

IAPESGW International Update, June 2019: News and resources from around the world

We want to hear about what you and your related organisations are doing and the information you are producing. You can send your information and news to any member of the executive board for inclusion in the 'Update' each month - view their contacts details

Keep right up to date with our news

We have set up social media accounts to share all our latest news with you:



You can now follow us on Twitter - take a look

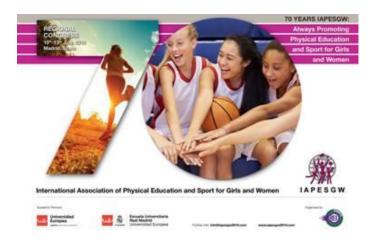


facebook. We're on Facebook too - view our page



Our page on the website

Our next Regional Congress









CONFIDENTIAL

Sebastian Coe President International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) delivered via email

30 May 2019

RE: Testosterone restrictions in female athletes and the use of testosterone suppressants

Dear Mr Coe.

This letter represents the collective view of the International Working Group (IWG) on Women & Sport, WomenSport International (WSI) and the International Association of Physical Education for Girls and Women (IAPESGW); jointly, three of the world's leading gender equity advocacy agencies. The decision to send this letter was taken at the Board level in all three organisations, during May.

Together, we wish to express our great disappointment in the decision taken by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) to restrict testosterone levels in female runners. We are particularly disappointed in your announcement, following the dismissal of the case brought before the Court of Arbitration (CAS) by Caster Semenya and Athletics South Africa (ASA), requiring affected athletes to take testosterone suppressants and submit to regular testing so as to continue competing.

It is the collective view of the IWG, WSI and IAPESGW that this is discriminatory and in no way do we support a ruling that forces an athlete to take medication that alters their natural state. We believe that affected athletes are being penalised for their biological traits, over which they have no control, and that such penalty enforces gender inequality, because it does not apply to male athletes. We believe that this infringes their human rights. The affected athletes have not cheated or been found to be taking performance-enhancing drugs, yet this decision implies wrong-doing and comes with a penalty.

In particular, it is noted that IAAF is an IWG member organisation and signatory to the Brighton plus Helsinki Declaration on Women & Sport. Principle 1(a). states that 'Every effort should be made by state and government to ensure that institutions and organisations responsible for sport and physical activity comply with the equality provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Declaration of Berlin (UNESCO MINEPS V) and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.' It is our position that IAAF's current actions contravene this principle.

The IWG, WSI and IAPESGW recognise that the inclusion of hyperandrogenic athletes in sport is a complex issue that continues to challenge many organisations worldwide and that research is ongoing to reach a global consensus. Whilst this important work is being undertaken, it is our position that no single international sporting federation should have the mandate to put such restrictions in place.

We understand that Athletics South Africa will lodge an appeal against the CAS decision. We collectively support their efforts, and those of others, to have this discriminatory policy overturned.

Kind regards,

Raewyn Lovett

International Working

Group (IWG) on Women & Sport Diane Huffman President

WomenSport International (WSI) Professor Rosa Lopez de D'Amico

President

International Association of Physical Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women (IAPESGW)

Rosa López de D'Amico - visit the University of Vienna

It was a great experience to visit the University of Vienna invited by Dr. Rosa Diketmüller in May 2019. A lecture was shared with students from the university; it was about *Women – Physical Education and Sport*. The activity took place May 13th, 2019.



From left to right: Rosa Diketmüller, Rosa López de D'Amico, Maria Dinold and Michael Kolb



A selfie with one of the students

It was also an excellent chance to meet with Antala Branislav (FIEP), Rosa Diketmüller IAPESGW - ICSP) and Maria Dinold (IFAPA – ICSSPE) to speak about previous and future projects as our organizations had research activities in the recent past connected with the International Council for Sport Pedagogy (ICSP).

I appreciate all the kindness from Rosa and Maria during my visit to Austria.

Rosa López de D'Amico IAPESGW - President

June Editorial

It is likely this is the last *International Update* produced through the services of VAGA Associates (UK) as they have decided to close their business and retire. IAPESGW has had an excellent relationship with their staff and we are very sorry to see this service finishing. We sincerely thank them – and Jenny Warner in particular – for their valued and very cooperative services. And wish them all the very best for a relaxed and happy retirement! This means we are looking for a website provider.

We are placed in a position to work out the best way forward and we will do this at an Executive Board meeting in Madrid, starting on 9th July.

To assist the Board please send me (crosswhite@bigpond.com) your email responses to this brief survey:

- 1. Do you read the Update? Yes/No
- 2. Should IAPESGW continue with a monthly email newsletter? Yes/ No
- 3. Add any comments you would like to add about the Update.

Further, there may be individuals or organisations interested in providing our website services and maintenance. Please email me for more information.

This June *Update* has a number of articles about the current Women's World Cup (Football/Soccer).

I am featuring this terrific article below as it covers so many issues across women's sport and gender equality and not just soccer. The author is **Sabrina Razack**, an educator, certified coach, and PhD student at the University of Toronto

"Since June 7, 2019, televisions, radios and mobile phones around the world have been tuned in to the Women's World Cup. And while the play on the field has amazed, inspired and delighted us, the Women's World Cup has also provided an opportunity for social transformation. Players are speaking out against gender discrimination in soccer, using the tournament as a platform to draw attention to the issues through online campaigns, lawsuits, marketing materials, and staging boycotts.

- Pay Inequity Leading up to and during the World Cup, players have been vocal about salary discrepancies between women's and men's teams (<u>check out this infographic</u>). National teams <u>in Norway</u>, <u>Canada</u> and <u>United States</u> demanded changes from their respective sport governing bodies.
- Misconceptions Common rebukes to persisting financial disparities depend on false assumptions about the level of interest in women's soccer "more people watch the men play" or "more people buy tickets and merchandise for the men's team." However, the Women's World Cup has witnessed an increase in viewership and attendance over the past years. In 2015, more than 750 million viewers around the world watched the Women's World Cup. This includes 20.8 million unique Canadian viewers or nearly 60% of the country's population. In the U.S., the final match of the 2015 tournament, between USA and Japan, was the most watched soccer match for both men's and women's soccer in US history. France 2019 is predicted to be a tipping point for women's soccer.
- Respect Norwegian superstar Ada Hegerberg, the first recipient of the Ballon D'dor Féminin for the best female player in the world, chose to boycott the World Cup based on the lack of respect and poor behaviour directed at female soccer players in her home country and internationally. National teams from Argentina and Germany created ad campaigns designed to increase awareness about the lack of recognition and market their athletic excellence.
- Participation opportunities At a more fundamental level, Shireen Ahmed wrote a piece for Time remarking on the fact that many women around the world continue to face <u>severe challenges when attempting to play the game of soccer</u>. During Russia 2018, Iranian women staged artistic protests during games, drawing attention to the fact that women continue to be prohibited in soccer stadiums in their home country.

