



## News and Resource Update May 2017: Your guide to what's happening 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](#)

Membership of our Board has been confirmed for the next four years:

### IAPESGW Board 2017-2021

<b>President:</b>	<b>Rosa López de D'Amico (Venezuela)</b>
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	<b>Rosa Diketmüller (Austria) &amp; Beatriz Ferreira (Brazil)</b>
<b>Chair of consultants:</b>	<b>Tansin Benn (UK) &amp; Darlene Kluka (USA)</b>
<b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b>	<b>Kathy Ludwig (USA)</b>
<b>Communications:</b>	<b>Janice Crosswhite (Australia)</b>
<b>Co-opted members:</b>	<b>Maryam Koushkie Jahromi (Iran), Marianne Meier (Switzerland), Gladys Bequer (Cuba), Keh Nyit Chin (Taiwan), María Dolores Gonzalez (Spain)</b>

Organizer of next congress: Arisa Yagi (Japan)

Details of our Board members can be view [here](#)

A 'Certificate of Appreciation' was presented to the following retiring members of our Board:

Darlene Kluka; Tansin Benn; Anneliese Goslin and Karin Lofstrom

**Women and Girls in Sport - Research to Action**  
**18th World Congress | Miami FL USA**  
Hosted by **Barry University**



## **CLOSING STATEMENT OF THE 18th IAPESGW WORLD CONGRESS 2017**

The following Closing Statement was formulated by the 'International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women' (IAPESGW) and Barry University Miami from 17 to 21 May, 2017.

Over 150 delegates and guests from 33 countries across the world exchanged ideas on how to transform research to action through keynote and scientific presentations, symposia, seminars, posters, and workshops.

Congruent with the values of IAPESGW and Barry University, the 18th IAPESGW World Congress in Miami 'Closing Statement' are committed to achieve the following aims:

1. Governments, corporate sector, sport federations, non-governmental organizations as well as civil society sustain individual and collective responsibility to enable and fulfill the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 2030 with special emphasis on:

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

2. Leaders and advocates in the lives of girls and women in sport and education think globally and act locally with sensitivity for cultural, linguistic, religious, ethnic, political, and socio-economic specificity.

3. Interdisciplinary researchers provide evidence to support policy, projects, programs, and initiatives continuously commissioned by national and international key stakeholders.

[Download a copy of the Closing Statement](#)

**Output from the Congress can be viewed on the dedicated event page of our website - [view here](#)**

**Our Awards presented at the Congress:**

**Honorary Life Member: Tansin Benn (England) and Gertrud Pfister (Germany)**

**Dorothy Ainsworth Research Award: Anneliese Goslin (South Africa)**

**Lynn Vendien International Leadership: Carole Oglesby (USA)**

**Audrey Bambra Legacy Award: Makoto Takahashi (Japan)**

**Chiyo Matsumoto Dance Development Award: Elba Maria Kerr (Venezuela)**

**A New Award - Margaret Talbot Award: Maryam Jahromi Koushkie (Iran); Canan Koca (Turkey); Rohab Shahrian (Iran); Susi-Kathi Jost (Switzerland); Eliana Ferreira (Brazil); Gladys Bequer Díaz (Cuba) and Doreen Solomons (South Africa)**

View more details of the award winners on the dedicated page of our website - [view here](#)

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## **International**

*Some events to note.....*

### **Human Rights Council - Youth Forum - Ensuring Inclusivity 2 June 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland**

The Youth Forum is a one-day event on Friday June 2nd, 2017. It is open to young people from all walks of life, aged 18 to 30 years old. During the day, the participants will be able to interact, discuss and provide their input ahead of the June session of the Human Rights Council\*. Join in!

Registration is free - **closes 30 May**. The day will be held mainly in English with possible simultaneous translation in French (translation to be confirmed).

[View more details](#)

### **International Sport and Culture Association - 8th Move Conference - *Human Right to Move***

**4 - 6 October 2017, Birmingham**

This year, our partners Birmingham City Council, Sport England, Youth Sport Trust, StreetGames and Wild Network are bringing the event to the UK for the first time.

Birmingham is a city that is leaping forward in physical activity promotion, proving it has successful strategies to reach some of the hardest to reach members of the community through innovative physical activity initiatives such as Active Parks, This Girl Can and Be Active.

We will re-launch the MOVE Congress website in mid-May and invite international stakeholders in physical activity to be part of the most active forum for professionals and volunteers in our field.

