



IAPESGW International Update, June 2018: News and resources from around the world

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IAPESGW Regional event - International Congress Cubamotricidad 22 - 26 October 2018, Havana Convention Center, Cuba

The World Organization of Stimulation, Education and Child Development (OMEEDI), the International Association of Physical Education and Sports for Girls and Women (IAPESGW), the International Association of Sports for All (TAFISA) with the National Institute of Sports , Physical Education and Recreation (INDER) of the Republic of Cuba, with the auspice of prestigious institutions and international organizations are convening the International Congress Cubamotricidad 2018, which will take place from October 22nd to 26th at the Havana Convention Center, Cuba.

[View a flyer for the event in English](#)

[View a flyer for the event in Spanish](#)

June Editorial

We are at the midpoint of the year with summer holidays in the north and winter weather in the south. And most of us have to contend with the end of the financial year. Good luck!

It is also only a year away to our Madrid Regional Congress in Spain, 10-13 July 2019. An early reminder as travel bookings are cheaper when booked a year in advance! And it's only a few months to our Regional Congress in Havana, Cuba from 21-26 October 2018.

This International Update features many pages on the reaction to the IAAF's new eligibility regulations for female athletes with Differences of Sexual Development for events from 400 metres to the mile and hurdles.

We have covered the IAAF regulation details and the responses from various organisations (IWG, Women's Sport Foundation and Athletics Canada) and our own statement which calls for "more independent research and consultation with experts and academics outside the IAAF".

To present a balanced approach we have also included some responses from wider sources as this topic has certainly raised discussion on what it means to be female, what is fair and natural in women's sport and how do feminists respond to this type of regulation. Feminism is a broad church; we don't always agree, and that is OK.

IAPESGW welcomes feedback on the IAAF regulations. Please send your comments, whether positive or negative to the Editor and we will include in our next edition.

Also of note in this edition is the World Health Organization's launch of a Global Action Plan on Physical Activity because one in five adults and four out of five adolescents do not get enough physical activity. What terrible statistics.

There is a lot of interesting news from the UK, as usual, plus articles from Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Iran, Israel, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA.

Again more publications for you to read. Plus a must read of the IWG's Progress Report 2013-2018 which was presented in Botswana last month.

Janice Crosswhite OAM
Communications Director

International

More output from the recent IWG Conference...

From Helsinki to Gaborone IWG Progress Report - 2013-2018. International Working Group on Women and Sport , June 2017 (44 pages)

This report continues a commitment of the IWG, since its inception in 1994, to produce a report of recorded progress for women and sport every four years and to construct a legacy. In 2014, the IWG Secretariat moved to Gaborone, Botswana. The report contains the results from a study of the signatories of the Declarations, covering the global progress made within the women and sport movement since the cut-off point for data collection for the previous Progress Report (2013), throughout the period of the Botswanan Secretariat until 2018. The study was based around the principles of the Brighton Plus Helsinki 2014 Declaration. Data was gathered by the use of SurveyXact – an online tool for administration of questionnaires, and case studies collected through Skype interviews and e-mail correspondence. The

material was provided by 158 organisations, which gives an overall response rate of 37%. The largest group came from Europe, and the National Federations/Associations are the largest organisational type represented in the study.

[Download a copy](#)

There has been wide reaction to this IAAF announcement - first the background...

International Associations of Athletics Federations (26 April 2018)

IAAF introduces new eligibility regulations for female classification

The IAAF this week issued new Eligibility Regulations [[English](#) | [French](#)] for Female Classification (Athlete with Differences of Sexual Development) for events from 400m to the mile, including 400m, hurdles races, 800m, 1500m, one mile races and combined events over the same distances ('Restricted Events').

The new regulations require any athlete who has a Difference of Sexual Development (DSD) that means her levels of circulating testosterone (in serum) are five (5) nmol/L or above and who is androgen-sensitive to meet the following criteria to be eligible to compete in Restricted Events in an International Competition (or set a world record in a Restricted Event at competition that is not an International Competition):

- (a) she must be recognised at law either as female or as intersex (or equivalent);
- (b) she must reduce her blood testosterone level to below five (5) nmol/L for a continuous period of at least six months (e.g., by use of hormonal contraceptives); and
- (c) thereafter she must maintain her blood testosterone level below five (5) nmol/L continuously (i.e.: whether she is in competition or out of competition) for so long as she wishes to remain eligible.

These new regulations, approved by the IAAF Council in March, will come into effect from 1 November 2018 and replace the previous Regulations Governing Eligibility of Females with Hyperandrogenism to Compete in Women's Competition, which no longer apply anywhere in the sport.

- Explanatory Notes: IAAF Eligibility Regulations for the Female Classification
[\[English\]](#) | [\[French\]](#)

[View the full details](#)

Further developments.....

International Associations of Athletics Federations (19 June 2018)

IAAF statement on CAS arbitration of new female classification regulations

The Court of Arbitration for Sport has informed the IAAF this morning (19 June 2018) that it has received a request for arbitration filed by Caster Semenya vs/ IAAF. We await further information and stand ready to defend the new regulations which were introduced to address the following issue in Athletics:

Sex differences in physical attributes such as muscle size and strength and circulating haemoglobin levels give male athletes an insurmountable competitive advantage over female athletes in sports where size, strength and power matter. These advantages (which translate, in athletics, to an average 10-12% performance difference across all disciplines) make competition between men and women as meaningless and unfair as an adult competing against a child or a heavyweight boxer competing against a flyweight. Only men would qualify for elite-level competition; the best female athlete would not come close to qualifying.

The evidence gathered by the experts consulted by the IAAF (both peer-reviewed research and observational data from the field) suggests that having levels of circulating testosterone in the normal male range rather than in the normal female range, and being androgen-sensitive gives a female DSD athlete a performance advantage of at least 5-6% over a female athlete with testosterone levels in the normal female range (which is an enormous difference in events where milliseconds count). The effects are most clearly seen in races over distances between 400m and one mile, where the combination of increased lean body mass and elevated circulating haemoglobin appears to have the greatest combined impact.