These examples represent the tenacity of players to participate in and contest the realm of sport. As spectators, we also need to consider how we can both enjoy the spectacle of the sport and use it as a platform for social transformation. The following tips provide some suggestions for action:

- 1. **Follow the Game** Whether it's soccer or another sport, follow the game, get to know the players, and share your passion with others to increase interest and respect for the game. Female athletes are role models for everyone.
- 2. **Be Informed** Be curious about the issues raised by players. Seek out informed news sources, and follow key influencers (e.g. @moyadodd) and female-produced sport media (e.g. <u>The Gist, Women Sport Trust, Burn It All Down</u>). Share online information through likes, retweets and shares to increase awareness of the issues.
- 3. **Change the Conversation** When the topic of women and sport arises, use the opportunity to challenge typical narratives can change attitudes and beliefs. Share your experiences and learnings to illuminate the persisting myths about women who participate in sport.

Embracing social issues in sport will ultimately improve the sport system for all players. Let's celebrate and support players to be able to participate equitably in sports."

There is a lot of interesting news from the UK, as usual (including a good blog on breaking down barriers to get women active), plus articles from Afghanistan, Australia (note new guidelines on inclusion of transgender and gender diverse people in sport), New Zealand, Spain, and the USA.

Again more new publications for you to read.

I am looking forward to our Madrid Congress next month, to catching up with old friends and making new friends, and enjoying some hot weather!

<u>In conclusion, remember to email me your thoughts on the Update and the website before 9 July!</u>

Janice Crosswhite OAM Communications Director

International

Events....

The next two events have already taken place - now for your information only....

UNESCO (28 May 2019)

Women and football #ChangeTheGame: Debate and testimonies at UNESCO on sport as an accelerator of gender equality

Ahead of the Women's World Cup, to be held in France from 7 June to 7 July, UNESCO is organizing an unprecedented debate, <u>Women and Football: #ChangeTheGame, on 4 June (10:30-12:30) at UNESCO Headquarters.</u> Opened by Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, the event will bring together internationally renowned female footballers and personalities from the world of football.

Nadia Nadim (Denmark), an Afghan refugee with an exceptional sporting background, and Jody Brown (Jamaica), a rising star of international football, accompanied by her Jamaican team, the Reggae Girlz, will talk about the key role that sport can play in promoting diversity and gender equality.

Will also take part Houriya Al Taheri (United Arab Emirates), first professional football coach in the Gulf and head coach of the United Arab Emirates national team, and Evelyn Laruni (Uganda), national director of the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative in Uganda and supervisor of the Peace through Sports programme. Sports journalist Anne-Laure Bonnet will moderate the debate.

.....

Watch the event LIVE: https://on.unesco.org/2JMjJ5w

View the full news item

Sport Sector Event at CRPD Conference of State Parties 12 at UN Headquarters, 11 June 2019

The UNESCO Chair is delighted to be partnering with UNESCO and the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN to lead a session at the 12th UN Convention of Persons with Disabilities Conference of State Parties (CRPD-COSP12), with global multi-stakeholder support from across the sport sector.

View more details

Inside the games reports (27 May 2019)

IBU President promises to improve gender balance after seminar in Warsaw International Biathlon Union (IBU) President Olle Dahlin has promised to improve the gender balance within the governing body after the organisation held a three-day seminar on the topic.

Participants at the seminar, which took place in Warsaw this weekend, said a specific policy should be created to ensure the IBU could move towards gender equality in its leadership.

The number of female delegates should be increased, those at the event said, while they also called for the establishment of a communication platform to monitor the IBU's progress.

It came after the results of a questionnaire for national federations and athletes were presented at the seminar, which revealed there is an "unequal representation" of women in key positions at the IBU.

View the full news item

Inside the games reports (2 June 2019)

For the first time, there are more female than male runners, IAAF Global Running Conference in Lanzhou hears

Research released to the International Association of Athletics Federations' (IAAF) first Global Running Conference in Lanzhou in China shows that, for the first time in history, there were more female runners than male runners in 2018, with 50.23 per cent of runners being female.

The research, conducted by the IAAF and RunRepeat.com, has been drawn from the largest study of race results in history.

The conclusions presented are based on data from more than 107 million race results across more than 70,000 races from 1986 to 2019 mostly in Europe and North America.

The Conference discussed the benefits that mass participation road races bring to host cities, the economic benefits to cities, the health benefits to participants and their demographics, as well as best practices for organising events in environmentally sustainable ways.

More people run than do any other sport on the planet, but a trend towards sedentary lifestyles, particularly among young people, still threatens the health of communities, the 600 attendees heard.

View the full news item

Inside the games reports (5 June 2019)

IAAF to seek "swift reversion" of Supreme Court decision in Semenya case

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) will seek a "swift reversion" to a decision from the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland which allows Caster Semenya to compete without taking medication to lower her testosterone while her appeal is pending.

The Supreme Court on Monday (June 3) ordered the rules which force athletes with differences in sexual development (DSD) to take drugs to medically reduce their naturally-occurring testosterone if they want to compete at events ranging from 400 metres to a mile be put on hold with immediate effect.

The court said its "superprovisional order", considered a major boost for Semenya in her challenge against a Court of Arbitration for Sport decision which ruled in the IAAF's favour, would be in place until June 25.

In response, the IAAF said it would "seek a swift reversion of the superprovisional order moving forwards so that the DSD Regulations apply to all affected athletes in order (among other things) to avoid serious confusion among athletes and event organisers and to protect the integrity of the sport".

The worldwide governing body also confirmed the court's ruling only applied to the South African double Olympic and three-times world champion over 800m.

The IAAF said it had only been informed of the Supreme Court's decision yesterday afternoon, almost 24 hours after it was made public by Semenya's legal team.

View the full news item

Inside the games reports (5 June 2019)

Recently-retired squash great David fronts Professional Squash Association's new 'It's Mine' campaign

Eight-times world champion Nicol David is fronting a new Professional Squash Association (PSA) campaign to raise awareness and engagement with the women's tour.

The 'It's Mine' initiative is designed to increase the number of players engaged with promoting positive aspects of the game around the world.

Former world number one David said she wanted to get involved to leave behind a legacy following her retirement at the Allam British Open last month.