[View more details](#)

### **International Working Group on Women and Sport - 7th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport: *Determine the future. Be Part of the Change***

**17 - 20 May 2018, Gaborone, Botswana**

The Conference will be held at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC). The

Conference will be held under the theme “Determine The future. Be Part Of The Change”. The conference will feature 6 plenary sessions and side events that will cover various issues under the following topical sub themes:

- Being Well to Play Well
- Safe Space: Protecting Women in Sport
- Tell Their Story: Leveraging Media to Advocate for Women's Sport
- Welcome and Empower All through Sport
- Sport Without Borders: Cross-Cultural Collaboration
- Let Them Lead: Changing The Leadership Landscape Of Sports

[Registration is now open](#)

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### **World Health Organization (May 2017)**

#### **Governance: Development of a draft global action plan to promote physical activity Assignment given to WHO by the Executive Board**

The Executive Board at its 140th session decided to request the Director-General to develop a draft global action plan to promote physical activity for consideration by Member States at the 71st World Health Assembly in May 2018, through the 142nd Executive Board in January 2018.

#### **Why do we need a global action plan to promote physical activity?**

Physical inactivity is one of the leading behavioural risk factors for the leading causes of NCDs, namely heart disease, stroke, breast and colon cancers and diabetes. Conversely, regular physical activity is associated with improved well-being, as well as enhanced social and mental health. However, inactivity is on the rise in many countries, and globally one in four adults, and four out of five adolescents, do not meet the global recommendations.

In 2013, a global voluntary target was set by the World Health Assembly to reduce physical inactivity by 10% by 2025, but progress towards achieving this target has been slow. Although 86% of countries have developed national NCD action plans, which – in 71% of countries -- include operational plans for reducing physical inactivity, progress on implementation has been challenging.....

#### **What is the process to develop the global action plan?**

The process which the Secretariat is following to develop the global action plan is as follows:

- **May 2017:** The Secretariat will develop a zero draft of the global action plan (WHO Discussion Paper 0). The zero draft will include the proposed vision, strategic objectives and set of actions/interventions for all relevant stakeholders, which when collectively implemented, will increase levels of physical activity and improve the physical, mental and social wellbeing of all peoples.
- **June 2017:** The Secretariat will convene a technical expert meeting to review the zero draft. The output of the meeting will include a first draft (WHO Discussion Paper 1).
- **July- September 2017:** The Secretariat will host an open web-based consultation on the first draft (WHO Discussion Paper 1) from mid-July until end of August 2017. WHO will invite non-State Actors in official relations to organize face to face consultations and webinars with their relevant stakeholders on the draft. In addition to the online consultation, the Secretariat will convene regional consultations, where feasible, with Member States. The contributions received will serve as an input for the work of the Secretariat to develop a second draft (WHO Discussion Paper 2).

- **September 2017:** The Secretariat will convene a consultation with United Nations agencies in Geneva on the second draft. The contributions received will serve as an input for the work of the Secretariat to develop a third draft (WHO Discussion Paper 3).
- **October 2017:** The Secretariat will submit the third draft to the WHO Department of Governing Bodies for processing and translation, in time for consideration at the 142nd session of the WHO Executive Board in January 2018 (EB142).
- **January 2018:** Member States will consider the draft global action plan at EB142.
- **March 2018:** The Secretariat will submit a final draft to the WHO Department of Governing Bodies, taking into account comments received, if any, from Member States at EB142.
- **May 2018:** Member States will consider the final draft.

This website will be used to publish the draft plans as the process moves forward.

[View the full details](#)

### **Beyond Sport reports (2 May 2017)**

#### **Spirit of Soccer empowers women to protect children from landmines and bombs**

Ground-breaking workshop brings together female coaches from Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Iraq and Colombia to learn how soccer can keep children safe.

Last week, 35 female soccer coaches learned how to keep boys and girls safe from weapons of war using the power of sport. The coaches are part of a training workshop led by Spirit of Soccer, the award-winning non-profit organization that uses soccer – the world’s favorite sport - to bring vital education messages to children living in conflict zones. The workshop took place in Vientiane, Laos and is supported by the US Department of State’s Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement.

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 For more information go to [www.spiritofsoccer.org](http://www.spiritofsoccer.org) or email [info@spiritofsoccer.org](mailto:info@spiritofsoccer.org).

[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (4 May 2017)**

#### **FIBA Congress pass new rule allowing players to wear headgear**

A new rule permitting players to wear headgear has finally been approved by the International Basketball Federation’s (FIBA) Mid-Term Congress today in Hong Kong.

Under the terms of the new provision to Article 4.4.2 of FIBA's rule book, headgear including the hijab, will be allowed so long as it is "black or white, or of the same dominant colour as that of the uniform" and the same colour for all players on one team.

It must also not cover any part of the face partially or entirely, including the eyes, nose and lips.

It must not be "dangerous to the player wearing it and/or to other players," have any "opening/closing elements around the face and/or neck" and have no "parts extruding from its surface".

This marks a change to the previous ruling in which headgear was outlawed completely on safety grounds.

Intense lobbying has taken place across the Muslim world in recent years in a bid to change FIBA policy.

This grew in 2014 when Qatar withdrew from the Asian Games after being refused permission to wear the hijab.

