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New initiative in Sports Engineering: Ten questions papers

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The journal Sports Engineering launches a new publication initiative: Ten Questions papers. Ten Questions papers should deal with a well-defined topic and should be centered around a selection of ten relevant and topical questions. Submissions are based on invitation only by the Editor or Associate Editors of the journal.

1. Brief description of the initiative

Sports Engineering is launching a new initiative for a series of "Ten Questions" papers, to be published in a pre-described format. The concept of the "Ten Questions" papers was launched in 2015 for the journal Building and Environment (Blocken 2015). The concept is now also adopted by Sports Engineering, with approval from the Editors-in-Chief of Building and Environment. "Ten Questions" papers should deal with a well-defined topic and should be centered around a selection of ten relevant and topical questions. Submissions are based on invitation only by the Editor or Associate Editors of the journal. Papers will be recruited in a way that ensures balanced coverage of all topics in the scope of Sports Engineering. The papers should be (co-)authored by established researchers in the field with proven expertise on the topic, typically by an extensive track record of previously published books and/or peer-reviewed journal papers. The questions are selected and answered by the author(s). The questions should be such that the paper is visionary, authoritative and can provide younger researchers directions for future research.

The submission and review procedure is outlined in detail in Section 2 below.

2. Submission and review procedure

"Ten Questions" papers will undergo a two-step review process.

2.1. Step 1

Invited authors will submit the following components of the intended paper to the Associate Editor who handles the Ten Questions paper (by email to b.j.e.blocken@tue.nl):

- title
- abstract (max. 250 words)

• keywords

• tentative list of ten questions

• one-sentence answers to the questions

• description of expertise of the authors on the topic (max. 250 words)

• list of five suggested reviewers (name, title, affiliation, email address, reason for selection)

• intended submission date of full paper

The title of every paper should be similar and should start with the words: “Ten questions concerning …”. Two examples:

• “Ten questions concerning the use of sensors in sports”

• “Ten questions concerning drafting in cycling”

The questions should be as short and as clear as possible. The Associate Editor of the SI will evaluate whether the proposed contribution fits the scope and requirements of the series of “Ten Questions” papers and whether it does not provide unwanted overlap with previously published review or other papers in Sports Engineering or other journals. If evaluated positively, the Associate Editor of the SI will already select at least two expert reviewers, some of which can be taken from the list of five suggested reviewers. The reviewers will remain anonymous. The reviewers are welcome to improve the formulation of the questions or to suggest some other questions for consideration by the author(s). The same reviewers will afterwards evaluate the full paper. This first and preliminary review stage is handled outside the journal’s Editorial Manager system (EM). It should help minimizing the effort by the author(s) in revising the full paper afterwards.

2.2. Step 2

The author(s) will submit the revised set of components using the journal’s online Editorial Manager (EM) system, together with a detailed response to reviewers, addressing every point raised by them. Yhe full paper that should not exceed 4000 words. The structure of every “Ten Questions” paper is given below. The maximum number of figures is 10. The introduction should address the reasons for selecting these specific questions. The answers to the questions should satisfy the requirements of original review or other papers. Appropriate referencing should be used. Authors should take care to include not only their own work but also relevant work by others in the answers to the questions. New research results cannot be introduced in the paper, as this is not the purpose of this type of paper and its limited length does not allow full description of the research that has led to the new results. Where the author(s) provide their personal view on the topic without support by literature references, this should be clearly indicated as such. The biography section should indicate the expertise of the author(s) on the topic of the paper. Apart from the above-mentioned requirements, the “Ten Questions” papers should also adhere to the regular requirements stated in the Sports Engineering “Guide for Authors” on the journal website and in the publication “How to write a manuscript for Sports Engineering” (Allen et al., 2020).

The author(s) submit the full paper by means of the EM by selecting the option “Invited paper” in the submission drop-down list. The paper will be forwarded to the anonymous expert reviewers that were already selected in the preliminary review stage in step 1. This second part of the review process is similar to that for regular original research papers.

[1] Blocken B. 2015. New initiative: Ten Questions paper series in Building and Environment. *Building and Environment* 94(1): 325-326.

[2] Allen T, Blocken B, Drory A, Espinosa HG. 2020. How to write a manuscript for Sports Engineering? *Sports Engineering* 23: 23.

Mandatory structure of “Ten Questions” papers:

Abstract

Introduction

1. “Question 1: …”
Answer to question 1

2. “Question 2: …”
Answer to question 2

3. …

4. …

10. “Question 10: …”
Answer to question 10

Conclusions

Acknowledgements

Biography

References