The Malaysian star said: "Since accepting that I was going to retire, I didn't want to leave without giving something back to the sport that has given me so much.

"I know that our players have the power to inspire people with the experiences they have to share.

"I believe we are defined by titles but we are remembered by our values and the example we set out to be.

"This campaign is built to elevate the values that our players have and I hope to encourage them to be an example to others.

"Our sport has so much to offer and these seven diverse and empowered women will showcase the values that embodies our campaign.

"I hope this inspires every one of you in the upcoming months and that you share with us this journey."

View the full news item

Inside the games reports (6 June 2019)

Consensus that women's football is in "best position" as inaugural FIFA Convention on female game begins

The inaugural FIFA Women's Football Convention began today in Paris as delegates from confederations and 211 member associations gathered to debate the key priorities for the development of the female game.

Using the five strategic pillars of the FIFA Women's Football Strategy launched in October, the opening day of the event – held on the eve of the first match of the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup in France – included a programme covering topics that ranged from the importance of youth competitions, the commercialisation of the game to the empowerment of women through football.

The opening day included contributions from leading figures from the world of football and sports such the BBC's director of sport Barbara Slater, Olympique Lyonnais President Jean-Michel Aulas and "FIFA Legends" Karina LeBlanc and Clarence Seedorf.

.....

View the full news item

And....

UNESCO (7 June 2019)

Women and football: #ChangeTheGame - towards gender equality in sports

The challenges that the feminization of football and sport face are enormous and strong inequalities persist. On the occasion of the FIFA Women's World Cup starting on 7 June in France, UNESCO wants to highlight that football can be an effective tool to reduce the gender gap and empower women worldwide. In this context, UNESCO organized an interactive panel on gender equality in football entitled 'Women and Football: #ChangeTheGame' at its Headquarters in Paris on 4 June 2019.

"We are living in a time of progress when it comes to gender equality, but there are still strong points of inequality and we have to fight them. We have to do that by starting with principles," Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, stated at the opening of the event. The DG also mentioned the upcoming establishment by UNESCO, with the support of the Swiss government, of a Global Observatory about Women and sport, in the context of the Kazan Action Plan (KAP).

Moderated by Anne-Laure Bonnet, a French sports journalist, female athletes and experts, from around the world, shared their stories and explained how they became engaged in football.

View the full news item

Women's Sport Network (10 June 2019)

FOOTBALLMoJo - Dr Claire-Marie Roberts meets Chris Evans & Vassos Alexander @Virgin Radio

WSNet associate Dr Claire-Marie Roberts chatted today to Chris Evans and Vassos Alexander on air about FOOTBALLMoJo. They discussed the opportunities that FRANCE 2019 (FIFAWWCup) might have on grass-roots community football and the potential that our recent publication FOOTBALLMoJo has to help girls engage with football in both western and 'third world' communities like Nepal, Cape Town, Kwai Zulu Natal, San Paulo and Shanghai. Helping them find their Mojo 'through football.

Dr Claire-Marie is an ex pro-footballer, WSNet is an unfunded not-for-profit organisation helping more women (and girls) get more active and empowered though sports like football and netball. If you would like an interview with Dr Marie-Claire or more info on FOOTBALLMoJo – please make contact.

- Recent article here https://www.sportanddev.org/en/article/news/fifa-womens-world-cup-2019-working-grassroots
- Free copies of FOOTBALLMoJo are being distributed via our website <u>www.wsnet.co.uk</u> - throughout the FISA world cup.

 More info: Paul Reynolds, E: paul.r@wsnet.co.uk M: +447976 385453 W: http://www.wsnet.co.uk/hermojo-empowering-girls-through-sport-story-so-far

Received by email

The Guardian (12 June 2019)

Lifting the cup: why sports bras are the stars of the summer

Since they were first created in 1977, they have been the unsung champions of the gym kit. Not anymore. This season, the sports bra is the most valued player

The first trainers, rubber-soled shoes that made it possible to play tennis or croquet without damaging a lawn, were created in the 1860s. The sports bra, an item that for many women is just as essential to playing sport, did not exist until 1977. And – as if that gap didn't say enough about the disparate narratives of male and female sport – that first sports bra was constructed out of two jockstraps stitched together.

In 1977, jogging was a new urban fad – the following year, photographs of President Jimmy Carter snapped out for a run would be a media sensation – and <u>Lisa Lindahl</u>, an employee of the University of Vermont, had started running daily. "I loved it, except for the discomfort that my bouncing breasts created," she recalled. So she and her friend Polly Palmer-Smith, a costume designer, came up with a bra with straps that were thick enough to be tight without digging, and that crossed over at the back so that they wouldn't fall off the shoulder. The first advert for their "Jogbra" featured a photo of Lindahl and Palmer-Smith in their design, with Lindahl's home address and phone number given for placing orders.

Forty-two years later, the global sports bra market is worth an estimated £5.5bn annually. And yet even in 2019, shopping for a sports bra can serve as a sharp reminder of how unseriously female sport is taken. Soft crop tops that offer no support beyond a centimetre of elastic around the ribcage are sold alongside compression bras, as if they fulfilled the same function. Rather than facilitating physical activity, many so-called sports bras simply look sporty, by dint of wide straps and a high neckline.

View the full news item

Beyond Sport reports (14 June 2019)

Pacific Sports Partnerships launch women's leadership program

With the FIFA Women's World Cup sharpening the focus on opportunities for women in football, four pioneering women in football from across the Pacific are speaking out about their experiences in a part of the world where men tend to occupy key roles in both sport and society.

The women, from Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga, are participants in the Pacific Women's Sports Leadership Program (PWSLP) funded by the Australian Government and bringing together women in sports leadership roles across the Pacific. Combining professional development workshops, knowledge sharing, networking and career planning, its long-term goal is to equip women to be leaders, not just in sport, but in their communities and countries.

In a short film about the program released on the eve of the FIFA Women's World Cup, the women reflect on the challenges of being a female leader in sport, how the program has helped them to develop personally and how its helping them guide others around them.

View the full news item and access the video

Inside the games reports (18 June 2019) Callan elected as first female President of FIBA Americas

Carol Callan has become the first female President of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Americas after she was elected at its General Assembly in Miami.

Callan will serve a four-year term and becomes the fourth elected member of the FIBA Central Board for 2019 to 2023.

She takes over the role from Usie Richards of the US Virgin Islands who has been elected as FIBA Americas treasurer.

View the full news item

Inside the games reports (18 June 2019)

Semenya accuses IAAF of using her as "guinea pig" as CAS publish full award Caster Semenya has continued her war of words with the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) as she accused the worldwide governing body of using her as a "guinea pig" to test the effects of testosterone-reducing medication.