The new rule sees basketball become one of the last sports to allow headgear to be worn. The rule change is expected to come into effect from October 1 this year.

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[View the full news item](#)

#### **Inside the games reports (4 May 2017)**

##### **International Netball Federation President welcomes higher female representation on IOC Commissions**

International Netball Federation (INF) President Molly Rhone has praised the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for increasing gender and geographic representation on their various Commissions.

In total, 38 per cent of all members spanning 26 different Commissions are female.

The IOC claim this marks a 70 per cent increase on the number when Thomas Bach was elected President in 2013.

Twenty-nine more positions are held by women this year in comparison with 2016.

Rhone was herself added as a new member of the Sport and Active Society Commission when it was unveiled last week.

"I applaud the IOC for recognising the merits and championing the skills of female leaders in sports administration," said the Jamaican in a statement posted on the INF website.

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[View the full news item](#)

#### **Inside the games reports (8 May 2017)**

##### **Kiron beats Dodd to secure spot on FIFA Council at AFC Congress**

Bangladesh's Mahfuza Akhter Kiron has been elected as the Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) female representative on the FIFA Council in a surprise result at the organisation's Congress here today.

Kiron received 27 votes, with Australia's Moya Dodd, a co-opted member of the FIFA Executive Committee from 2013 to 2016, claiming 17.

The 50-year-old has a term on the Council until 2019.

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[View the full news item](#)

#### **Inside the games (8 May 2017)**

##### **Hosts Hungary strike mixed relay gold on final day of UIPM World Cup**

Hosts Hungary won the mixed relay event as action concluded at the International Modern



Pentathlon Union (UIPM) World Cup in Kecskemét today.

The duo of Bence Demeter and Sarolta Kovacs scored a total of 1,464 points to beat nearest challengers Ilya Palazkov and Tatsiana Khaldoba of Belarus by a margin of nine.

Czech Republic's Jan Kuf and Natalia Dianova came third with 1,444 points.

Despite starting the laser-run in fifth place, the pair secured bronze by defeating Russia's Kirill Belyakov and Gulnaz Gubaydullina in a sprint finish.

Gold for Demeter and Kovacs completed a successful few days for the Hungarians with the former having finished runner-up in yesterday's men's final and the latter having taken bronze in the women's final on Saturday (May 6).

"The mixed relay is a very important team competition for our union and has been since the first time we held it at a World Championships in 2010 in Chengdu," UIPM President Klaus Schormann said.

"The format was included in the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore (2010) and Nanjing (2014) and will be again included in Buenos Aires (2018), so this format is very important for us and we are promoting the mixed relay for inclusion in the Olympic Games in 2020 in Tokyo.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **WHO - Europe (10 May 2017)**

#### **Sixth Meeting of the European Union Physical Activity Focal Points Network**

The European network for the promotion of health-enhancing physical activity convened for its sixth meeting in Toledo, Spain, on the 20–21 April 2017. Participants included representatives from the WHO Regional Office for Europe; the Sport Unit of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC), representing the European Commission; and the national physical activity focal points representing 22 Member States of the WHO European Region, as well as a group of relevant experts.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a timeline for data collection on health enhancing physical activity (HEPA), and to determining appropriate validation procedures. Discussions also focused on the development and progress of the monitoring and surveillance of HEPA in the European Union, with a view to improving evidence-informed policy-making. The meeting also aimed to start preparations for the revision of the country factsheets on physical activity in order to update the WHO regional database with indicators on nutrition, obesity and physical activity, based on the most recent data. An excellent exchange of experiences and knowledge took place through a poster session and focal point updates on national best practices and success stories for the promotion of physical activity.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (16 May 2017)**

#### **Akermach becomes first African woman to reach world number one in Para-taekwondo**

Morocco's Rajae Akermach has become the first African woman to reach a world number one ranking in Para-taekwondo.

Akermach jumped four places in the women's over-59 kilograms K44 category after winning gold at the African Para Taekwondo Open last month in Rwanda's capital Kigali.

Five countries are now featured in the rankings, which are published by the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF), for the first time.

Athletes from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya and host nation Rwanda all gained ranking points at the African Open.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (24 May 2017)**

#### **Three women elected to BWF Athletes' Commission**

Three women have today been elected onto the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) Athletes' Commission, including Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu.

India's Sindhu, who was beaten by Spain's Carolina Marin in the Olympic final in Rio de Janeiro in August, received the highest number of votes at the election in Gold Coast in Australia.

The 21-year-old tallied 129 votes in the ballot to earn her seat.