[Source of information](#)

IAPESGW Statement.....

IAPESGW Statement on new IAAF Eligibility Regulations for Female Classification (22 June 2018)

The IAAF issued new Eligibility Regulations for Female Classification for events from 400m to the mile, including 400m, hurdles races, 800m, 1500m, one mile races and combined events over the same distances. These new regulations, approved by the IAAF Council in March 2018, will come into effect in November 2018.

For almost 70 years, IAPESGW has represented the interests of girls and women at all levels and in all areas of physical education, dance and sport.

IAPESGW promotes values like human dignity, gender equity, and respect for diversity in sport and therefore expresses strong concerns regarding these new regulations for female classification.

The new eligibility ruling is predominantly based on IAAF research and internal consultations. IAPESGW calls for independent research and consultations with experts and academics outside IAAF.

Moreover, IAPESGW believes that concerned athletes must have a say with guaranteed confidentiality and privacy.

Due to the current lack of independent research and consultations concerning hyperandrogenism and sport, IAPESGW demands a substantial review of the IAAF eligibility ruling.

Some other reactions / statements.....

IWG OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE CONTROVESIAL NEW POLICY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETICS FEDERATIONS - 1 May 2018

The International Working Group for Women and Sport (IWG) joins with like-minded individuals and organizations world over to urge the International Association of Athletics

Federations (IAAF) to reconsider and withdraw its recently announced 'eligibility regulations for female classification'. These new regulations target only females with higher levels of naturally occurring testosterone than average. The regulations focus only on women and only this one hormone as an ostensible causative factor leading to 'unfair competitive advantage'. Organizations such as Athletics Canada, Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport (CAAWS), Women's Sports Foundation, USA, and numerous organization on the African continent have already rejected the imposition of the regulations. A South African lawyer, Steve Cornelius, appointee to the IAAF Disciplinary Tribunal has resigned his post in protest to the regulations he described as 'fundamentally flawed and, most likely, unlawful' and the 'warped ideology behind the regulations'.

[View the full 2-page statement](#)

Women's Sport Foundation Responds to IAAF's Proposed Eligibility Regulations for Female Classification

The new policy issued by the IAAF, the international governing body for track and field, regarding eligibility regulations for female classification is discriminatory. It is the position of the Women's Sports Foundation that eligibility standards for women's sports that require an athlete to demonstrate particular hormone levels perpetuate the historical discrimination that has been prevalent in women's sports for decades and leads to unwarranted invasions of privacy not only for athletes with high testosterone levels, but any athlete whose femininity is questioned.

[View their response](#)

Athletics Canada Statement on new IAAF Eligibility Regulations for Female Classification (30 April 2018)

Last week the IAAF issued new Eligibility Regulations for Female Classification for events from the 400-metres to the mile, including the 400-metre hurdles, 800-metres and 1500-metres.

Athletics Canada has serious concerns with last week's announcement from the IAAF regarding hyperandrogenism testing. In Canada, we encourage the full access for all Canadians to participate and compete in athletics, at every level of our sport free of discrimination. Athletics Canada believes in the principles of inclusion, respect and health and safety. We intend to review the IAAF eligibility ruling in detail, and we will be discussing it with our Provincial members, the CCES, CAAWS, the Federal Government and other National Sports Organizations. We believe this IAAF eligibility ruling requires rigorous review.

There are two detailed articles on the subject on the Sports Integrity Initiative website that we are highlighting to you:

Questions remain over IAAF Differences of Sex Development Regulations (19 May 2018)

Andy Brown - *Andy has been writing about the governance of sport for over 15 years. Prior to working on the Sports Integrity Initiative, he was the editor of World Sports Law Report for*

eight years. He has also worked for the Press Association and has written for numerous trade magazines. He has also created, chaired and spoken at numerous conferences on the business of sport, and produced the Sports Law Show for iSportConnect TV.

One of the central tenets of most sports is that competition is split into male and female categories, based on the perception that males enjoy a performance advantage in certain sporting events due to differences in size, strength and power. This used to be carried out through an examination of female anatomy to determine whether they were eligible to compete in the female or male category.

At the 1966 European Championships in Budapest, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) required all female athletes to undergo a naked examination in front of a panel of physicians. This approach was later abandoned in favour of a chromatin test, which would followed by a physical examination if anything other than XX chromosomes was revealed.

Later still, this was abandoned as being inadequate, as some women who had genetic abnormalities that offered no performance advantage were disqualified unfairly. It was also found that a number of conditions could affect the results of the test. Gender examinations resumed, but remained controversial and unpopular with athletes.

At the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) reverted to the chromatin test. Of 3,387 athletes screened, eight were found to have a chromosome make up that was not XX. All eight were later permitted to complete, after it was found that seven had either partial or full androgen insensitivity, and one had undergone surgery to remove undescended testicles.

Which brings us to Caster Semenya. In 2011, the IAAF implemented the Hyperandrogenism Regulations, following outrage at a gender test being conducted on a then-19 Semenya.

“She is a woman, but maybe not 100%”, Pierre Weiss, General Secretary of the IAAF, [told](#) media at the time. The concern was that Semenya enjoyed an unfair performance advantage over her competitors due to her higher testosterone levels.

[View the full article](#)

IAAF response to article on its Differences of Sex Development Regulations (1 June 2018)

Jonathan Taylor QC, Partner, For and on behalf of Bird & Bird LLP

Dear Andy

Thank you for agreeing to publish this reply on behalf of the IAAF to the two articles you have recently published on the IAAF’s Eligibility Regulations for the Female Classification (Athletes with Differences in Sex Development) (the ‘DSD Regulations’).

This article ([click here](#) for a PDF version) was published in response to the 19 May 2018 article, [‘Questions remain over IAAF Differences of Sex Development Regulations’](#).