In a statement, the double Olympic and three-times 800 metres world champion warned she would "not allow the IAAF to use me and my body again".

It came after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) published the redacted 163-page award of its decision to rule against Semenya and in favour of the IAAF in the landmark legal case last month.

The CAS described the IAAF's regulations, which force athletes with differences in sexual development (DSD) to take drugs to medically reduce their naturally-occurring testosterone if they want to compete at events ranging from 400 metres to a mile, as "discriminatory".

But the panel claimed the controversial rules, which came into effect on May 8, were "necessary, reasonable and proportionate" to protect the fairness of women's sport.

The regulations, which mean DSD athletes with naturally high levels of testosterone who wish to participate in events between the two distances must medically limit that level to under 5 nmol/L, double the normal female range of below 2 nmol/L, were suspended by the Swiss Supreme Court earlier this month after it imposed a "superprovisional" order.

The award details the negative effects the medication had on Semenya when she last took the drugs, which she claims made her feel "constantly sick".

View the full news item

Inside the games reports (19 June 2019)

FIFA backtracks on ejection of fans for "social" protest at Women's World Cup FIFA has admitted it was wrong to eject fans at the Women's World Cup for wearing tee-shirts calling for Iranian women to be let into football stadiums.

Two fans were removed from Stade des Alpes in Grenoble during Canada's 2-0 win against New Zealand last Saturday (June 15) because their shirts carried slogans, but football's governing body now says that the message was social and not political, meaning it did not breach any rules.

A statement said: "FIFA believes that the message to allow women into football stadiums in Iran is a social, not political, matter and so the message on the front of the t-shirts worn by two fans is not against the FIFA rules.

"The fans should not have been asked to remove their t-shirts or to leave the stadium by local security, even if there were other messages on the back of their t-shirts.

"FIFA will do its best to ensure that any similar situations do not occur at future matches during the competition."

The Open Stadiums group has been campaigning for women to be allowed to access men's sporting events in Iran after a 40-year ban.

.....

View the full news item

Inside the games reports (19 June 2019)

European Hockey Federation asks all members to sign gender balance charter

The European Hockey Federation (EHF) has called on all 43 of its member countries to a sign a gender balance charter as part of the #EquallyAmazing equality campaign.

EHF President Marijke Fleuren has asked the organisation's nations to commit to the charter at their General Assembly in Antwerp on August 16.

Three women will also be elected on to the Executive Board in the Belgian city and countries have been urged to commit to a minimum of 30 per cent of each gender on their own ruling bodies.

Last month, Dutchwoman Fleuren was named chair of a new Women in Sports Committee which will be set up by world governing body the International Hockey Federation as part of #EquallyAmazing.

The Committee will raise awareness about gender equality, inclusion and promote diversity in sports practice and governance.

View the full news item

Inside the games reports (23 June 2019)

FIFA claim global interest in Women's World Cup sets a new high with records for TV audiences and social media engagement

FIFA claim the 2019 Women's World Cup broke records for engagement over the group stage and that global interest has reached new heights, despite criticism over low attendances and poor organisation.

FIFA have released a series of statistics and figures regarding television audiences and social media engagement so far from the tournament in France, indicating the Women's World Cup is more popular than ever before.

They claim posts on the official FIFA Women's World Cup digital channels have gained a combined 433 million views so far, of which 82 million were video views of goals, highlights and analysis.

FIFA also revealed posts on the official tournament Facebook page have gained a combined six million "likes".

While there has been some criticism over the size of crowds in the stadiums, record numbers for television audiences have been set in several of the nations where their teams are taking part.

In France, 10.6 million viewers tuned in for the hosts' opening game against South Korea, a record audience for women's football in the country.

The previous high was 4.1 million for Germany versus France at the 2015 Women's World Cup in Canada.

View the full news item

Inside the games reports (24 June 2019) Netball Europe appoints new chair of Management Board

Netball Europe has announced Catherine Lewis as the new chair of its Management Board.

Lewis, the chair of Welsh Netball, previously served as the continental governing body's director without portfolio.

The change was confirmed at Netball Europe's three-day Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Birmingham.

The AGM also saw secretary Cheryl Danson become director of officiating and previous chair Lyn Carpenter become regional director to the International Netball Federation Board.

They replaced Alan Anderson and Janet Wrighton respectively with both stepping down from their roles after several years of service.

.....

View the full news item

sportanddev.org (25 June 2019)

Gender equality in sports: Pioneers and competitions

This year's FIFA Women's World Cup has set a new high for women's football, but there is still more to be done to break through the glass ceiling. We take a moment to commend individual athletes who have led the charge for gender equality in sport, and recent competitions achieving balanced representation.

What do Kathrine Switzer, Billie Jean King, the U.S. Women's Soccer Team and Ada Hegerberg have in common? Not only are these all athletes who have achieved extraordinary success as professionals in their respective sports, but what is also extraordinary, is that they have used this success to become beacons of light for gender equality.

View the full news item

Awareness....

16 days campaign: End Gender Based Violence in the World of Work

#ILOendGBV is an initiative of the 16 Days Campaign that aims to ensure that women's voices and lived experiences are brought to bear on the International Labor Organization's current discussions and will result in the adoption and implementation of a strong, legally-binding convention on GBV and harassment in the world of work that not only takes into account existing international legal standards but strengthens them and fills crucial gaps. The ILO will make a decision during the next meeting of the International Labor Conference (ILC) in June 2019.

This toolkit offers feminists and women's rights organizations a guide to understand the ILO's proposed convention. We aim to demystify the ILO's standard-setting process and provide information about the content of the instrument, as well as tools and resources to advocate with governments to support the adoption of the convention.

Download the toolkit via: https://16dayscampaign.org/campaigns/iloendgbv/

Ms. Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC): Board Chair, ISG Gender Liaison &

GPPAC Pacific Regional

Representative;

Global Fund for Women: Co- Chair Board of Directors;

Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP): International Ambassador & Pacific Coordinator

World Pulse Ambassador (2019)

Technical Adviser: Shifting the Power Coalition: shiftingthepower.hub@gmail.com

Follow us: https://m.facebook.com/shiftingthepowercoalition/?ti=as

Publications.....

Journal of Physical Activity and Health: The Official Journal of the International Society for Physical Activity and Health. Volume 16, Issue 6, June 2019

Editor - the abstracts from the articles in this current edition to be placed on their website are now available.