Scotland's Kirsty Gilmour and Lithuania's Akvilė Stapuškaitė were the other two female players to be elected, while Germany's Marc Zwiebler also earned a place.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Beyond Sport (22 May 2017)**

#### **Beyond Sport Global Awards 2017 Official Shortlist**

Beyond Sport today announced their annual Beyond Sport Global Awards Official Shortlist, showcasing 37 organizations that are successfully using sport to promote and achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

The 37 shortlisted organizations highlight a diverse portfolio of work, from organizations raising awareness of endangered marine habitats through sailing with fishermen in Vietnam; to the use of triathlon in empowering adolescent girls in Long Island; to a ground-breaking digital media training program which uses football to provide underserved youth with the skills, support and a public platform to make their voices heard. This year's shortlist represents issues such as: health, gender, STEM education, equality, climate change, accessibility and inclusion, tech and employability.

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Shortlisted representatives will receive a complimentary pass to attend the annual Beyond Sport Awards Ceremony and Beyond Sport United conference from July 26th - 27th in New York City, including logistical planning and support.

[View the full details of all the shortlists](#)



## **Inside the games reports (25 May 2017)**

### **World DanceSport Federation officially recognised by FISU**

The World DanceSport Federation (WDSF) has been officially recognised by the International University Sports Federation (FISU).

Following an internal review and in-depth restructuring of its sports programme, FISU has implemented three major changes.

They include a reduction of the size of the sports programme, the creation of two clusters titled combat sports and mind sports, and a new focus on "endorsed events", mainly for sports officially recognised by FISU.

FISU President Oleg Matysin informed WDSF President Lukas Hinder of their decision in a letter.

A Memorandum of Understanding will now be signed between the two organisations in the near future as they plan for future collaboration and development opportunities that will arise from the partnership.

As a recognised sport, FISU will now endorse the organisation of university dance competitions.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **ESPN Women (May 2017)**

### **Body image confidential**

For women athletes, loving their bodies is a complicated balancing act of maintaining top physical condition, preventing injuries and ensuring longevity, and battling expectations of femininity and physicality. Guided by a survey of college athletes, we explore just how hard it is to compete, and just how easy it is to feel that strong is beautiful.

espnW anonymously surveyed 201 Division I female student-athletes, asking them 13 questions about body image. We distributed and collected surveys in person and via Survey Monkey, and we asked respondents to provide their age, height, weight and sport, as well as their year in college. When a respondent answered "I don't know," we logged the answer as "Unknown." When a question was left blank, or if a respondent didn't answer yes or no, we logged the answer as "N/A." We removed respondents who didn't identify their sport, leaving the total number of athletes included in the results at 201. We compiled per-sport results when that sport had 10 or more respondents.

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[View the details](#)

*Publications of interest...*

### **Adolescent obesity and related behaviours: trends and inequalities in the WHO European Region, 2002–2014: Observations from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) WHO collaborative cross-national study. World Health Organization - Europe, May 2017 (98 pages)**

The presents the latest trends in obesity, eating behaviours, physical activity and sedentary behaviour from the Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) study, and highlights gender and socioeconomic inequalities across the WHO European Region.

Trends have previously been reported separately, but this report brings together for the first time HBSC data on obesity and obesity-related behaviours to review the latest evidence and consider the range and complexity of factors influencing childhood obesity.

[Download a copy](#)

### **Diet, nutrition, physical activity and breast cancer. World Cancer Research Fund and American Institute for Cancer Research, May 2017 (120 pages)**

A new report has been published as part of the Continuous Update Project (CUP) – the World Cancer Research Fund International and American Institute for Cancer Research's ongoing programme to analyse global research on how diet, nutrition, physical activity and weight affect cancer risk and survival.

For the report, the global scientific research on diet, nutrition, physical activity and breast cancer was gathered and analysed by a research team at Imperial College London, and then independently assessed by a panel of leading international scientists.

The report reviewed evidence from 119 studies from around the world. The studies examined more than 12 million women and over 260,000 cases of breast cancer.

[Download a copy](#)

## **Specific countries**

### **AUSTRALIA**

#### **Victoria State Government - Minister for Sport (4 May 2017) Boost To Level The Playing Field For Women In Sport**

The Andrews Labor Government will continue its ground breaking initiatives to improve gender equality in sport, both on and off the field.

Minister for Sport John Eren joined Minister for Women Fiona Richardson, representatives from Netball Victoria, Hockey Victoria, the State Sport Centres Trust, and stars from our top professional women's teams at the State Netball and Hockey Centre today to announce more support to help level the playing field for women in sport.

The Victorian Budget 2017/18 invests \$6.2 million to continue implementing the nine 'Game Plan Inquiry' recommendations and to deliver further Change Our Game initiatives.

This funding boost will ensure more women and girls have the access and opportunity to play the sports they love, and ensure grassroots clubs across Victoria are welcoming and inclusive places.

We are also taking action to help more women take on sports leadership roles and will investigate the idea of a Centre of Excellence for Sport Leadership.

*Change Our Game* initiatives that will benefit from this new funding include the continuation of the champions program over the next four years, and community initiatives that challenge unconscious bias.

