



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

# FACTSHEET

## WOMEN IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

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### MISSION

The IOC has made women's participation in sporting activities and the Olympic Games – and by implication in administrative and sports authorities – one of its major concerns.

The possibility of practising a sport is a right that we acquire at birth. The practice of sport teaches respect for rules, tolerance and solidarity; helps to develop the body and the spirit; and gives joy, pride and well-being. The IOC also considers sport to be an important means of communication and emancipation, which can contribute to developing physical wellbeing. Through sport, women and young girls can become aware of their role in society.

The IOC's role is: "to encourage and support the promotion of women in sport at all levels and in all structures, with a view to implementing the principle of equality of men and women" (Rule 2, paragraph 7) Olympic Charter, in force as from February 2010.

### WOMEN IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Four years after the first Olympic Games of the modern era in Athens, women took part in their first Olympic Games, in Paris in 1900. Despite the reticence of the reviver of the Games, Pierre de Coubertin, 22 women out of a total of 997 athletes competed in five sports: tennis, sailing, croquet, equestrian and golf. But only golf and tennis had events for women only. With the 1970s, and the growing awareness of the role of women in the world, female participation in sports competitions and in the Olympic Games became higher.

The IOC has ensured, particularly in the last 20 years, an increased number of women's events on the Olympic Programme, in cooperation with the IFs and the Organising Committees. Thus, since 1991, all new sports wishing to be included on the Olympic Programme must feature women's events. In Beijing at the 2008

Olympic Games, women took part in 137 events out of 302, (that is 45.4% of all events).

### INTRODUCTION OF WOMEN SPORTS / DISCIPLINES

Year	Sports
1900	Tennis, Golf
1904	Archery
1908	Tennis, Figure skating
1912	Swimming
1924	Fencing
1928	Athletics, Gymnastics
1936	Alpine Skiing
1948	Canoeing
1952	Equestrian sports
1960	Speed skating
1964	Volleyball, Luge
1976	Rowing, Basketball, Handball
1980	Field Hockey
1984	Shooting, Cycling
1988	Tennis, Table Tennis, Sailing
1992	Badminton, Judo, Biathlon
1996	Football, Softball
1998	Curling, Ice Hockey
2000	Weightlifting, Pentathlon, Taekwondo, Triathlon
2002	Bobsleigh
2004	Wrestling
2008	BMX
2012	Boxing

### WOMEN IN SPORTS ADMINISTRATION

While the participation of women in physical activities and the Olympic Games has steadily increased, the percentage of women in governing and administrative bodies of the Olympic Movement is low.



## OBJECTIVES

To remedy this situation, the IOC has set the following objectives:

The NOCs, IFs, National Federations, and sporting bodies belonging to the Olympic Movement must set the objective of reserving at least 20% of decision-making positions for women (particularly in all executive and legislative bodies) within their structures by the end of 2005. So far, almost 30% of the NOCs and IFs have achieved this.

A first objective (having at least 10% of women in decision-making positions by December 2000) was met by more than 61% of NOCs and 52% of IFs.

The IOC is nevertheless fully aware that such an objective can be attained only in successive stages. A number of NOCs and IFs have already shown their willingness to work on achieving parity between men and women.

## WOMEN IN THE IOC

In 1981, the first woman was co-opted as an IOC member. In 2011, 19 women are active IOC members out of 110 (i.e. more than 17%). Four women are honorary members.

In 1990, for the first time in the history of the IOC, a woman was elected on to the Executive Board (Flor Isava Fonseca), and in 1997, another woman, Anita DeFrantz, became an IOC Vice-President. Gunilla Lindberg was elected subsequently to the same position for the period 2004-2008.

Furthermore, Olympic champion Nawal El Moutawakel from Morocco was elected as a member of the IOC Executive Board. She was also the first woman ever to chair an IOC Evaluation Commission. She has now taken on the same role for the 2016 Olympic Games.

Today, the IOC commissions and working groups include more women than ever before.

## WOMEN IN NOCs and IFs

The Loughborough research "Gender Equality and Leadership in Olympic Bodies" published in June 2010 concluded that the Olympic

Movement is yet to attain the 20% target for women in decision-making positions.

