**Guidelines for Free Paper Competitions – OSOS Annual Conferences**

**Eligibility Criteria**: **Membership Mandatory**

* + Only OSOS members are eligible to submit and present free papers
  + **Non-members are strictly not permitted** to present or even register for paper presentation

**Nature of Submission**

1. **Original Work Only**:
   * The free paper **must be an original research work/ prospective clinical study/ case series ( minimum 4 cases)**
   * It **should not be a case report or only literature review**
2. **Previously not presented**
   * It should not have been presented at any earlier OSOS meeting.

**Submission Format**

1. **Abstract Structure**:

Title; Author(s) and Institution; Introduction and Aim; Materials and Methods;

Results; Conclusion; Keywords (3–5)

1. **Word Limit**: Abstract- Maximum **300 words** (excluding title and author details)
2. **Author Information**:
   * Presenting author must be marked with an asterisk (\*)
   * All authors should be members of OSOS ( mandate)

**Presentation Format**

* **Presentation Time**: 4 minutes for presentation + 2 minutes for Q&A
* **Mode**: PowerPoint (PPT) format; Videos can be used if relevant to research

**Judging Criteria**

* Originality and scientific merit
* Study design and methodology
* Quality of analysis and interpretation
* Clarity of presentation
* Relevance to clinical ophthalmology
* Time management and interaction with the judges

**❗️Disqualification Clause**

* Submissions that are **case presentations, videos, or non-original work** will be disqualified.
* Any entry from a **non-member** will not be accepted.
* False declarations regarding originality or authorship may lead to **permanent disqualification** from future OSOS academic competitions.
* No change in presenting author is allowed during Free paper final session

**Submission Deadline**

* Abstracts must be submitted via the provided portal, within the last date

**Tips for Excellence/ non rejection:**

**The R C MEHER award is exclusively for Residents**

* If any ambiguity found anytime: This would amount to plagiarism and the presenter and all the co-authors will be debarred for submitting to OSOS for next 3 years
* Institution / hospital affiliation and doctor’s name in the title or abstract should not be mentioned and will lead to automatic rejection
* Authorship:

**1.** A free paper can have one presenting author and up to 3 co-authors. (4 authors in total)  
2. One of the above 4 authors can be the presenting author of the free paper   
**3.** All 4 authors should be a member of OSOS

**Awards** 1. The best paper of each session will be recognised by the OSOS Scientific Committee and a “Best Paper of Sessions (BPOS)” certificate with earlier mentioned award for each session shall be issued

2. The name of the presenting author of the best paper shall be sent to the scientific committee for inclusion in the OSOS website

**Certificates**

1. The Scientific Committee shall issue a certificate of presentation to all the authors of the free paper which was read at the conference

2. This certificate will be in the form of a digitally signed PDF file which can be downloaded by logging in OSOS website

3. Certificates will be available on the website after 15 days from the date of the conference

**Declaration to be provided:**

1. Whether the research has been carried out in Odisha

2. Has this submission been presented in any other conference earlier

3. Would this submission be presented in any other conferences prior to the upcoming annual conference of OSOS