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[View the full press release](#)

## **Aussie Butterflies over 65s basketball team at the World Masters Games, New Zealand, 21-30 April, 2017**

Congratulations to IAPESGW vice president Janice Crosswhite and her fellow team members who played over 65s basketball at the event and came away with a gold medal.

### **Janice reports:**

*There were 28,000 other competitors from over 100 countries across 30 sports. Three and a half thousand wonderful volunteers helped deliver the sports.*

### **If you want to find out more about the event visit:**

<http://www.worldmastersgames2017.co.nz/the-games/about-the-games/>

## **Inside the games reports (2 May 2017)**

### **McLoughlin to resume role of Australian Chef de Mission at Tokyo 2020**

The Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) has announced Kate McLoughlin will be the Chef de Mission for the Tokyo 2020 Australian Paralympic team, the same role she had at Rio 2016.

APC chief executive Lynne Anderson made the announcement today in Sydney at the APC's first high performance conference for the Tokyo campaign, entitled Mission 2020.

McLoughlin replaced Jason Hellwig at Rio 2016 after he stood down from the role after resigning as chief executive of the APC.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **Sponsorship News Australia (5 May 2017)**

### **"Seismic shift" in commercial momentum for women's sport: Nielsen**

Despite still being in its 'start-up' phase, consumer interest in women's sport is already at an all-time high, with research from Nielsen Sports showing that elite women's sport is already hitting almost 5 million eyeballs annually.

Nielsen Sport's Asia-Pacific head of commercial, Guy Port, said a " seismic shift" in interest in women's sport had taken place, with some 8.72 million consumer aged 18 and over now interested in at least one major women's sporting league.

Speaking at the Sponsorship News 'Women in Sport' conference, Port revealed that 47% of all sport fans recorded an interest in at least one of four top women's competitions - the WBBL, W-League, AFLW and Super Netball.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **Inside the games reports (14 May 2017)**

### **Netball Australia to hold performance camp for indigenous players**

A total of 20 players will take part at Netball Australia's first Indigenous High Performance Camp (IHPC).

The group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes are due to gather between July 7 and 9.

It will be part of National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee Week in Australia.

Former Australia players Marcia Ella-Duncan and Sharon Finnan-White, as well as coach Lisa Alexander, will be on hand to monitor and support the players.

Ella-Duncan was the first Aboriginal player to represent Australia in netball.

It is hoped the camp, taking place in capital Canberra, will help lead to more indigenous players representing the Australian Diamonds side.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (21 May 2017)**

#### **Olympic rowing champion appointed Australia's Chef de Mission for Buenos Aires 2018**

Rio 2016 rowing gold medallist Kim Brennan has been announced as Australia's Chef de Mission for the Buenos Aires 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

The 31-year-old has competed at the three most recent Summer Olympic Games, winning double sculls silver and singles sculls bronze at London 2012 before claiming single sculls gold at Rio 2016.

After years of success on the water, which has also seen her win single sculls gold at the 2013 and 2015 World Championships, Brennan now has the task of inspiring the next generation of Australian sports stars.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Sydney Morning Herald (27 May 2017)**

#### **Tennis great accuses gay community of 'bullying' over Margaret Court Arena name change**

Tennis great Margaret Court has hit back against calls to rebadge the stadium named in her honour, accusing the gay community of bullying, while appearing to attack the Safe Schools program.

A public firestorm erupted this week after the grand slam champion said she would no longer fly Qantas "where possible" in protest of the airline's support of same-sex marriage.

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[View the full news item](#)

Awareness....

### **University of Wollongong (May 2017)**

#### **Survey: Australian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines for Children of the Early Years**

An online consultation is open for comments on a draft of the Australian 24-hour movement guidelines for the early years. The guidelines are named 24 hour guidelines because they refer to physical activity, sedentary behaviour and sleep. The initial version has been produced and this is one of the final stages to gain feedback via a survey about the clarity of the guidelines, the level of agreement, perceived importance, applicability, feasibility, resource implications and equity.

[Access the survey](#)

## **CANADA**

### **The Globe and Mail (24 May 2017)**

#### **Women make their mark in sport's executive suites**

When Tricia Smith was younger and on her way to athletic glory, her mother offered some advice, "Don't beat the boys at school. It makes them feel bad."

Beating the boys didn't motivate Smith. She simply wanted to be the best she could be. It turned out that attitude helped take her to a place she never imagined at a time when a meaningful number of power brokers in Canadian amateur sport are women – and there's no reason to feel bad about it.

Through Carla Qualtrough, Anne Merklinger and Smith, women occupy three top positions of influence as Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, CEO of Own The Podium and president of the Canadian Olympic Committee, respectively. All three were athletes.

