JSM Editorial Transition and Update

David Shilbury

As we transition from Marvin Washington as JSM editor, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the progress of JSM and advise readers on key editorial changes. It is also appropriate to acknowledge and thank Marvin for his efforts as editor, which as you would expect, involves a considerable amount of time and effort to ensure the smooth functioning of the journal. Marvin has overseen the continued progress of JSM as review turnaround times continue to decline, and he has directed a number of initiatives described below.

During the last 3 years, we have made changes aimed to improve JSM’s impact factor. Hopefully, the changes will lead to increasing impact factors in the coming years as these changes begin to take effect. We have altered the timing of special issues and now publish them in March of each year, with the first of these special issues (sponsorship) published in March 2015. This will be followed by a special issue on sport consumer behavior in March 2016 and in March 2017 a special issue focused on blurring sector boundaries and new organizational forms. The call for 2017 special issue has recently been issued via various electronic outlets.

The most important consideration in the quest for improved impact factor is the need to move to a full electronic footprint with accepted manuscripts copy-edited, formatted, and uploaded as advance online publications with a digital object identifier, or DOI. Human Kinetics is working hard to implement full DOI by early 2016. Once implemented, accepted manuscripts with DOI will be easy to access, track, and thus be cited more swiftly in the growing world of electronic publication. The JSM editorial team looks forward to the implementation of these proposed changes.

With Marvin concluding his term in June 2015, the JSM editorial team has changed. Janet Fink was appointed to the role of senior associate editor, and in this role she will support that of the editor (David Shilbury). I am pleased to advise that George Cunningham, Jeff James, and Brad Humphreys continue as associate editors, and they are joined by Marlene Dixon, who was appointed to the vacancy created by Janet moving up to senior associate editor. We also welcome Melanie Sartore-Baldwin as editor of “Off the Press” (book review section) and Pamm Phillips as editor of the “Sport Management Digest.” In welcoming Melanie and Pamm, I would also like to thank Tim DeSchriver (book reviews) and Jeremy Jordan (the digest) for their years of service as section editors.

These are important roles within the editorial board, providing an important service to NASSM members and JSM readers. We have also introduced a new role on the editorial board to oversee a recently established JSM Twitter account. Through the efforts of Janet Fink, and with agreement from Andrea Geurin-Eagleman to oversee the Twittersphere in relation to JSM, we are continuing to move JSM into the electronic world. A thank-you to Andrea for agreeing to set up and oversee JSM Twitter account, and for those of you using Twitter, the account name is @JSMjournal. I look forward to monitoring JSM Twitter activity.

Another important change during the transition of editors relates to the reframing of JSM’s mission statement. The new mission statement is not radically different from the previous version, but it has been recrafted to place a greater emphasis on considering manuscripts that inform theoretical advances in management and marketing in an organizational context. I encourage colleagues to review the new mission to ensure that potential submissions align with the scope of JSM. I also encourage authors to read the “Submission Guidelines” as published on the Human Kinetics JSM web page; these guidelines inform the preparation and submission of manuscripts.

JSM Mission

The Journal of Sport Management aims to publish innovative empirical, theoretical and review articles focused on the governance, management and marketing of sport organizations. Submissions are encouraged from a range of areas that inform theoretical advances for the management, marketing and consumption of sport in all its forms, and sport organizations generally. Review articles and studies using quantitative and/or qualitative approaches are welcomed.

The Journal of Sport Management publishes research and scholarly review articles; short reports on replications, test development, and data reanalysis; editorials that focus on significant issues pertaining to sport management; articles aimed at strengthening the link between sport management theory and sport management practice; journal abstracts (Sport Management Digest) and book reviews (Off the Press).
In the September 2012 issue of *JSM*, Marvin Washington and Richard Wolfe outlined how structural changes to the *JSM* editorial team had led to a decrease in time in handling manuscripts. At that point, average review time had dropped from 43 days prior to the changes made in 2009-10, to 34 days in 2011-12. I am pleased to report that this trend has continued, with the average time in review reduced to 30.2 days for original manuscripts submitted in the last 12 months, 31.9 days for revised and resubmitted manuscripts, and 26.5 days for major or minor revisions. On average, it now takes 45 days from original submission to first decision. Increasing the size of the editorial team has clearly had a positive impact on overall time in review, and timely decisions. The changes instituted in 2009-10 were necessary as *JSM* now attracts approximately 350 to 400 manuscripts per year. *JSM*’s acceptance rate is 19.2%, which remains fairly consistent year to year.

I trust that this update serves to outline some of the key initiatives being undertaken to maintain *JSM*’s standing as our premier journal. This is achieved through the help of the editorial team and a smooth functioning editorial board who are charged with providing good quality reviews and feedback with reasonable turnaround times. This activity is complemented by the hard work of Human Kinetics as publishers of *JSM* plus the submission of scholarly work that reflects intellectual developments advancing the field of sport management.

References