



Women in the Olympic Movement

Updated July 2004

MISSION

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

The possibility of practising a sport is a right that we acquire at birth. The practice of sport teaches respect for rules, tolerance, solidarity, contributes to developing the body and the spirit and gives joy, pride and well-being.

The IOC also considers sport to be an important means of communication and emancipation, which can contribute to developing the physical and psychological well-being. Through sport women and young girls can become aware of their role in society.

WOMEN IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Four years after the first Olympic Games of the modern era in Athens, women took part in their first Olympic Games, in Paris in 1900. In spite of the reticence of the reviver of the Games, Pierre de Coubertin, 22 women out of a total of 997 athletes competed in five sports: tennis, equestrian, croquet, sailing and golf.

With the 1970s, and the awareness of the role of women in the world, female participation in sports competitions and in the Olympic Games became higher.

The IOC has ensured, particularly in the last 20 years, an increased number of women's events on the Olympic Programme in cooperation with the IFs and the Organising Committees. Thus, since 1991, all new sports wishing to be included in the Olympic Programme must include female events. In Athens, at the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad, women will take part in 135 events (out of 301, that is 45% of all events) in 26 sports (out of 28, not including baseball and boxing).

At the same time, in 1994, the Olympic Charter was amended and now contains an explicit section on the need to work in this direction:

(The IOC) “strongly encourages, by appropriate means, the promotion of women in sport at all levels and in all structures, particularly in the executive bodies of national and international sports organizations with a view to the strict application of the principle of equality of men and women” (Rule 2, paragraph 5).

FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN THE GAMES

Year	Sport	Events*	NOCs	Partici- pants	%	Year	Sport	Events*	NOCs	Partici- pants	%
1896	-	-	-	-		1960	6	29	45	610	11.4
1900	5	3	5	22	2.2	1964	7	33	53	683	13.3
1904	1	2	1	6	0.9	1968	7	39	54	781	14.2
1908	2	3	4	36	1.8	1972	8	43	65	1,058	14.8
1912	2	6	11	57	2.2	1976	11	49	66	1,247	20.7
1920	2	6	13	77	2.9	1980	12	50	54	1,125	21.5
1924	3	11	20	136	4.4	1984	14	62	94	1,567	23
1928	4	14	25	290	9.6	1988	17	86	117	2,186	25.8
1932	3	14	18	127	9	1992	19	98	136	2,708	28.8
1936	4	15	26	328	8.1	1996	21	108	169	3,626	34.2
1948	5	19	33	385	9.4	2000	25	132	199	4,063	38.2
1952	6	25	41	518	10.5	2004	27	135	202		
1956	6	26	39	384	16.1						

(*MIXED EVENTS INCLUDED)



WOMEN IN SPORTS ADMINISTRATION

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

OBJECTIVES

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

- The NOCs, the IFs, the National Federations, and sporting bodies belonging to the Olympic Movement must set the objective of reserving at least 20% of decision-making positions for women (particularly in all executive and legislative bodies) within their structures.
- A first objective (having at least 10% of women in decision-making positions) was set for December 2000. As of today, more than 61% of NOCs and 52% of IFs have achieved this objective.

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

WOMEN AT THE IOC

In 1981 the first woman was co-opted as a member of the IOC. Since then, there have been 18 female IOC members. In 2004, 12 women are active IOC members out of 124 (i.e. 10%) (two women are honorary members). In 1990, for the first time in the history of the IOC, a woman was elected on to the Executive Board, (Flor Isava Fonseca), and in 1997, another woman became Vice-President of the IOC (Anita L. DeFrantz). Today, the IOC commissions and working groups include more women than ever before.

WOMEN IN THE NOCs

Based on information provided by 187 NOCs (as of 1 December 2003):

- 114 NOCs (60.9%) have achieved the objective of 10%.
- 169 NOCs (90.4%) have at least one woman on their executive body.
- 48 NOCs (25.7%) have more than 20% of women on their executive body.

Furthermore, the executive body of the five continental NOC associations (ANOCA; EOC, OCA, PASO and ONOC) include at least one female representative.