Qualtrough competed as a visually impaired swimmer at two Paralympics and won three medals. Merklinger swam for the Canadian national team and curled in the Scotties Tournament of Hearts. Smith was an Olympic silver medalist in rowing before becoming a lawyer. All three worked their way through a male-dominated system to help shape sports and inclusiveness in this country.

And they're not alone. Alongside them: Karen O'Neill, CEO of the Canadian Paralympic Committee; Lorraine Lafrenière, CEO of the Coaching Association of Canada; Susan Auch, CEO of Speed Skating Canada; Eva Havaris, CEO and secretary general of Equine Canada; Michele O'Keefe, president and CEO of Canada Basketball; Katherine Henderson, CEO of Curling Canada; Caroline Sharp, executive director of the Canadian Fencing Federation; Debra Armstrong, CEO of Skate Canada; Penny Joyce, COO of Diving Canada; and Jasmine Northcott, CEO of Water Ski & Wakeboard Canada. To name some, but certainly not all.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **UK**

### **University of Bristol (28 April 2017)**

#### **Study finds primary school children get less active with age**

There is an age-related decline in children's physical activity levels as they progress through primary school, according to a British Heart Foundation-funded study.

Researchers at the University of Bristol found that children spent less time doing physical activity and spent more time sedentary from Year 1 (aged 5-6) to Year 4 (aged 8-9).

Additionally, by the time they got to Year 4, around a third of boys and two thirds of girls aged eight to nine years old in the study were failing to meet Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) recommended physical activity guidelines of an hour of physical activity per day.

Previous research has shown that low levels of physical activity in childhood can track into adulthood, suggesting that we should be doing more to ensure children keep active throughout their younger lives.

In the study, published today in the International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, the researchers tracked the physical activity levels of 1,300 children in Year 1, aged 5-6, over a week.

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[View the full news item](#)

**Also - [View the full 13-page research article](#)**

### **County Sport Partnerships Network (28 April 2017)**

#### **Northern CSPs collaborative campaign to encourage more women into coaching**

County Sports Partnerships (CSPs) in the North of England are embarking on an awareness campaign to encourage more women into coaching.

Currently only 30% of the coaching workforce are women and the percentage of women coaches receiving a qualification each year is 17%.

The #PassOnYourPassion campaign involves a total of 13 CSPs and aims to raise the profile of women coaches, as well as inspiring more female participants into coaching.

GreaterSport – the CSP for Greater Manchester – originally piloted #PassOnYourPassion in 2016. They identified 40 women coaches passionate about coaching and sent each of them an athletics relay baton. The coaches were then asked to pass on their baton to a female participant from their session – the handover symbolising a welcome to the world of coaching. The participant was then encouraged to register their details with GreaterSport for future coaching opportunities. Out of 40 handovers nearly half resulted in successful registrations.

The second edition of #PassOnYourPassion will follow a similar format, but this time the campaign will be going on a 14 week tour, with each CSP taking a turn hosting the campaign for a week.

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[View the full details](#)

### **County Sport Partnerships Network (3 May 2017)**

#### **Female Coaching Conference report**

On Saturday 29 April more than 75 female coaches, guests and speakers attended the first ever Female Coaching Conference open to all sports, all levels and all nationalities at Surrey Sports Park, England.....

[View the full news item](#)

### **British Cycling (2 May 2017)**

#### **Dame Sarah Storey takes up British Cycling campaigning role**

British Cycling has announced that Dame Sarah Storey has taken up a role as the organisation's new policy advocate.

Dame Sarah, who having won fourteen Paralympic gold medals is Great Britain's most decorated female Paralympian, will work alongside policy adviser Chris Boardman in pushing forward British Cycling's ambition to turn Britain into a true cycling nation.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Sport and Recreation Alliance (3 May 2017)**

#### **Reigning Rio Paralympic Champion Elected to Alliance Board**

Anne Usher MBE a Rio gold medal winning Paralympian has been elected to the board of the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

Voted in by the Alliance's membership, Anne won gold with Great Britain's paracanoeing team at the 2016 Paralympic Games.

A physiotherapist by profession, prior to her career in paracanoe, Anne was an enthusiastic amateur mountain biker who also has a long history of volunteering in sport.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **University of Wolverhampton (9 May 2017)**

#### **Graduate appeals for football donations to kick off competition in Cameroon**

A University of Wolverhampton graduate who organises a football tournament for women in deprived areas of Cameroon is appealing for sports equipment to support their next competition.

Vicky Ngamsha organises the Female Football Cup in a rural area of Cameroon, for a community where women do not all have access to education and some have suffered domestic violence.

The Business Information Systems graduate grew up in Cameroon, experiencing poverty and abuse as a young girl, but has gone on to become an author and charity founder.

She is hoping to build on the success of last year's competition in 2017 – but needs donations to kick off the event.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Women in Sport (12 May 2017)**

#### **Girls Active Scheme wins #BeAGameChanger Award**

Girls Active won the most inspiring national initiative at the #BeAGameChanger Awards at the Troxy in London last night [11 May].