View the abstracts

Specific countries

AFGHANISTAN

Inside the games reports (18 June 2019)

Afghanistan's first IOC member Asghari named national sports personality of the year International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Samira Asghari has been named sports personality of the year by the Afghanistan Sports Journalists Federation at an event attended by the Afghanistan National Olympic Committee (ANOC).

Asghari, a peace and human rights advocate in Afghanistan who is a member of the Athletes' Entourage Commission, was elected to the IOC in October 2018.

She is also captain of the Afghanistan women's basketball team and has been a member of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Cultural Commission since 2014, having previously served on their Women and Sport Committee.

The 25-year-old is the only IOC member from Afghanistan. IOC President Thomas Bach sent a written message of congratulations to Asghari following her award at the Kabul Star hotel.

View the full news item

AUSTRALIA

Yahoo Sport Australia (4 June 2019)

'Really concerns me': Aussie Olympians rail against transgender champ

Tamsyn Manou has expressed her concern after a transgender runner became the NCAA 400m women's hurdles national champion recently.

CeCe Telfer, a transgender woman who was born a male called Craig, took out the title by over a second at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships for Frankland Pierce University on May 25.

Before her transition, Telfer was ranked outside the top 200 male runners in college athletics.

Her last event as Craig took place in January 2018, when she finished eighth out of nine men in the 400m.

View the full news item

Kidspot (6 June 2019)

Why your kids should watch women playing sport

Next time you sit down with the kids in front of the TV, stop searching through Netflix and instead catch some women's sport.

Let's play a little game of who would you rather. OK, here goes ... Sam Kerr or Kylie Jenner? Miley Cyrus or Ellyse Perry? Sally Fitzgibbons or Selena Gomez? Influencers or sports stars - which group of celebrities you would rather your children idolise?

I'm guessing your answer is the same as mine: female sports stars by a country mile. These high-achieving, strong, fierce, determined and amazing women. Not to say the above celebrity influencers don't hold some of these traits... but the dedication and tenacity of Australia's elite female athletes far outweighs those who are professionals at snapping a selfie.

Female sportswomen are the ultimate role models for kids, for everyone really. That's why it's vital that you and I, as the me, mums and dads of daughters and sons, keep supporting women in sport. We need to flick-on the TV when the Matildas are playing, show-up when the women's cricket team is in our city and enroll our daughters in her local AFL team. This is how we will keep turning out the absolute best idols for our kids both now and in the future. If our kids can see women competing on what have typically been male-dominated fields - there's no reason they can't apply that fearlessness to their own futures.

The importance of role models for children

So, why is it so important for kids to have positive, values-driven role models? In short so they develop into happy, healthy respectful humans.

View the full news item

Sydney Morning Herald (9 June 2019) Women's sport is providing great role models

Ashleigh Barty's deserved win in the French Open tennis is a great day for the cause of women in sport but it is worth remembering that there have been a lot of false dawns along this road.

Barty's 6-1, 6-3 defeat of Czech Marketa Vondrousova in the early hours of Sunday morning is the first time an Australian has won a singles title at Roland Garros since 1973, back in the

glory days of Australian tennis, and the first grand slam singles event won by a female tennis player since Sam Stosur won the US Open in 2011.

The victory is all the sweeter because of the circuitous route that brought the 23-year-old Barty there. After a few bad seasons as a professional player, she hung up her racquet and switched to the Women's Big Bash League in cricket. But after a couple of years, the intensity of tennis' individual combat lured her back and now just three years later she holds one of the biggest prizes in world tennis.

Barty, a Ngarigo woman who grew up near Ipswich in Queensland, follows in the footsteps of Evonne Goolagong Cawley as a great example of an Indigenous woman who has succeeded in sport.

Yet the fact that as long ago as 1973 Ms Goolagong Cawley was a national star underlines that women have been doing well at sport for a long time and they are still often second-class citizens.

Pleasingly, Barty will receive the same prizemoney (\$A3.73 million) as the male singles champion but the same is certainly not true of many other sports where wages for women are usually a fraction of those earned by the men. Even in tennis, male stars still enjoy an advantage in sponsorships.

View the full news item

Government of South Australia (11 June 2019) Schools to get physically literate

Some South Australian primary school students will get more chances to undertake physical education classes at school from next year, with the State Government piloting a new Physical Education/Physical Literacy (PEPL) program.

A \$700,000 Sport Australia grant will see the Education Department partner with Hockey Australia, the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER) SA branch, the University of Canberra and Flinders University to trial the PEPL program in a number of South Australian primary schools.

The PEPL approach also encourages students to have physical activity 'snacks' during the school day, such as a few minutes of exercise between classes, to promote better health and to improve students' concentration on learning.

The trial will involve students from a number of primary schools that will be selected later this year.

Throughout the trial, specialist educators will work closely with the schools to provide in-class professional development and to enhance teachers' confidence and competence in teaching physical education.

Schools will also build connections with community organisations and sporting clubs to provide students with a range of extra-curricular opportunities and learning experiences.

View the full news item

Sport Australia (13 June 2019)

New guidelines launched to promote the inclusion of transgender and gender diverse people in sport

Sport and human rights leaders are encouraging all Australians to "stand for inclusivity", launching new guidelines that promote the inclusion of transgender and gender diverse people

in sport.

<u>National Guidelines for the inclusion of transgender and gender diverse people in sport</u> were launched in Melbourne today. The Guidelines were developed by the Australian Human Rights Commission in partnership with Sport Australia and the Coalition of Major Professional and Participation Sports (COMPPS).

The Guidelines provide information on the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth) and guidance on creating and promoting inclusive environments in sport. Sport Australia CEO Kate Palmer said the simplest approach was to "put people first".

"Sport must be safe and inclusive for all because every Australian has the fundamental right to enjoy the wonderful benefits of sport and physical activity," Palmer said. "Sport Australia stands for inclusivity and we want every person in Australian sport to stand with us.

.....

View the full news item

More information on the guidelines

Vogue, Australia (14 June 2019)

6 women changing the face of Australian Sport

Whether it's breaking records, calling out online abuse or championing diversity, these revolutionaries can each lay claim to driving the conversation about women in sport forward for the next generation. In our July issue, we meet the change-makers who are leaving their mark both on and off the field. Here's your exclusive sneak peek ...

View the news article

Women in Football (26 June 2019)

Women in Football launches to support gender equality in the sport

A new national group has today taken steps to address the issue of gender representation in one of the fastest growing women's participation sports in Australia.

The Women in Football Association was launched today by the NSW Minister for Sport, the Hon John Sidoti, with the support of Football Federation Australia (FFA), modelled on a similar organisation in the United Kingdom.

