

**The American College of Sports Medicine – Rocky Mountain Chapter**  
**Undergraduate and Graduate Student Poster / Presentation Guidelines**

At this year's meeting, the winners of the two student "poster" presentation competitions (i.e., undergraduate and graduate) will be decided based on the poster presentation and a three-minute talk of their research project. The top three undergraduate and top three graduate posters will be selected by a panel of three independent judges based on the rubric provided in *Appendix A*. The top two scores will be averaged to provide the final poster score. In the case that one judge's mentee is presenting, the judge can recuse themselves for that particular poster and the remaining two score sheets will be averaged. All judge's sheets will be returned to a student who will enter the scores into an electronic spreadsheet to provide scores. In the case of a tie, the presentation field can be expanded up to five presenters. If more than five presenters represent the top five positions, each institution will be asked to choose only one representative from their University.

The presentations will take place after all posters have been scored. Students will have three minutes to present their research project. All presenters will be limited to a single slide that will be displayed during the presentation. This slide must be static and may not have animations or reveals. **The goal of the presentation is to succinctly present what was done and why it is important. This is not an exercise in trivializing research, but these talks should encourage students to present their research results into a succinct and concise message.**

There will be no question and answer portion after the presentation because the three minute time frame requires truncation of many details (i.e., methodological items, non-imperative results) that would normally be included in a full length presentation. Three separate judges from those that judged the posters will score the presentations (*Appendix B*). Similar to above, the top two (non-mentor provided) scores will be averaged.

Overall winners in both the undergraduate and graduate divisions will be decided based on their total score (poster score out of a possible 40 points, presentation score out of a possible 30). This will emphasize the importance of the poster presentation first. A tie at this level will result in the judges from both the poster and oral presentation sections convening to choose the top poster/presentation. All presentations will be recorded so that exemplary performances can be relayed to national committees.

**Graduate Student Awards\*:** 1<sup>st</sup>: \$1,200 (President's Cup), 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$300, 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$150

**Undergraduate Student Awards\*:** 1<sup>st</sup>: \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$100

**\*Please note that both student and faculty member sponsors must be chapter members in order to be eligible for monetary awards.**

## Instructions for Students

### POSTER PREPARATION

- The RMACSM display boards are 40 inches high X 60 inches wide. For the best display, posters should not exceed the size of the board.
- The Abstract should be placed in the upper left hand corner of the poster, underneath the title and author blocks that should be displayed across the top border of the poster.
- Recommended sections of the poster should include an Introduction, Experimental Design or Methods, Results, and Summary or Conclusion.
- Tables, Figures, Illustrations, and Photographs are also effective and may be included.
- Add an Acknowledgement section for any funding source(s), institutional support, or individuals who have contributed significantly but who are not listed as authors.
- Add an abbreviated Reference section for references that are crucial for inclusion in the poster.
- During your allotted time three judges will be walking by to score your poster presentation.
- The top three undergraduate and top three graduate student poster presentations will be selected for an oral presentation later in the day.
- The abstract submission process will allow for entry into the three-minute talk competition. In order to be considered, you must be present for the presentation portion at the end of the day

### PRESENTATION PREPARATION

- Prepare a separate stand-alone three-minute presentation of your research project.
- One static slide may be displayed behind you during the duration of the presentation.
- Rehearse a dynamic presentation of your specific problem, why the audience should be interested, how you approached the problem, what your findings were, and why these findings are important to help answer your question.
- There will be no question and answer portion following your presentation.
- The top undergraduate and graduate student will be chosen based on combined scores from the poster and oral portion of the presentation.

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