Hosted by the Women's Sport Trust, the #BeAGameChanger Awards celebrates the organisations and individuals who are doing the most to progress and showcase women's sport.



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Girls Active is led by the Youth Sport Trust, funded by Sport England and delivered in partnership with Women in Sport. It offers a simple flexible action planning framework to help teachers and girls work together and address their individual needs. The main objective of Girls Active is to help teachers and teenage girls understand what motivates them to take part in PE and sport; developing an action plan based on their feedback on how it should be delivered.

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Women in Sport and the Youth Sport Trust will launch the latest Girls Active research findings into the motivations, attitudes and barriers that teenage girls and boys face, in September.

This year has also seen the launch of the Girls Active Awards to celebrate schools' star Girls Active achievers in the areas of attainment, wellness and leadership. Click [here](#) for more information and to nominate and see the latest Girls Active campaign film [here](#).  
[View the full news item](#)

### **Women's Sport Trust (15 May 2017)**

#### **Winners Announced for the Women's Sport Trust #BeAGameChanger Awards 2017**

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##### **The list of winners:**

Sporting Role Model- Individual - Dame Sarah Storey (Paralympic Cycling)  
Sporting Role Model- Team - GB Women's Hockey Team  
Ambassador of Women's Sport - Kelly Simmons MBE (Women's Football)  
Sponsor Partnership of the Year - Vitality- Together Changing Sport for Good  
National Governing Body of the Year - British Triathlon  
Inspiring Initiative- National - Youth Sport Trust- Girls Active  
Inspiring Initiative- Local - This Mum Runs  
Media Initiative of the Year - Red Roses (Women's Rugby)  
Media Individual of the Year - Eleanor Oldroyd (BBC)  
Imagery of the Year - 1000 Londoners  
Photographer/ Filmmaker of the Year - Hannah Bailey  
Outstanding Contribution - Kate Richardson-Walsh OBE (Hockey) and Charlotte Edwards CBE (Cricket)

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### **BaseballSoftballUK (11 May 2017)**

#### **Women's baseball game makes history at Farnham Park**

Starting at 3.00 pm on Saturday 6 May at a busy Farnham Park, two teams made up exclusively of female players played a baseball game, which may have been the first such game ever played in the UK.

The historic game featured the British University Baseball (BUB) All-Star Team, made up of women from across UK universities, and a UK Select Team that included many BSUK High Performance Academy players.

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## Looking forward

British University Baseball has always supported women's involvement in the sport, and some of the biggest university clubs have had female leadership, including Loughborough, Nottingham, UEA, and Sheffield Universities. Most teams regularly feature female players in their line-ups.

Of a total membership group of around 700, BUB has close to 100 female players, and it is the ambition of Dr Luke Stott, the women's game organiser and BUB Commissioner, to bring that number up to around 50% of BUB's membership. In order to do that, however, more opportunities for women to play baseball will need to be created.

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[View the full news item](#)

## British Triathlon (12 May 2017)

### British Triathlon wins NGB of the Year at #BeAGameChanger Awards

British Triathlon scooped a national award in recognition of its approach to increasing female participation and raising the profile of women in triathlon. The Women's Sport Trust presented the National Governing Body of the Year Award to British Triathlon at a glitzy event in London last night, 11 May.

The Women's Sport Trust hosted their #BeAGameChanger Awards with winners across 12 categories being announced for their outstanding contribution to women's sport.

British Triathlon is delighted to win the National Governing Body of the Year and is indebted to the backing and support received from clubs, event organisers and the triathlon community in highlighting our work in promoting women's participation.

Traditionally, triathlon has been a male-dominated sport, with three men to every one woman choosing to participate. However, specific interventions such as GO TRI have helped re shape this and the key areas recognised by The Women's Sport Trust were:

- Go TRI having 50% male : 50% female participation;
- 31% of qualified triathlon coaches are female (compared to around 10% in elite sport);
- Largest growth area for membership being 50+ women;
- Women now make up 53% of British Triathlon staff;
- 4.3m viewers tuned in to see [Vicky Holland](#)'s bronze medal moment in Rio (compared to 4.4m for the men's race);
- Successful delivery of women-only waves at large scale iconic events;
- Workshops geared towards inspiring female participation, be that as a participant, coach, official or volunteer.

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[View the full news item](#)

## Inside the games reports (8 May 2017)

### Glasgow 2014 has not improved sport participation, report says

A new report has found that the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow have not led to more people participating in sport, and that the Scottish Government is unlikely to meet legacy targets.

The interim report by the Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee paints "a mixed picture" on "active legacy" outcomes from the Games.

It claims that no previous major sporting event has resulted in an active legacy and that it is doubtful the Scottish Government will meet its targets in increasing participation.

The biggest barrier to participation, according to the report, was a perceived lack of time.