Based on responses received from 110 of the 205 NOCs (a 53.7% response rate), and from 70.4 % IFs (Winter Olympic 85.7%, Summer Olympic 82.1%, Recognised IFs 61.1%):

	NOCS	IFS
Women in Executive Boards	17.6%	18.0%
Women Presidents	4%	3.2%
Women Secretaries General	9%	3.9%

## THE IOC WOMEN AND SPORT COMMISSION

In December 1995, the Women and Sport Working Group was created, a consultative body composed of representatives of the three constituent bodies of the Olympic Movement (the IOC, IFs, and NOCs), plus an athlete representative and independent members. Chaired by Anita L. DeFrantz, the Working Group, which became a full Commission in 2004, advises the IOC President and the Executive Board on which policies to adopt in order to increase female participation in sport at all levels.

## INFORMATION SEMINARS

Through its Commission, the IOC has put in place a programme of regional and continental seminars for female administrators, coaches, officials, athletes or sports journalists involved in the national or international sports movement.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR WOMEN

The IOC has been able to address the need to further develop educational and training programmes targeting Women in Sport. With this, the IOC aims to enable women to take leadership positions in the administrative structures of NOCs and National Sports Federations.



## OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY PROGRAMMES

Olympic Solidarity offers a series of assistance programmes for athletes, young hopefuls, coaches and sports managers, and these benefit a growing number of women. Furthermore, a special "Women and Sport" programme was created to help more particularly the NOCs of developing countries to put in place other types of projects in the field of women and sport, such as research, national seminars or participation in meetings. This programme also serves to finance the NOCs' participation in the IOC's regional seminars.

## WORLD CONFERENCE

Every four years, the IOC organises a world conference on women and sport, where the primary objective is to analyse the progress made in this field within the Olympic Movement and to define a prioritised line of action to improve and increase the participation of women in sport.

After Lausanne, in 1996, and Paris, in 2000, Marrakech in 2004, the 4th edition took place in Jordan in March 2008. The more than 600 participants from 116 different countries agreed unanimously a strong action plan and committed themselves to a future strategy which focuses on actions in five specific areas:

- Seize upcoming opportunities to promote gender equality
- Governance
- Empowerment through Education and Development
- Women, Sport and the Media
- Women, Sport and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

[Text of the full action plan](#)

The next Conference will take place in Los Angeles, USA, from 16 to 18 February 2012.

## "WOMEN AND SPORT" TROPHY

Every year the IOC "Women and Sport" trophy is awarded to a person or an institution/organisation for their remarkable contribution to the development, encouragement and reinforcement of women's participation in sport and physical activity or in the administrative structures of sport.

In 2004, the world trophy was awarded to the FIFA Women's World Cup.

In 2005, the world trophy went to Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, the President of the Organising Committee for the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens. The continental trophies for 2005 were awarded to Marguerite Rouamba Karama (Burkina Faso/Africa), Orna Ostfeld (Israel/Europe), Donna Lopiano (USA/America), Annabel Pennefather (Singapore/Asia) and Lynne Bates (Australia/Oceania).

The 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006 - International Women's Day -, the IOC awarded its world Women and Sport Trophy to Argentinean tennis player Gabriela Sabatini. The continental trophies for 2006 were awarded to Albertine Barbosa Andrade (Senegal/Africa), Charmaine Crooks (Canada/America), Elisa Lee (Korea/Asia), Dominique Petit (France/Europe) and Lorraine Mar (Fiji/Oceania). The winners were chosen by the IOC Women and Sport Commission from among the dozens of candidatures submitted by the NOCs and Olympic IFs.

The IOC awarded its World Women and Sport Trophy for 2007 to the first female Jamaican Prime Minister, Portia Simpson Miller. As well as the World Trophy, five continental trophies were presented, to Fridah Bilha Shiroya (Kenya / Africa), Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA / Americas), Naila Shatar-Kharroub (Palestine / Asia), Ilse Bechthold (Germany / Europe) and Veitu Apana Diro (Papua New Guinea / Oceania).

During the Opening Ceremony of the IV IOC World Conference on Women and Sport in Jordan, IOC President Jacques Rogge announced that the World "Women and Sport" Trophy has been awarded to the first female and youngest Minister of Youth and Sports in Malaysia, Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said.

As well as the World Trophy, five continental trophies were presented to women who have made outstanding contributions to strengthening the participation of women and girls in sport around the world. The 2008 winners - a mix of political personalities and former top athletes - were selected by the IOC Women and Sport Commission from 70 candidatures submitted by the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and International Federations (IFs). Trophies were presented to Ana Paula Dos Santos (Angola /



Africa), Abby Hoffman (Canada / America), Lingwei Li (China / Asia), Stefka Kostadinova (Bulgaria / Europe), Debbie Watson (Australia /Oceania).