That article was revised to take into account the written and oral response of Taylor to the original article, ‘Subterfuge continues with IAAF Differences of Sex Development Regulations’, which was published on 30 April 2018.

[View the article](#)

World Health Organization (4 June 2018)

WHO launches Global Action Plan on Physical Activity

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is today joining Prime Minister António Costa of Portugal to launch the new ["WHO Global action plan on physical activity and health 2018-2030: More active people for a healthier world."](#)

"Being active is critical for health. But in our modern world, this is becoming more and more of a challenge, largely because our cities and communities aren't designed in the right ways," said Dr Tedros. "We need leaders at all levels to help people to take the healthier step. This works best at city level, where most responsibility lies for creating healthier spaces."

Worldwide, one in five adults, and four out of five adolescents (11-17 years), do not do enough physical activity. Girls, women, older adults, poorer people, people with disabilities and chronic diseases, marginalized populations, and indigenous people have fewer opportunities to be active.

Regular physical activity is key to preventing and treating noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and breast and colon cancer. NCDs are responsible for 71% of all deaths globally, including for the deaths of 15 million people per year aged 30 to 70.

The action plan shows how countries can reduce physical inactivity in adults and adolescents by 15% by 2030. It recommends a set of 20 policy areas, which combined, aim to create more active societies through improving the environments and opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to do more walking, cycling, sport, active recreation, dance and play.

It also calls for support to, for example, training of health care workers and other professionals, stronger data systems, as well as use of digital technologies.

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[View the full news item](#)

The plan....

Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030: More active people for a healthier world. World Health Organization, June 2018 (104 pages)

WHO has developed a new global action plan to help countries scale up policy actions to promote physical activity. It responds to the requests by countries for updated guidance, and a framework of effective and feasible policy actions to increase physical activity at all levels. The plan sets out four objectives and recommends 20 policy actions that are applicable to all countries and address the cultural, environmental and individual determinants of inactivity. A key feature of this new plan is its call for a "systems-based" approach where effective implementation will require bold leadership combined with cross-government and multisectoral partnerships at all levels to achieve a coordinated, whole-of-system response. Working in partnerships, WHO will support countries to implement a whole-of-community approach to increase levels of physical activity in people of all ages and abilities. Global, regional and national coordination and capacity will be strengthened to respond to needs for technical support, innovation and guidance.

[Download a copy](#)

Child Protection in Sport Unit, NSPCC in the UK reports (15 June 2018)

Launch of new sport parenting resources

After 18 months of meetings, reviews, and discussion, Sport Parent EU has launched a series of resources to help sports parents to improve their children's sporting experiences.

Led by [Swansea University, Sport Parent EU](#), which was co-funded by the [Erasmus+ programme](#) of the European Union, has drawn on expertise of academics and practitioners working across Europe in the field of youth sport to provide better support for parents.

The launch took place through two conferences, one for coaches and one for parents and was well attended both in person and through the live online stream.

Those who had a chance to attend enjoyed learning about a range of topics from keeping children safe in sport, to supporting children's psychological and physical development.

A range of practical tips helped to reassure and stimulate change among parents and coaches, and many myths were busted about talent, physical training, nutrition, and parenting a child involved in sport.

Visit the [Sport Parent EU website](#) for further information and to download the resources.

You can watch videos of the launch event through the Sport Parent EU [YouTube channel](#).
[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (21 June 2018)

AIBA claim they have made "significant changes" towards gender equality after pressure from IOC

The International Boxing Association (AIBA) today announced a series of changes it has made to its policy in favour of gender equality in boxing.

In an effort to promote and encourage female participation throughout the sport, AIBA claimed it has taken a big step forward by increasing its quotas for women, both in the ring and on its ruling Executive Board.

It follows pressure on the world governing body from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to achieve greater gender equality.

In March, AIBA unveiled a diversity in boxing programme which it claimed will be used to help National Federations access various initiatives in the coming years.

The focus is being placed on developing youth and women's boxing initiatives.

The latter is significant, with AIBA claiming that it will significantly increase the number of female boxers competing,

The IOC removed two weight categories from the men's competition to make way for two women's at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo - against the wishes of the majority of AIBA officials.

The IOC have insisted, though, that the decision is final.

[View the full news item](#)

Beyond Sport reports (28 June 2018)

Launch of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights

This week, a first of its kind centre to foster respect for human rights in the world of sport was launched in Geneva.

The new Centre for Sport and Human Rights has been under development over the past two and half years by a [diverse coalition](#) including FIFA, the International Olympic Committee, Commonwealth Games Federation, and UEFA, as well as a broad range of intergovernmental organisations, governments, athletes, hosts, sponsors, broadcasters, civil society representatives, trade unions, employers associations, and national human rights institutions.

Administered by international think tank the [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) (IHRB), the Centre will be based in Geneva, Switzerland and operate globally, supporting all actors including host organising committees and sports bodies, and affected groups such as workers and unions, athletes, communities, journalists, volunteers and fans, to share knowledge, build capacity, and strengthen accountability.

The nearly 40 founding members of the [Advisory Council](#) of the new Centre met today for the Centre's inaugural bi-annual strategic meeting. Marking the official launch, they were welcomed with [remarks](#) by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al

Hussein, the Director-General of the ILO Guy Ryder, and the Centre's founding Chair Mary Robinson (former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights).

[View the full news item](#)

A study from Iran.....

[J Res Health Sci](#). 2018 Apr 7;18(2):e00409. Assessment of the Efficacy of Physical Activity Level and Lifestyle Behavior Interventions Applying Social Cognitive Theory for Overweight and Obese Girl Adolescents. Bagherniya M et al

[Author information](#)

Abstract

Background: Childhood obesity has become a global epidemic and physical inactivity and considered as one of the most important contributing factors. We aimed to evaluate a school-based physical activity intervention using social cognitive theory (SCT) to increase physical activity behavior in order to prevent obesity among overweight and obese adolescent girls.

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial study.