A shortage of local facilities and cost were also seen as significant barriers.

The Committee says there is still work to be done in encouraging more people to take part in grassroots sport.

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[View the full news item](#)

**Editor - the report - [Sport for Everyone Interim Report. Health and Sport Committee, Scottish Parliament, 3 May 2017 \(28 pages\)](#)**

### **Oxford Brookes University (17 May 2017)**

#### **Ground-breaking research calls to progress gender diversity in horseracing**

The first ever research into diversity in British horseracing has been published today by the Centre for Diversity Policy Research and Practice at Oxford Brookes University and Women in Racing (WiR).

Entitled *Women's representation and diversity in the horseracing industry*, the research demonstrates the requirements to develop a diversity agenda within the sport.

Professor Simonetta Manfredi, Professor of Equality and Diversity Management at Oxford Brookes University and Director of the Centre for Diversity Policy Research and Practice, lead the research with PhD Researcher and Research Assistant Kate Clayton-Hathway.

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Whilst progress is being made at all levels within horseracing in respect of gender diversity, issues for women working and involved within the sport are identified within the research, which include:

- lack of career development opportunities (at all levels including jockeys), progression and support
- some examples of discriminative, prejudice and bullying behaviour
- barriers and lack of representation at senior and board level; and
- negative experiences of work-life balance and pastoral care.

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The full report can be viewed on the [Women in Racing website](#).  
[View the full news item](#)

### **The Football Association (17 May 2017)**

#### **FA wants insight from female players on domestic game in England**

Women and girls who play football are being asked to give their opinions and insights into the domestic game in England.

The review is part of The FA's new strategy for women's football, '[Gameplan for Growth](#)', and covers all aspects of the domestic women's game.

It aims to provide insights into what is needed to encourage increased participation and continue the development of the women's game.

It will examine areas such as the number of games being played a year, competition formats and the importance of promotion and relegation.

The survey also aims to provide a greater understanding of barriers to participation.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

Additional feedback can be sent to [CompetitionReview@TheFA.com](mailto:CompetitionReview@TheFA.com).  
[Source of information](#)

### **The Football Association SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Clubs**

The Football Association and SSE have teamed up to launch a new initiative in 2017, SSE Wildcats, designed to inspire girls aged between 5-11 to be involved in the sport. SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Clubs provide girls with regular opportunities to play football and take part in organised sessions in a fun and engaging environment created exclusively for girls. 200 clubs have been established across England throughout the spring and summer.\*

The sessions take place on a weekly basis, either after school or at weekends, subject to the local organiser. They will provide a safe environment where girls with no football experience can; have fun engaging with sport, develop fundamental skills, try a variety of sessions, learn new things and create foundations for a lifelong love of sport.

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\*To find out where your nearest SSE Wildcats session is search the FIND FOOTBALL widget below by entering your postcode and selecting Type: "SSE Wildcats" then "Find football".

[View the full details](#)

### **Inside the games reports (22 May 2017)**

#### **BOA pays tribute to former British Rowing chairman Dame Di Ellis**

The British Olympic Association (BOA) has paid tribute to former British Rowing chairman Dame Di Ellis, who has died at the age of 79 following a short illness.

Dame Di was a pioneer in the British sporting landscape, most notably in forging a pathway for women in high-performance sport and leadership.

Having been an international standard rower with England and Great Britain, she became a renowned sports administrator and in 1989 was appointed chairman of the Amateur Rowing Association, which changed its name to British Rowing in 2009.

Dame Di, who stayed at the helm until 2013, is a previous winner of The Sunday Times Sportswoman Administrator of the Year award and in 2004 received a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to rowing.

Under her chairmanship, Great Britain won a total of 26 Olympic medals, comprising 12 golds, seven silvers and seven bronzes.

This included four golds, two silvers and three bronzes at London 2012, where Britain topped the sport's medal table.

In 2013, Dame Di was awarded a Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (DBE) in the Queen's birthday honours list, recognising a lifetime's commitment to sport.

A trustee of the British Olympic Foundation and the Torch Trophy Trust, she was also a life

vice-president of the BOA, whose Board she first joined in 1997, as well as Honorary President of British Rowing and vice-president of the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

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[View the full news item](#)

## ZIMBABWE

### **Inside the games reports (1 May 2017)**

#### **Coventry elected as ZOC vice-president**

Swimmer Kirsty Coventry has been elected as a vice-president of the Zimbabwe Olympic Committee (ZOC).

The double Olympic gold medallist claimed the role at her national governing body as Admire Masenda won his fourth term as President in Harare.

She received 38 of the 42 votes cast to replace Sibusisiwe Chindove who did not seek another term.

The 33-year-old has served as an International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission member since 2012 and is a Foundation Board member of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

In addition, she is a vice-president of the International Surfing Association.

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[View the full news item](#)

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