NEW FEMALE SPORTS ON THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME

Year	Sport	Year	Sport
1900	Tennis, Golf	1980	Field Hockey
1904	Archery	1984	Shooting, Cycling
1908	Tennis, Figure Skating	1988	Tennis, Table Tennis, Sailing
1912	Swimming	1992	Badminton, Judo, Biathlon
1920	Figure Skating	1996	Football, Softball
1924	Fencing,	1998	Curling, Ice Hockey
1928	Athletics, Gymnastics	2000	Weightlifting, Pentathlon, Taekwondo, Triathlon
1936	Skiing, Gymnastics	2002	Bobsleigh
1948	Canoeing	2004	Wrestling
1952	Equestrian sports		
1960	Speed skating		
1964	Volleyball, Luge		
1972	Archery		
1976	Rowing, Basketball, Handball		

WOMEN IN THE IFs

Based on information provided by 35 Olympic IFs (as of 1 December 2003):

- 20 Olympic IFs (57%) have achieved the objective of 10%.
- 32 Olympic IFs (91%) have at least one woman on their executive body.
- 8 Olympic IFs (23%) have more than 20% of women on their executive body.



WOMEN IN THE IFs (continued)

Based on information provided by 28 Recognised IFs (as of 1 December 2003):

- 13 Recognised IFs (46%) have achieved the objective of 10%.
- 21 Recognised IFs (75%) have at least one woman on their Executive Board.
- 6 Recognised IFs (21%) have more than 20% of women sitting on their executive body.

THE IOC WOMEN AND SPORT COMMISSION

In December 1995, the Women and Sport Working Group was created, a consultative body composed of representatives from the three parts of the Olympic Movement (the IOC, IFs, and NOCs) as well as an athlete representative and independent members.

Chaired by Anita L. DeFrantz, the Working Group, which became a full Commission in 2004, advises the IOC President and the Executive Board on which policies to adopt in order to increase female participation in sport at all levels.

THE TOOLS FOR AWARENESS-RAISING AND TRAINING

INFORMATION SEMINARS

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

OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY PROGRAMMES

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

WORLD CONFERENCE

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

After Lausanne, in 1996, and Paris, in 2000, the 3rd edition took place in Marrakech in March 2004, and brought together more than 600 delegates and observers from 137 countries around the principal theme "New Strategies, New Commitments". As a result of this work, the Conference adopted the following recommendations: see page 4.



THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE IN MARRAKECH

- 1. Reaffirm** the objectives set in 1996 by the IOC for the NOCs and IFs to have at least 20% women on their executive and legislative bodies by 2005 and beyond and hope that this objective is also achieved by the IOC;
- 2. Request** immediately that the IOC, the IFs and the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), sports confederations, Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs), NOCs and National Federations ensure adequate representation of women in all their commissions and permanent working groups;
- 3. Ask** immediately that all delegates voluntarily support the promotion, training, and emancipation of women in and at all levels of sport in clubs and National Federations;
- 4. Request** immediately that the IOC and NOCs lead the campaign with government agencies in charge of education and sport to take measures in favour of physical and sports education in teaching establishments;
- 5. Encourage** the Olympic Movement and sports organisations to cooperate with the United Nations system, the World Bank, and inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations in order to promote policies and programmes that favour the equality of the sexes and support human and socio-economic development through sport;
- 6. Request** immediately that the Olympic Solidarity Commission review its policies and development programmes, in order to increase the funds allocated and to ensure that a reasonable proportion of these funds is used to support women in and by sport;
- 7. Call** upon all athletes to act as role models and mentors for young girls and women in order to develop their abilities in sport and professional life and to contribute to the promotion of diversity, peace and human understanding;
- 8. Ask** that the constituents of the Olympic Movement invest individually or collectively in prevention campaigns for scourges such as HIV/AIDS, polio and drugs, which primarily affect women and children;
- 9. Request** immediately that the sports community support and encourage sports activities for the disabled;
- 10. Recommend** to the sports community that it work more closely with the media to ensure more coverage that reflects a more accurate image of women's sport and put in place specific training programmes for women journalists.

“WOMEN AND SPORT” TROPHY

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

In 2004, the world trophy was awarded to the FIFA Women's World Cup. The continental trophies were awarded to Khelili Messaouda (Algeria), Ferdows Ara Khanam (Bangladesh), Galina Gorokhova (Russian Federation) and Lorraine Landon (Australia). No trophy was awarded for the Americas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.olympic.org/womenandsport>