assistant Executive Director
3	8/30/22	Added dismissal policy under J.	Terri DeFlorian, Executive Director
4	11/16/22	Added President & VP duties to attend every meeting of the SIG Governing Board.	AOPT Board
4	11/16/22	Modified SIG officers CSM Honorarium under G. for SIG-sponsored pre-conference programming	AOPT Board