Methods: A seven-month randomized controlled trial based on SCT was implemented with 172 overweight and obese girl students (87 in intervention and 85 in control group), with the presence of their parents and teachers. Activities of the trial included: Sports workshops, physical-activity consulting private sessions, free practical and competitive sports sessions, family exercise sessions, text messages, and newsletters. Body Mass Index (BMI) and Waist Circumference (WC) were measured and questionnaires about duration of physical activity,

duration of screen time (watching television and playing computer games) and psychological variables regarding the SCT constructs were obtained.

Results: Duration of physical activity (in minutes) and most of psychological variables (self-efficacy, social support, and intention) significantly increased at post-intervention, while hours of watching television and playing computer were significantly decreased ($P < 0.001$). The subjects' mean BMI and WC reduced in the intervention group from 29.47 (4.05) kg/m² to 28.5 (4.35) kg/m² and 89.65 (8.15) cm to 86.54 (9.76) cm, although they were not statistically significant compared with the control group ($P = 0.127$ and $P = 0.504$, respectively).

Conclusions: School-based intervention using SCT led to an increase in the duration of physical activity and reduction in the duration of screen time in overweight and obese adolescent girls.

[View the 6-page article](#)

Specific countries

AUSTRALIA

An event coming up in Australia:

Konnnect Learning - Women in Sport Summit 2018 21 - 23 August 2018, Melbourne Cricket Ground

Women make up 51% of the population and hold the purchasing power in 72% of households. Yet most sporting codes do not actively encourage female participation, marketing messages do not speak to women and future leagues are in their infancy. As

women begin to take centre stage in typically male dominated arena now is the time to focus on the issues that will shape its future.

This event highlights the key areas where female audiences, athletes, and executives are growing and changing the business of sport. It features CEOs, General Managers, Marketers, Commercial Managers, Participation Managers and athletes interrogating how sports organisations can drive equality and grow their businesses with increased female engagement across the board.

[View more details](#)

CANADA

Inside the games reports (20 June 2018)

Minister announces stronger measures to eliminate harassment and abuse in Canadian sport

Stronger measures to eliminate harassment, abuse and discrimination in the Canadian sport system have been announced by Kirsty Duncan, the country's Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities.

Duncan, who has been working with sport partners, has reiterated that all Canadians deserve to participate and compete in a sport environment, free from harassment, abuse or discrimination, regardless of gender, race, religion, language, age and ability.

New provisions in funding agreements will support eligible sport organisations in fostering healthy and safe workplace environments.

Federally-funded sport organisations must take all necessary measures to create a workplace free from harassment, abuse or discrimination of any kind.

They must immediately disclose any incident of harassment, abuse or discrimination that could compromise the project or programming to the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities.

[View the full news item](#)

CYPRUS

Inside the games reports (6 June 2018)

Cyprus Olympic Committee launch scheme to promote women in leadership roles

An initiative aimed at promoting women in leadership roles within sport has been launched by the Cyprus Olympic Committee (COC).

The COC have begun the scheme by initiating a training programme, which started last month.

The first session was attended by former International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission chairperson Claudia Bokel.

Bokel, who won a silver medal in fencing at the 2004 Olympics in Athens and served on the IOC Executive Board, was a guest speaker at the opening event in Nicosia. The programme, entitled "promoting women as sports executives", will be held under the guidance of the COC's Women in Sport Commission.

[View the full news item](#)

IRAN

Editor - thanks once again to our national rep Robabeh Rostami for supplying an overview of activity in Iran for June, and all the excellent photographs, in a very informative news compilation - **view the June edition [here](#)**

An example:

The appointment of the first Director General of the Provincial Women's History of Sport of Iran (9 June 2018)

Minister of Sports and Youth appointed Mariam Bakhshi as Director General of Sport and Youth in Guilan province.



ISRAEL

Inside the games reports (18 June 2018)

Olympic Committee of Israel signs Gender Equality Charter

The Olympic Committee of Israel (OCI) has pledged to end gender discrimination by signing a Gender Equality Charter.

The Charter, a guiding document addressed to all sports stakeholders in Israel, was signed at the OCI's annual general assembly held in Tel Aviv.

It was signed by both the chief executive and President of the OCI, Gilad Lustig and Yigal Carmi, along with Suzy Yogev, chair of the Gender Equality Committee.

It means the OCI has pledged to create, maintain and ensure equal opportunities in sport, at all stages of training and participation.

It also means they will put in "every effort" to prevent any form of discrimination or inequality between men and women.

[View the full news item](#)

NEW ZEALAND

Female Coaching Network (4 June 2018)

Very few women coaching NZ National teams

Women, you've got more chance of running the country than coaching a national sports team.

After all, three women have been prime minister, while only White Ferns coach Haidee Tiffen holds the top spot in one of New Zealand's main team sports.

Tiffen realises she is in a role of privilege, but she was never going to let gender get in the way of coaching her former team.

Between New Zealand's top team sports; netball, cricket, basketball, hockey, rugby and rugby league – 10 out of 12 coaches are male. Tiffen is joined by fellow female, Silver Ferns coach Janine Southby for the time being.

Historically New Zealand sports organisations haven't hit the pass mark in appointing women coaches.

Tiffen knows she is a rare ruby in the coaching sphere and said it was important for her to help grow the women's game and encourage other female coaches to come through the ranks.

[View the full news item](#)

SOUTH AFRICA

Female Coaching Network (30 May 2018)

New programme to boost black women tennis coaches pleases Mochoele (South Africa)

Lindiwe Mochoele, a volunteer tennis coach in the Pretoria township of Mamelodi for more than 10 years, is hopeful that a new coaching mentorship programme will boost the sport she loves.

The unemployed 50-year-old works with 45 players, from young kids to adults, at the Rethabile sports ground, where vandals have left the bathrooms unusable and two of the four tar courts are in a state of disrepair.

But the coach of more than 10 years beams when she talks about the potential of players, like her 17-year-old star Bashimane Leshaba.