The not-for-profit national association, specifically established to support women wanting to participate at any level in the sport, has eight committee members, all of whom have had experience in football from grassroots to elite level including the CEO of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation Lesley Podesta, head coach of Central Coast Mariners Alen Stajcic, media identity George Donikian and international football reform advocate Bonita Mersiades.

View the full news item

Victoria University

Victoria University is committed to advancing women in sport

Find out about our work aimed to advance women and girls in sport and physical activity based on four objectives to impact change:

- strengthen industry alignment and collaboration
- create research insights and translation

- provide innovative curriculum to strengthen career pathways
- advance workforce development.

Visit the university's dedicated web pages

From the Victoria University website:

Key leaders unite for Women in Sport Advisory Group (30 May 2019)

The Advisory Group, Philanthropist, AFL women's football pioneer, and Women in Sport advocate Dr Susan Alberti AC will host–chair the Australian Women in Sport Advisory Group.

The Advisory Group, made up of diverse members and organisations to promote cross-sector insights, includes some of Australia's most successful sport and business leaders. It will discuss the current state of women in sport, and identify where women in sport should be positioned by 2030. The group will identify associated priorities, and look for opportunities for organisations, regardless of sector, to work together to create a greater impact.

The Advisory Group is expected to create game-changing strategies to increase the pace of improvement for women in sport throughout Australia. These strategies will guide funding bodies and related government and private organisations, and create a streamlined focus to strengthen the position of women in sport over the next decade.

The Women in Sport Advisory group members include:

- Kate Palmer CEO Sport Australia
- Professor Clare Hanlon Susan Alberti Women in Sport Chair, Victoria University
- Mark Anderson CEO, Collingwood Football Club (past CEO Swimming Australia and Hockey Australia)
- Julie Bissinella Program Director, Male Champions of Change Ltd
- Peter Nash Director Westpac, Mirvac and the John Lyng Group
- Luke Sayers AM CEO, PwC Australia

View the full details

FRANCE

UNESCO reports (3 June 2019) When football rhymes with women

A few days before the FIFA Women's World Cup 2019, UNESCO, the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS) and the National Union of Professional Footballers (l'Union nationale des footballeurs professionnels – UNFP) express their commitment towards the promotion of women's football through the publication of the report "When football rhymes with women".

On 23 May last, these three actors presented a "preview" of the report during a conference-debate, held at IRIS premises, on the challenges of the feminization of football.

More than a hundred guests attended this conference: experts in the field, many young people interested in finding out more on the topic and media.

The UNESCO, IRIS and UNFP representatives have welcomed the publication of this report as a milestone of a global reflection that show the willingness of these three institutions to change the way women are seen within football and in society.

Through an historical overview of the development of women's football and an analysis of the statistics and figures available, the report highlights the progress made so far while giving a warning signal on what still remains to be done.

As stressed on several occasions at the presentation Conference, it is time for a new step forward in the field of gender equality and a status for women football players needs to be created in order to fight against all forms of discrimination, including gender pay-gap. To succeed in this challenge, it is important to bring to everyone's attention the issues related to the feminization of football and to encourage greater mobilization of sports stakeholders. The publication concludes with a chapter devoted to concrete recommendations for research organizations, media, national and international organizations and football authorities.

Download the Report (in French)

Source of information

NEW ZEALAND

Inside the games reports (10 June 2019)

NZOC President praises country's first female Olympic gold medallist as honour revealed month after death

New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC) President Mike Stanley has hailed the contribution to women's sport of the country's first female Olympic gold medallist Yvette Corlett after it was revealed she had been made a Dame in the Queen's Birthday Honours List a month after her death.

Corlett – née Williams – wrote her name into New Zealand's Olympic history books when she won a long jump gold medal at Helsinki 1952.

She had been informed of the honour shortly before she died at the age of 89 on April 13.

"Yvette Williams was a trailblazer and a true beacon of what is possible for women," Stanley said.

"She was a truly humble and great New Zealander, who was deeply passionate about sport and young athletes."

Corlett also had four Commonwealth Games gold medals to her name, winning the 1950 long jump gold in Auckland – a title she defended four years later in Vancouver while also winning the discus and shot put.

View the full news item

SPAIN

Our member in Spain, Carmen Rodriguez Fernandez sent this news item this month....

It is reported that the Carlos III University has just published in UCM the monograph THE FEMALE SPORT THE GRAND UNKNOWN

Access via: https://e-archivo.uc3m.es/handle/10016/28385

England Golf (29 May 2019)

Women and Girls' Golf Week is coming back

Women and girls will celebrate their love of golf and be encouraged to take up the sport when a second awareness week is held across Great Britain and Ireland later this summer.

Building on the success of last year's online campaign, Women and Girls' Golf Week is the inspiration of England Golf and will take place from 29 July – 4 August.

Launched today, exactly two months before the dedicated week takes place, it is also being promoted by Scottish Golf, Wales Golf and The Irish Ladies Golf Union and is designed to unite the golf industry in growing the women and girls' game.

The R&A, the European Tour, the Ladies European Tour, The Professional Golfers' Association and the Golf Foundation are also among the bodies supporting the activity.

View the full news item

Women in Sport (4 June 2019)

Daughters and Dads programme highlights the power of father-figures in Women's World Cup video campaign

Ahead of the 2019 Fifa Women's World Cup, Women in Sport is teaming up with the Fatherhood Institute, Fulham FC Foundation, the EFL Trust and the University of Newcastle, Australia, to highlight the important role father and father-figures play in getting their daughters physical active.

The programme is supported through National Lottery funding from Sport England and replicates an award-winning initiative designed and delivered by the University of Newcastle, Australia.

The video campaign showcases women that have been influenced by a father or father-figure in becoming physically active through football. It also features stories from the Daughters and Dads participating in this new UK programme.

Women in Sport spoke to three women that have benefited from the support of their father or father-figure and now work professionally in the sports sector:

- Laura Hoggins, personal trainer, strongwomen and author
- Lucy Quinn, professional footballer for Birmingham City Women FC
- Anne-Marie Batson, broadcaster, and her uncle Brendon Batson, former footballer for Arsenal, Cambridge United and West Bromwich Albion

You can watch the full-length Daughters and Dads influencer video featuring all three women via Women in Sport's YouTube channel.

View the full news item

British Cycling (12 June 2019) HSBC UK Breeze welcomes 250,000th participant

British Cycling's flagship women's participation initiative, HSBC UK Breeze, has now welcomed over 250,000 riders, the governing body has announced.

