

CALL FOR PAPERS

Managing Leisure: An International Journal

Special issue on 'The Management of Excellence in Sport'

Guest editor: Professor Simon Shibli, Sheffield Hallam University, UK

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games creates an ideal opportunity for a special edition of *Managing Leisure* focusing on the management of excellence in sport. Papers are welcomed around the broad themes of excellence in policy and performance relating to Olympic and Paralympic sport as well as professional team sports. The pursuit of sporting excellence has previously been described as 'the global sporting arms race' reflecting the increasing number of nations taking a strategic approach to elite sport development. As more and more nations pursue a limited supply of sporting success, the 'price' of success seems to be rising, thereby fuelling the global sporting arms race. This point echoes the high financial price of success in major professional team sports. There is an irony that as nations seek to differentiate themselves from their rivals, there seems to be a consensus emerging on the methods used to achieve elite sport success. To achieve its success in Beijing 2008, China is estimated to have invested around US\$80m per medal. In its bid to retain fourth place in the London 2012 medals' table, the UK is investing £264m in order to achieve an aspirational target of some 60 medals. Is it the case that 'more money in equals more medals out'? As the resources available for government support for elite sport are limited, nations wrestle with the notion of diversity (funding a wide variety of sports) and prioritisation (focusing resources on a narrow portfolio of sports with relatively high probabilities of achieving success). Which nations succeed in which sports, and why? Are similar reasons for success evident in professional sports? These questions, and many others like them, provide the inspiration and rationale for this special issue. The aim of this special issue is to collate and share research relevant to all aspects of the management of excellence in sport. Contributions are welcome from national level, sport-specific and club-level perspectives.

Subject coverage

Suitable topics include each of the following but this is not a complete list of relevant topics. It is advisable to contact the guest editor if you have any doubts about the suitability of a proposed submission for this special issue.

- Elite sport policy and management at national level.
- Elite sport policy and management at sport-specific or club level.
- The measurement of performance in elite sport.
- Forecasting performance in elite sport.
- The determinants of success in elite sport systems.
- The economics of elite sport success.
- Home advantage and neighbouring advantage effects in major sport events.
- Priority or diversity in the use of funding for elite sport.
- Innovation in policy and management related to elite sport.
- Managing for success in professional sports.

Submissions should be relevant to the applied management and evaluation of elite sport performance or policy. To this end, empirical evidence is encouraged rather than purely conceptual or theoretical papers. Contributors are expected to follow the normal instructions. See guidelines [here](#).

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Timetable

Submissions to the guest editor, by email, no later than **August 31st 2011**

Refereeing of submissions completed by **30th November 2011**

Final amendments completed by **16th January 2012**

Publication in **Issue 16 (2/3) May 2012**

Submissions

Please send one copy as an MS Word file attachment to an email, to **Simon Shibli** at:
s.shibli@shu.ac.uk

With a copy also to the general editor of *Managing Leisure*, **Peter Taylor**, at:
peter.taylor@shu.ac.uk

If it is not possible to email your submission, please send three paper copies and a copy on CD to:

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Please include in your submission the titles of the journal and special issue.