Tennis South Africa (TSA) on Tuesday announced BNP Paribas would sponsor the mentorship programme that will upskill 45 coaches — black or female — in the first year starting next month.

CEO Richard Glover said the deal with the banking group was renewable on a yearly basis, but declined to disclose the value, except to say it would cover the full cost of the project, aimed creating more women coaches.

Men dominate in South Africa, making up 70% of licensed coaches.

The programme will also assist with job placements for the coaches.

Mochoele, who taught herself to play hitting a ball against a wall at her club, will be among the 2018 intake, of which 44% are women.

[View the full news item](#)

SPAIN

A news item received from one of our members....

María José Rienda has been appointed the president of the National Sports Council of Spain, with the rank of Secretary of State for Sport. It is the first president woman in the history of the National Sports Council of Spain.

Regards, Marilín

Dra. M^a Dolores González Rivera (PhD)
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UK

England Golf (29 May 2018)

England Golf pledges support to The R&A's Women's Charter

England Golf has become one of the first signatories to The R&A's new Women in Golf Charter, pledging to get more women and girls playing, working and volunteering in golf. The Charter was launched today and aims to inspire an industry-wide commitment to a more inclusive culture, enabling women and girls to flourish and reach their potential at all levels of the sport.

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England Golf's commitment is highlighted within its own organisation where 51% of the staff, 30% of the Board and 25% of the senior management team are female.

The over-arching theme of its strategy, *Growing the Game of Golf in England*, is to get more women and girls into golf.

Successful initiatives include Girls Golf Rocks which is running in 21 counties and has attracted 1600 girls to try the sport so far this season – with some results still to come in. That's up by 84% on last year.

The Get into Golf campaign attracted 40% female participation last year and has just been relaunched with a bold, modern look designed to appeal to a younger female audience.

The Women in Golf Charter specifically aims to:

- Strengthen the focus on gender balance and provide a united position for the golf industry
- Commit national federations and organisations to support measures targeted at increasing participation of women, girls and families in golf
- Call on signatories to take positive action to support the recruitment, retention and progression of women working at all levels of the sport
- Set individual targets for national federations for participation and membership and annual reporting of progress
- Develop an inclusive environment for women and girls within golf

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[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (29 May 2018)

Lawrie and Booth back mixed-gender format for European Golf Team Championships

Scottish golf stars Paul Lawrie and Carly Booth have each backed the mixed team format due to take place for the first time at the European Golf Team Championships taking place at Gleneagles in August.

The event will be held from August 7 to 12 as part of the multi-sport European Championships being held across Glasgow and Berlin.

A 50/50 split of men and women will compete for equal prize money in separate male and female Team Match Play Championships.

They will then join together for an 18-hole foursomes strokeplay Mixed Team Championship.

Teams will consist of two male and two female players, with a maximum of three teams representing any one nation in each event.

[View the full news item](#)

Lawn Tennis Association (6 June 2018)

She Rallies: Judy Murray inspires women and girls in Bristol and Galashiels

Judy Murray has called on women to become role models in their communities and become part of a nationwide drive to inspire more girls to play tennis.

Murray was speaking at an event in Coombe Dingle in Bristol on behalf of She Rallies, an organisation that she founded with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) two years ago to retain and increase the number of female players and coaches across the UK.

The event saw 100 teenage girls take part in a range of tennis activities, and also trained up 60 women (18+) to become She Rallies Activators - volunteers tasked with running community based tennis programmes for girls.

The She Rallies Activators will be trained to deliver a number of programmes aimed at girls between the ages of 5 to 16, including Lil Miss-Hits - a tennis starter programme for 5 and 8 year olds, and Teen Girls' Starter Tennis days, which will provide team activities for groups of teenage girls with an introduction to the skills needed to play tennis.
Get involved!

A number of local courses are taking place for women over the age of 18 to train as She Rallies Activators. [Find a course near you](#) and sign up today>

[View the full news item](#)

Women in Sport (7 June 2018)

Women in Sport and British Weight Lifting Launch #StrongIsNotASize Campaign

Today, [Women in Sport](#) and [British Weight Lifting](#) launch a joint social media campaign #StrongIsNotASize to empower women of all abilities to feel comfortable and confident stepping into weights areas in gyms.

Consultation and conversations with hundreds of women across the country have revealed that strength is personal; it can be physical or emotional and everyone finds it in their own way. Lifting weights is one-way women can find their strong, but weights areas in gyms can be intimidating places to look for it and this campaign aims to change this.

The campaign will challenge the gender stereotypes associated with weight lifting, celebrate women 'finding their strong' and ultimately encourage more women to get lifting.

[View the full news item](#)

Women's Sports Network (7 June 2018)

The Women's Sports Network launches MoJoManuals on 13 June

A series of manuals to help teenage girls starting out in competitive sport to develop greater body confidence & sport-related skills.

MoJoManuals are about 'Physical Literacy' - stable, confident movement around sport and in life. They also cover a range of other emotive issues such as: body image, diet, breast

health, fit or thin, social media, training with menstruation, coach attitude etc. – which often impact how girls engage/drop out of sport – and potentially go on to be elite athletes and confident, mature young women outside of sport.

ROWMoJo, FOOTBALLMoJo & LACROSSEMoJo will be launched at The Women in Sport and Exercise Conference 2018, - Staffordshire University, Staffordshire, UK on 13 June.

Information received by email

[View more information on the Women's Sports Network website](#)

And.....

Women's Sport Net (18 June 2018)

FOOTBALLMoJo

Launched for the World Cup 2018 - to get more teen GIRLS playing the beautiful game.

Online 'sampler' copy - [\(click HERE to view\)](#)

GIRLS play more FOOTBALL with FOOTBALLMoJo - To help teen girls overcome some of the issues they face getting into competitive football – and to help parents, coaches & teachers steer and encourage girls to play football.