The IOC awarded its Women and Sport Trophy for 2009. The five continental trophies were presented to women who have made tremendous contributions to strengthening the participation of women and girls in sport on an international level. Trophies were presented to Lydia Nsekera (Burundi / Africa), María Caridad Colón Ruenes (Cuba / Americas), Narvin Dashjamts (Mongolia / Asia), Danira Nakic Bilic (Croatia / Europe) and Auvita Rapilla (Papua New Guinea / Oceania).

On the occasion of Olympic Day in 2010 (23rd of June), the IOC and the Olympic family celebrated the 2010 Women and Sport Awards. Five continental trophies and one world trophy

were given to exceptional personalities who all have made a significant difference to boosting the development, participation and involvement of women and girls in sport around the world.

The IOC World Trophy was awarded to Erica Terpstra (Netherlands). The continental trophies were awarded to Germaine Manguet (Guinea / Africa), Leslie McDonald (Canada / Americas), Yuko Arimori (Japan / Asia), Grete Waitz (Norway / Europe) and Susan Simcock (New Zealand / Oceania).

The winners were chosen by the IOC Women and Sport Commission from among the dozens of candidatures submitted by the NOCs and Olympic IFs.

**Table A: Women's participation in the Olympic Winter Games**

Year	Sports	Events*	Participants	%	Year	Sports	Events*	Participants	%
1924	1	2	11	4.3	1972	3	14	205	20,5
1928	1	2	26	5,6	1976	3	15	231	20,6
1932	1	2	21	8,3	1980	3	15	232	21,7
1936	2	3	80	12	1984	3	16	274	21,5
1948	2	5	77	11,5	1988	3	19	301	21.2
1952	2	6	109	15,7	1992	4	26	488	27,1
1956	2	7	134	17	1994	4	28	522	30
1960	2	11	144	21,5	1998	6	32	787	36,2
1964	3	14	199	18,3	2002	7	37	886	36,9
1968	3	14	211	18,2	2006	7	40	960	38,2
Including mixed events					2010	7	41	1044	40.7

**Table B: Women's participation in the Games of the Olympiad**

Year	Sports	Events*	Participants	%	Year	Sports	Events*	Participants	%
1896	-	-	-	-	1960	6	29	611	11.4
1900	2	2	22	2.2	1964	7	33	678	13.2
1904	1	3	6	0.9	1968	7	39	781	14.2
1908	2	4	37	1.8	1972	8	43	1059	14.6
1912	2	5	48	2.0	1976	11	49	1260	20.7
1920	2	8	63	2.4	1980	12	50	1115	21.5
1924	3	10	135	4.4	1984	14	62	1566	23
1928	4	14	277	9.6	1988	17	72	2194	26.1
1932	3	14	126	9	1992	19	86	2704	28.8
1936	4	15	331	8.3	1996	21	97	3512	34.0
1948	5	19	390	9.5	2000	25	120	4069	38.2
1952	6	25	519	10.5	2004	26	125	4329	40.7
1956	6	26	376	13.3	2008	26	127	4637	42.4



**Table C: Women's Participation in the Olympic Games – % of events**

Year	Games of the Olympiad			Olympic Winter Games*		
	Total events	Women's events	% of women events	Total events	Women's events **	% of women events
1900	95	2	2.1	-	-	-
1904	91	3	3.3	-	-	-
1908	110	4	3.6	-	-	-
1912	102	5	4.9	-	-	-
1920	154	8	5.2	-	-	-
1924	126	10	7.9	16	2	12.5
1928	109	14	12.8	14	2	14.3
1932	117	14	12.0	14	2	14.3
1936	129	15	11.6	17	3	17.6
1948	136	19	14.0	22	5	22.7
1952	149	25	16.8	22	6	27.3
1956	151	26	17.2	24	7	29.2
1960	150	29	19.3	27	11	40.7
1964	163	33	20.2	34	14	41.2
1968	172	39	22.7	35	14	40.0
1972	195	43	22.1	35	14	40.0
1976	198	49	24.7	37	15	40.5
1980	203	50	24.6	38	15	39.5
1984	221	62	28.1	39	16	41.0
1988	237	72	30.4	46	19	41.3
1992	257	86	33.5	57	26	45.6
1994				61	28	45.9
1996	271	97	35.8			
1998				68	32	47.1
2000	300	120	40			
2002				78	37	47.4
2004	301	125	41.5			
2006				84	40	47.6
2008	302	127	42.1			
2010				86	41	47.7
2012	302	132	43.7			

Remarks: \* including mixed events

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