Launched in June 2011, the initiative provides women across the country with the opportunity to get out on their bikes on free, women-only rides led by female volunteers – Breeze Champions – and is recognised as the biggest ever programme designed to get more women riding bikes.

HSBC UK Breeze is continuing to thrive as British Cycling steps up its bid to encourage one million more women to cycle by 2020, part of the organisation's attempts to narrow – and eventually close – the historic gender gap within the sport.

HSBC UK Breeze rides are completely free to attend, are suitable for any level of female cyclist, and take place all over the country. Further details are available here.

View the full news item

Women in Sport (13 June 2019) Women in Sport announce new CEO

Women in Sport, the leading UK charity that researches sport purely from the perspective of women and girls, is delighted to announce the appointment of Stephanie Hilborne OBE as its new CEO.

Stephanie, currently Chief Executive at The Wildlife Trusts, has worked in nature conservation for over 20 years. She is a successful and passionate campaigner for change, driving developments in both policy and government legislation including the introduction of the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 and the visionary Natural Environment White Paper 2011.

.....

View the full news item

Sport England (17 June 2019)

Busy mums encouraged to prioritise their own activity levels

This Girl Can has released a series of new tips, advice and home workout ideas on social media.

With new research showing that 61% of mums would feel guilty about taking time to exercise, This Girl Can is encouraging mothers to prioritise exercise.

A survey conducted by Opinium for us, showed that a lack of time is keeping busy mums from exercising, with 30% reporting to have less than an hour free to themselves per day.

But with almost 70% of mothers thinking it is important for their children to see them exercising, and our data showing that mothers have a greater influence on their children's activity levels than fathers, This Girl Can has released a series of new tips, advice and home workout ideas on social media.

The survey also showed that, outside of work, mothers said they were most likely to prioritise tasks revolving around family, such as spending time with them, housework and cooking, but only 17% of the 1,006 respondents prioritised their own exercise.

As part of the latest phase of the This Girl Can campaign, they have partnered with <u>LES MILLS On Demand</u> to offer a 21-day free trial to their home workouts, including a tailored introductory This Girl Can workout programme for those women who are new or returning to exercise.

View the full details

Rugby Football Union (19 June 2019) Warrior Camps reach new heights

Since the Inner Warrior campaign kicked off in January 2017, over 18,000 females have taken part in Warrior Camps in rugby clubs across the country.

Clubs are encouraged to host their events during the three-targeted campaigns through the year, in January, September and May. It is important to focus on recruitment through the season, and Warrior Camps help clubs to do this.

To find out more about Warrior Camps Click here.

Warrior Camps introduce participants to rugby skills through an active and supportive session where females of similar ages and motivations will give rugby a go together. There is no judgement, no pressure, just an opportunity to meet new people and have fun whilst learning something new.

View the full news item

Sport England (24 June 2019) This Girl Can partner British Cycling

New wave of campaign aims to get more women on two wheels via the HSBC UK Breeze programme.

This Girl Can has teamed up with British Cycling to target the historic gender gap in cycling participation and get more women on two wheels.

The national governing body's HSBC UK Breeze campaign is specifically aimed at women and provides hundreds of free rides up and down the country.

And now, This Girl Can is on board to bring together the expertise of both organisations and help show women that cycling is an option for them.

Taking the form of short films and imagery, all in the eye-catching style of previous This Girl Can activity, this new campaign aims to grow the 250,000 people that HSBC UK Breeze has already attracted since its 2011 launch.

This new six-week campaign will help to show mothers there is no guilt to be felt by prioritising their own activity and will be visible through a series of targeted social media films and pictorial adverts featuring real women who've all been involved in the HSBC UK Breeze programme.

View the full news item

Women in Sport (week beginning 24 June 2019) Project 51 Toolkit

This is our toolkit inspired by Project 51, a partnership project with <u>Sported</u> funded by <u>Comic Relief.</u> Project 51 aims to help girls in the most deprived areas of the UK fulfil their potential and use sport to overcome the impact of negative gender stereotypes.

Example page from the toolkit: THINK

In this section you can find practical advice and tools to help you better understand your audience (girls aged 11-18) and the gender stereotyping that affects them. As well as research and insights from Women in Sport, we'll also share supporting research from

external organisations about girls' lives, values and reasons to engage or disengage with sport that you might find helpful.

Understanding gender stereotypes

In this section we will provide you with background understanding about gender stereotyping and the negative impact it can have on girls engagement with sport.

Read about what gender stereotypes mean and the effect they have through the eyes of a teenage girl in this <u>blog from a girl's perspective</u>.

Read of recent cases of gender stereotyping in sport that have made national press. They call for changes to be made to avoid situations recurring.

- Girls denied football at school
- Teenage girl bullied for playing football
- 'No more boys and girls' social experiment

<u>Understanding gender stereotypes</u>: An introductory piece covering their prevalence in society generally and effects within a sporting context. Includes some practical activities and considerations.

This in depth <u>literature review</u> summarises key findings from existing industry reports and academic papers from sports, business and governance sectors, both nationally and internationally. It helps the reader to understand the reasons underlying the influence of gendered stereotypes on girls' sports participation.

A quick look at the stats behind girls' sport participation in the context of gender stereotyping.

View all the toolkit pages - Think, Say and Do

ukactive (27 June 2019)

Blog By Wendy Coulson, CEO, <u>Les Mills UK</u>: breaking down barriers to empower women to be active

Empowering women to be active is top of the activity agenda and rightly so. However, the leisure industry's work doesn't start when people walk through the doors of a

leisure centre. Superb studios, state-of-the-art gyms, dynamic PTs and instructors, Olympic sized pools and swish cafés all add to the overall experience – but you've got to get people through the door first to see this and enjoy it.

There are vast numbers of people – and women in particular – who are sat at home without the confidence, knowledge or motivation to step foot inside their local leisure centre. We need to break down their barriers to fitness in order to empower them to be active.

To engage with this important demographic we must take a few steps back and consider how to capture their interest and trust.

We must learn how to start that conversation and build their confidence. And for those women who are juggling busy lifestyles and young families, we must look for ways to enable them to fit fitness into their daily routine.

The industry is aware of the challenges and barriers to activity that many women face. At Last week's Active Uprising two presentations highlighted this exact topic.

Firstly, Tanni Grey-Thomspon hosted a discussion with Joanna Rowsell, Elena Lappera and Sophie Lawler around 'Empowering Women and Girls: from Grassroots to the Boardroom' session.