Received by email

Sustrans (12 June 2018)

Women in UK cities have a positive perception of cycling, yet 73% never ride a bike

Almost three quarters (73%) of women living in seven major UK cities never ride a bike for local journeys.

Despite this, over two-thirds (68%) say their city would be a better place to live and work if more people cycled, new data reveals.

['Women: reducing the gender gap'](#), published today by Sustrans, details women's travel habits, views and attitudes towards cycling.

The report, which is part of the Bike Life project, is based on an ICM independent survey of over 7,700 residents living in Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Newcastle and Greater Manchester.

The report also revealed:

Twice as many men as women (24% and 12% respectively) currently ride a bike at least once a week in all seven cities.

- Differences in participation between men and women appear to be less pronounced in cities with higher overall cycling uptake. For example, in Bristol, which has the highest

cycling rates of all seven cities, 18% of women ride a bike at least once a week, in comparison to 32% of men.

- Across the cities, the vast majority of women surveyed (77%) feel that cycling safety needs to be improved.

Despite these findings, almost a third (30%) who currently do not cycle say they would like to start riding. 76% of women who already cycle or want to start would find cycle lanes that are physically separated from traffic very helpful to cycle more.

The majority of women surveyed recognise cycling is good for their health and say more people cycling would have a positive impact on reducing traffic and air pollution.

.....
[View the full news item](#)

The report....

Women: reducing the gender gap - Inclusive city cycling. Bike Life - All cities publication. Sustrans, June 2018 (11 pages)

A city that is designed for cycling is successful when its bike riding population reflects the wider population of residents living in that city. People from all genders, ages, backgrounds, social classes and disabilities can use a bicycle to get about.

This report focusing on women presents new data from Bike Life collected in 2017¹ that explores different factors relating to how cycling can make our cities more liveable.

Unless specified, data presented in this report is from Bike Life. The categories 'women' and 'men' from the Bike Life survey include all people who identified as female or male over the age of 16. Whilst this study focuses on gender and cycling it should be acknowledged that women and men are not homogenous groups. Many intersecting characteristics will influence how women experience mobility and make choices about cycling.

[Download a copy](#)

British Cycling (14 June 2018)

HSBC UK Breeze celebrates seventh birthday at OVO Energy Women's Tour with 200,000 riders milestone

British Cycling and HSBC UK's women's only initiative – HSBC UK Breeze – is celebrating its seventh birthday as well as having filled 200,000 places on its free led rides.

The UK-wide programme, which offers women of all abilities the chance to get back into cycling via fun, free, female-led bike rides has proved to be a huge success in its seven years, making cycling more welcoming to women.

To mark the milestone, a group of local ride leaders – or Breeze Champions - from Northamptonshire will take part in a procession ride in the historic market town of Daventry, the finishing point of the second stage of the 2018 OVO Energy Women's Tour.

.....
In the last year over 51,000 places were filled on women-only HSBC UK Breeze rides across the country. This is an 8% increase on the previous year and one of the most successful years since the start of the programme.

#Bree7e

June marks the seventh anniversary of HSBC UK Breeze, which has so far delivered over 40,000 women-only rides across the country. Help celebrate our seventh birthday by joining us on a ride near you, and visit: www.letsride.co.uk

[View the full news item](#)

Women in Sport (20 June 2018)

Women in Sport launch Beyond 30% Workplace Culture in Sport report

Leading UK charity Women in Sport, today released 'Beyond 30% – Workplace Culture in Sport', which delves under the surface of the workplace in sport and reveals a serious gender discrimination problem in the sector.

The report presents new findings and conclusions about workplace culture in sports organisations in the UK, such as National Governing Bodies, leisure organisations, County Sport Partnerships, commercial sports clubs and agencies and sports charities. The report does not include athletes, volunteers or coaches.

A survey of 1152 women and men working in sport, plus 42 in-depth interviews, carried out between September 2017 and March 2018, revealed that **some women working in sport feel less valued, actively experience gender discrimination, believe they are paid less for doing the same role as men, face more challenges to progress and feel unfairly judged.**

[View the full news item](#)

The report...

BEYOND 30%: Workplace Culture in Sport. Women in Sport, June 2018 (25 pages)

Currently women are under-represented in senior leadership roles and on Boards in the sector. There is also evidence of discrimination and negative workplace culture. This needs to change in order to create an environment in which both women and men thrive and to nurture the pipeline of talented female leaders for the future.

Headline findings:

- There is a clear gap in terms of how women and men feel in the workplace and evidence of discrimination.
- An emphasis on sporting competence as a measure of professional value, limits opportunities for capable women with the relevant skills, within the sector.
- Redressing the gender imbalance at the top, is not enough. In addition, it is vital to address the barriers within the culture of sports organisations.
- Culture change must happen throughout the organisation, from grass roots participation through to the Board, in order to be sustainable.
- This is not about men versus women, but progress, opportunity and a better working environment for all.
- Men as well as women need to be part of the solution with positive engagement from the top and clear sight of the benefits to all.

- The first step, however, is for organisations to identify the cultural issues that exist.

Women in Sport want the number of women leading and influencing in sport to grow, and to develop solutions to the cultural barriers which currently exist.

[Download a copy](#)

Table Tennis England (21 June 2018)

'Paving the way for women in ping pong'

Table Tennis England and Ping Pong Fight Club are 'paving the way for women in ping pong' with their new partnership.

The two companies joined forces to promote female participation in the sport, by supporting and encouraging all-women teams to take up table tennis in the workplace and compete on behalf of their companies across the country.

As part of the new partnership, Table Tennis England is providing coaching sessions to all-women teams taking part in Ping Pong Fight Club events.

[View the full news item](#)

Cycling UK (26 June 2018)

Breaking the mould: Cycling UK names its 100 Women in Cycling for 2018

In the wake of recent statistics suggesting that almost three-quarters of women never cycle, Cycling UK has released the names of its 100 Women in Cycling for 2018, a list which highlights and celebrates women who love cycling and encourage others to too. Women from all walks of life and every corner of the cycling world are included, from mountain bikers and endurance cyclists to community group leaders, cycling school-run mums and industry entrepreneurs – and even a pair of cycling suffragettes.