Secondly, Greg Whyte presented Ruth Lynch who told her story of how she rose from being a local activity hero to being the face of <u>Sport England</u>'s <u>This Girl Can</u> campaign. Both were aimed at all delegates – not in the optional streams – which should tell us something about how vital and important their 'take out' messages and calls to action are for the industry.

View the full blog

Publications of interest......

Women in Sport- E-Newsletter, June 2019 - available to view

Physical activity: encouraging activity in the community. Quality standard [QS183]. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 6 June 2019 (26 pages)

This quality standard covers how local strategy, policy and planning and improvements to the built or natural physical environment such as public open spaces, workplaces and schools can encourage and support people of all ages and all abilities to be physically active and move more. It describes high-quality care in priority areas for improvement.

It does not specifically cover encouraging physical activity in patients and carers who are in contact with the NHS. This is addressed by the NICE quality standard on physical activity: for NHS staff, patients and carers.

Download a copy

Girls Active 2017-2019. YST Research Report. Youth Sport Trust, May 2019 (21 pages)

As part of the Girls Active programmes run by the Youth Sport Trust, girls and boys in primary and secondary schools are asked to complete an online survey. The survey is distributed by teachers to pupils in their school. Each school receives an individual school report to capture an understanding of their school. There are two variations of the survey modified to be appropriate for each age group. There are some core questions within each survey, aiming to capture young people's current levels of activity, their barriers and motivators to physical activity and their perceptions of physical activity and sport. The secondary survey is slightly longer and captures data around extracurricular activity and wellbeing.

This report combines the data from all young people involved across two academic years 2017/18 and 2018/19.

The total number of primary aged pupil responses was 9,875. The total number of secondary aged pupil responses was 25,725. For both primary and secondary school samples, this consisted of 74 percent girls and 26 percent boys. As this is not representative of the population, the report predominantly focuses on the responses from the primary and secondary school girls, drawing comparisons to the boy's responses where appropriate.

Download a copy

USA

Inside the games reports (29 May 2019)

Seven-figure first prize on offer for first time at US Women's Open

A seven-figure prize will be on offer for the winner of the United States Women's Open for the first time at this year's edition of the women's Major in Illinois.

The United States Golf Association (USGA) confirmed the player who lifts the trophy Country Club of Charleston on Sunday (June 2), providing they are a professional, will receive \$1 million (£791,000/€896,000).

The total prize pot for the tournament, the second major on the women's circuit, is \$5.5 million (£4.3 million), \$500,000 (£396,000/€448,000) more than last year's competition.

View the full news item

Inside the games reports (4 June 2019)

McCook becomes first female USA Triathlon Board of Directors President

Jacqueline McCook has become the first woman to hold the role of President of the USA Triathlon Board of Directors, while Joel Rosinbum is the first elite Para-triathlete to become vice-president.

The appointments were announced as part of a number of organisational updates.

McCook, an independent Board member since 2013, replaces Bary Siff, who resigned in April to become the chief executive of USA Handball.

She had held the role of vice-president since December last year, and also serves on USA Triathlon's Compensation, International Relations and Marketing Committees.

.....

View the full news item

The Guardian (5 June 2019)

The NBA wants female head coaches. But how feasible is that goal?

The league's commissioner wants 50% of NBA referees to be women, and a similar increase in coaches. There are plenty of obstacles though.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver wants more female referees in the NBA. "I'm not sure how it was that it remained so male-dominated for so long," said Silver last month. And <u>Silver doesn't want to stop with referees</u>. "The goal going forward is that it should be roughly 50-50 of new officials entering in the league," he said. "Same for coaches, by the way. We have a program, too. There's no reason why women shouldn't be coaching men's basketball."

One would think the NBA can find plenty of qualified candidates among current and retired WNBA players. Of the six women with coaching experience in the NBA, all have ties to the WNBA. However, economic and cultural barriers remain that could limit the success of a WNBA to NBA coaching pathway.

In collaboration with the National <u>Basketball</u> Coaches Association (NBCA), the NBA developed a plan to diversify the coaching pool. "This all starts with developing good talent and creating opportunities for people to become qualified. Quota systems don't work. They're ineffective, and we're not interested in that. We're interested in a level playing field with regard to development," the NBCA president and Dallas Mavericks head coach, Rick Carlisle, told the Guardian.

Inside the games reports (18 June 2019)

Congresswoman proposes creation of panel to inspect USOC operations

A 16-member commission would be established to oversee the operations of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as part of reforms proposed by the chairperson of the Congressional Sub-Committee investigating the body.

Congresswoman Diana DeGette, chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations panel, unveiled the legislation prior to its introduction in the United States House of Representatives.

If it is approved, the panel will be created to examine how the USOC operates and produce a list of recommendations aimed at reforming its governance structure "to better protect the nation's top athletes" within nine months.

The commission would include at least eight Olympians and Paralympians, while the top Democratic and Republican lawmakers in both the House and Senate would each appoint four members.

All members of the 16-person panel would be given subpoena power.

They will be asked to evaluate how responsive the national governing bodies of each Olympic sports are to its athletes following a backlash against the USOC for the way it handled the sexual abuse scandal in gymnastics.

It will also look into whether whether the U.S. Center for SafeSport has the funding and staff it needs to effectively respond to any future reports of harassment and sexual assault while assessing the diversity of the USOC's Board members, its finances and whether it's achieving its own stated goals.

.....

View the full news item

Int J Exerc Sci. 2019 May 1;12(5):811-824. eCollection 2019. Household Support for Physical Activity in Adolescent Girls Living in Primarily Low Socioeconomic Status Neighborhoods. Rupp K et al

Author information

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine the association between perception of household support and physical activity levels of adolescent girls living in primarily low socioeconomic status (SES) neighborhoods.

The sample consisted of thirty-six adolescent girls (N=36; 60% non-Hispanic Black; mean age of 14.6 ± 1.3 [mean \pm sd]; median body mass index (BMI) percentile of 90.5 [58.5, 97.0]) living in primarily low socioeconomic status (SES) neighborhoods. Trained researchers measured participants' height and weight, and administered questionnaires to assess perception of household support for physical activity and minutes per day participating in moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA) (3-Day Physical Activity Recall). Pearson's correlation, controlling for race, age, and BMI, was used to evaluate the association between perception of household support and adolescents' MVPA levels.

There were no significant associations between measures of the perception of household support for physical activity and adolescents' MVPA levels. There were significant negative associations between total adult household support for physical activity (r=-0.51; p<.01) with BMI and the support provided by the closest adult in the household (r=-0.55; p<.01) with BMI.

These data suggest that support for physical activity in the household for adolescents with higher BMI's may be warranted.

View the 14-page article