[View the details](#)

Youth Sport Trust (28 June 2018)

The FA and Youth Sport Trust celebrate engaging more girls

As England prepare to face Belgium in the FIFA World Cup today, the FA and Youth Sport Trust are celebrating engaging hundreds of female football activators through the Game of Our Own partnership during National School Sport Week.

The FA and the Youth Sport Trust have released new figures which reveal how more girls are being inspired into football during National School Sport Week.

As England prepare to face Belgium in the [FIFA World Cup](#) today, the [FA](#) and Youth Sport Trust are celebrating engaging hundreds of young female football activators through the Game of Our Own partnership during [National School Sport Week](#).

The FA is striving to increase the number of girls and women playing football across the country as part of its Gameplan for Growth strategy, which aims to double the number of females participating in football by 2020.

*The interim report of the first six months of the new Game of Our Own programme has shown it has already trained 500 Football Activators this year from over 90 schools across England, which will lead to reaching over 10,000 girls.

The Gameplan for Growth programme aims to:

- Increase participation in football by removing social barriers and changing perceptions.
- Use role modelling (both by the teachers and the girls) to bring about year on year growth of girls' football through cascade leadership.
- Increase knowledge, understanding and confidence of how to use football to explicitly target character traits and skills.

The initial feedback from schools has revealed that whether girls viewed football as a boys' sport depended on whether they participated or not. It showed there was a correlation between those that participate feeling that it is a sport for girls too, and those that don't participate feeling it is a sport for boys. By being involved in the Game of Our Own programme, some schools have already reported a change in the perception of girls' football.

.....
*Findings taken from the Youth Sport Trust Evaluation of Girls Football Programmes (interim report April 2018). The full report will be released in Autumn 2018.

[View the full news item](#)

Many thanks to Sport Northern Ireland for this update on their current work.....

Active, Fit & Sporty Update (27 June 2018)

The Active, Fit & sporty intervention has continued to see success in inspiring and motivating women and girls across Northern Ireland to get involved in sport and physical activity.

The first strand is the Women & Girls in Sport programme, with investment into six projects which aimed to deliver strengthened sporting structures, enabling more women and girls to participate in sport and physical activity. During 2017/18 this strand engaged with a total of 5020 participants, 2886 of whom were considered to be inactive prior to the intervention, and 27% of those who took part presenting with a disability. Across the six projects, a huge 2354 learning opportunities were provided, both to participants themselves and to sports clubs who are now better equipped in their offering to female participants. A total of 132 participation programmes took place during 2017/18, which overall involved 172 different stakeholders – including a variety of community groups, sports clubs, social economy and district council facilities.

The second strand is the Major Event Legacy Project, which was designed to build on the legacy of Northern Ireland hosting three major female sporting events during the summer of 2017 – the Uefa Women's U19 European Football Championships, the Women's Rugby World Cup and the GAA Feile Peile na nOg. This programme engaged a total of 3077 participants, 1657 of whom were considered to be inactive prior to participating. As this programme was concerned with building on the legacy of these events, it was essential that the sustainability of female clubs and competitions was ensured. There were 398 opportunities provided for volunteer training and 77 referee development opportunities. 41% of the women and girls involved were engaged in active volunteering, with 54% undertaking leadership training during the duration of this programme.

All the partner organisations met for an End of Year round up in April 2018, which allowed us

all to see what fantastic work is ongoing to engage women & girls in sport across Northern Ireland. Each partner demonstrated the highlights of their project and also looked at what challenges there were in delivery, which included reflecting on how the offering for women and girls can be further improved in the future.

Two projects which have seen significant success are Sported's Engage-Her programme with the Canoe Association of Northern Ireland (CANI) and Ulster Rugby's 'Give it a Try' programme at Queen's University Ladies Rugby club.

Sported's involvement with CANI came at an opportune time when they were reviewing their operational plan and this training allowed them to gain insight on how they present canoeing to a female audience, which should in turn increase the number of females participating in the sport. By challenging CANI's staff to focus on the provision for females within the sport, Sported helped them to conduct an audit of all marketing messages and provided new training materials to help clubs. In looking to the future and the sustainability of female participation in the sport, CANI integrated the action plan for women and girls into its 2017-2021 strategy, which should ensure that female participation is increased over the coming years.

As part of the legacy of the Women's Rugby World Cup 2017, Ulster Rugby established their 'Give it a Try' programme which was a six week intervention aimed at increasing participation in female rugby clubs. After an initial taster session with over 80 women involved, around 70% of these participants continued as registered members of Queen's LRFC. They had a very successful season, ranking third out of nine teams in the Ulster Women's Rugby Championship Division 2. The club are focused on developing women's rugby as much as possible, and in order to ensure the sustainability of the club they have some members who have been completing coaching qualifications. Queen's LRFC are aiming to further increase their numbers and fund 2 or 3 member's coaching qualifications each year, which should bring further success for them both on and off the field.

The Active, Fit & Sporty project for 2017/18 was brought to a close by the Female Sports Forum's Expo event on Saturday 31st March. The event, which aimed to promote female sport in Northern Ireland and encourage participants to try something new, provided the chance for women & girls to take part in a variety of sports including netball, judo, table tennis, boxercise, football and badminton. This event saw great success with around 300 participants taking part in 8 different sports at 4 venues across Belfast.

Lauren Callender
Development Assistant, Sport Northern Ireland

More Publications....

Supporting women to get active during menopause. Summary report. Women in Sport, May 2018 (4 pages)

Menopause is an important time to engage women in regular sport and physical activity and an opportunity to embed positive long-term exercise habits into their lives as they get older. To support women to reap the benefits of sport and physical activity, we believe the health, sport and exercise sectors must work together to educate and empower women to take control of their menopause and health.

Our recommendations are targeted at these professionals to help address the key issues for menopausal women.

[Download a copy](#)

Women and Informal Sports Participation. Guidance resource. UK Coaching and Women in Sport, June 2018

The first in a three-part series of guides produced in association with Women in Sport aimed at providing insight into the informal female participant and her needs, with guidance on the

type of environment and coaching style she needs in order to be attracted to, and retained in, informal sport.

[View the details](#) - *requires permission to reproduce / access this resource*

How to attract new female participants to your sessions. UK Coaching and Women in Sport, June 2018

The second in a three-part series of guides produced in association with Women in Sport aimed at providing insight into the informal female participant and her needs. This advice is for those who design and develop informal sports offers or directly deliver informal sport

[View the details](#) - *requires permission to reproduce / access this resource*

Women and informal sports participation: creating a suitable workforce. UK Coaching and Women in Sport, June 2018

The final part in our series of three guides produced in association with Women in Sport looks at how to create an appropriate workforce to lead participants in a safe and enjoyable way

[View the details](#) - *requires permission to reproduce / access this resource*

USA

Events taken place but you might want to read about their aims....



2018 NCAA Women Coaches Academies

June 2018 NCAA Women Coaches Academies in Denver Colorado, USA

The two NCAA Women Coaches Academies (WCA) run during June 2018 in Denver, Colorado, are outstanding opportunities for women coaches to learn advanced skills and strategies that directly affect their personal and team success.

The Academies are run by the Alliance of Women Coaches from May 30-June 2, and June 14- 17 2018. The coaches focus on concepts beyond the X's and O's in an environment that fosters inclusion across the sports community and with a highly respected faculty of presenters and facilitators.

[View more details](#)

This next item was received by email by one of our board members - added here in respect of their overall goal BUT they are asking for financial support for their work....

Champion Women (June 2018)

Solving Sexual Abuse in the Olympic Movement

Champion Women is putting critical resources into changes to the Olympic movement designed to shift power to athletes, not merely protect them.

Our goal is for the U.S Olympic Committee to become the best run nonprofit in America, in service to the athletes and our country.

See CEO Nancy Hogshead-Makar's [Op-Ed](#) in The New York Times:

"However badly we think Michigan State behaved, at least the university recognized that it has a duty to protect its students from sexual abuse and violence, and it eventually acted. Structures were in place, even if it took the school too long to use them.

Not true for the United States Olympic Committee. It has known that sexual abuse is a significant risk of harm to America's athletes, but the committee made the conscious decision to [let the abuse happen without helping victims](#)"

See CEO Nancy Hogshead-Makar's [Article](#) with Dani Bostick in The Huffington Post

Six changes the [U.S. Olympic Committee](#) and the [#USCenterForSafeSport](#) must make to address [#SexualAbuse](#). The [USOC](#) should aspire to be the best run non-profit, in service to the athletes and America.

- First, the [Olympics](#) movement must look inward and hold its own accountable for ignoring sexual abuse.
- Next, lists of banned and suspended individuals must be publicly available for all sports.
- The USOC must also enforce its own bans and suspensions. Bans are meaningless if predatory coaches continue to have contact with sports teams and their athletes.
- The Olympic movement must standardize training on sexual abuse. [[USA Swimming's](#) is awful.]
- Additionally, the Center for SafeSport can only be better than the USOC and NGBs if it has the independence and expertise to match the task at hand. The center's COO, Malia Arrington, exemplifies the center's problems.
- Finally, the USOC needs to redistribute power and resources between the corporation and the athletes fairly. Beyond athlete protection, we need to ask how to give them power.

One of the ways to shift power includes a stronger gender equity requirement that does not require athletes to strike in order to be free from discrimination. [#GenderEquality](#)

As just two examples, see these articles describing the [Women's USA Hockey Team Strike](#) and [The Women's USA Soccer Team Strike](#).

These women should not have to strike in order to be treated equally. Now is the time! Please support our work at Champion Women [Donate here](#)

Inside the games reports (15 June 2018)

Borders to chair USOC Commission to ensure structures in place to keep athletes safe
The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) have announced the appointment of Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) President Lisa Borders as chair of an Athlete and National Governing Body Engagement Commission.

The Commission is set to evaluate the structure of Olympic and Paralympic bodies in the US, with a particular focus on how USOC interacts with the organisations.

It will also examine how USOC can better engage with athletes.

The Commission, USOC claim, forms another step of their pursuit of enhanced athlete safety and engagement.

It follows a series of scandals which have rocked sport in the US.

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[View the full news item](#)

**Centre for Sport, Peace and Society, University of Tennessee (20 June 2018)
CSPS Partnership Awarded ESPN Stuart Scott ENSPIRE Award**

On one of the premier stages celebrating the powerful impact of sport around the world, a partnership of the University of Tennessee's Center for Sport, Peace, and Society has been named a Stuart Scott ENSPIRE Award honoree at ESPN's Sports Humanitarian Awards.

The awards ceremony will take place July 17 in Los Angeles, one day prior to the ESPY (Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly) Awards and the Laureus Summit, presented by ESPN.

"We are truly honored to receive one of the Stuart Scott ENSPIRE Awards, and appreciate so much our partnership with the US Department of State and espnW that made it possible," said Sarah Hillyer, director of the CSPS. "Together and alongside brave and courageous women from all over the world, we are fulfilling our dream of leveraging the unique power of sport-based innovation to create a more equitable world for women and girls."

Established in honor of former ESPN commentator Stuart Scott, the ENSPIRE award honors the work of the Global Sports Mentoring Program (GSMP), a US Department of State and espnW initiative implemented by CSPS since its inception in 2012. The initiative has trained 99 international sports leaders from 53 countries during its gender-equality exchange programs. In addition to training participants in CSPS' Better World curriculum, the center has partnered these leaders with female executive mentors at top organizations such as ESPN, Google, NHL, Big East Conference, and Saatchi & Saatchi..

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[View the full news item](#)