



## **ASIAN WOMEN AND SPORT (AWS) GUIDELINES**

### **Definition**

Asian Women and Sport (AWS) is an informal, flexible and voluntary-based network of representatives and contact persons from non-governmental and governmental organizations and bodies who are committed to increasing the involvement of girls and women in sport and physical activity at all levels and in all functions and roles throughout Asia.

### **Aims**

The aims of AWS are:

- \* To further the development of equal opportunities for girls and boys, women and men in Asia to participate fully in sport in its broadest sense particularly ( but not limited to ) participation, promotion, education, training and the decision-making processes;
- \* To increase awareness and recognition by women and girls of the positive values of sport and its contribution to personal development;
- \* To strengthen co-operation and encourage the exchange of experience on women and sport issues among Asian countries at bilateral and multilateral levels;
- \* To act as a contact and reference point for women and sport groups within Asia and facilitate the exchange of information;
- \* To develop action plans with objectives and targets to implement the principles of the Brighton Declaration, the Windhoek Call for Action, the recommendations of the IOC World Conferences on women and sport and monitor and report upon their implementation in Asian countries;
- \* To cultivate relations with international, continental, regional and national sport organisations and bodies who are responsible for or who directly influence the conduct development or promotion of sport;
- \* To promote the involvement of female representatives in local, regional and national delegations at sport-political, scientific and sport-practical events, conferences, seminars and workshops, at national and international levels;



- \* To establish a system in which Asian conferences will be held periodically;
- \* To encourage the increase of scientific research projects in various sports sciences for initiating, supporting and adopting women's perspectives and to disseminate scientific findings on women and sport.

## **Structure**

AWS operates Asia-wide and co-operates with international, continental, regional and national organizations, bodies and authorities who are responsible for or who influence the conduct, development or promotion of sport.

AWS consists of three elements:-

- 1) the Asian Working Group on Women and Sport (AWG);
- 2) a network of AWS contact persons; and
- 3) an Asian Conference to be held every two (2) years or at such other intervals as may be subsequently agreed by the AWG.

## **Operational Principles**

### **1) Asian Working Group on Women and Sport (AWG) Composition**

Eight (8) members to be elected from candidates officially nominated by a national non-governmental or governmental sport organization. Membership of the AWG should reflect a well balanced representation of Asian countries having regard to the 5 geographical regions of West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Central Asia and the progress made in the advancement of women and sport issues in the nominating countries. The Chair of the AWG shall be from the country hosting and supporting the secretariat of the AWG unless otherwise agreed by the duly elected AWG members."

## **Elections**

The members of the AWG shall be elected by the duly nominated representatives of Asian countries present at an AWS Conference and shall hold office for a term of 2 years, starting right after the AWS Conference at which they are elected and ending at the next AWS Conference. Members of the AWG, subject to due nomination by their respective national non-governmental or governmental sport organization, may stand for re-election.



## **Meetings**

Meetings of the AWG shall take place at such times and places as agreed by the AWG members and may be conducted, if deemed fit, through telephone conferencing or other forms of electronic communication. Any matter for decision shall be decided by the support of a simple majority of AWG members.

## **Financial Implications**

The AWG has no own budget or funds. All members of the AWG and participants attending AWS Conferences are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs to be covered by their home organizations or themselves. AWS network partners are encouraged to source for sponsors/patrons to raise funds for the operational expenses of the AWG and the establishment of the AWS network.

## **2) Network of AWS contact persons**

Each Asian country shall be invited to nominate an AWS contact person in order to create an Asia-wide network for the advancement of women and sport.

The national AWS contact persons:-

- i) should be accepted by both non-governmental and governmental sport organizations of their respective country, as persons committed to the promotion of women and sport and the organization of appropriate projects;
- ii) are expected to support the AWS aims and activities by working towards the development and implementation of national programmes for the advancement of women and sport in their respective country;
- iii) shall keep close contact with the AWS and, in particular, the AWG in order to assist the national, bilateral and multilateral exchange and distribution of information on women and sport issues;
- iv) shall help to monitor the implementation of recommendations made at each AWS Conference;



v) may attend the biennial AWS Conferences.

### **3) Asian Women and Sport Conference**

The AWS Conferences shall be held every 2 years unless otherwise agreed by the AWG in the event of difficulty in securing a host country. The venue of each Conference shall be decided by the AWG after considering all the bids for hosting the Conference.

The duly nominated representative of the country hosting the next AWS Conference shall be co-opted as a member of the AWG, if not elected as a member, and shall serve for the period until the next AWS Conference.

The AWS Conferences are open to AWS network partners, AWS contact persons and everyone who has an interest in women and sport work and in promoting participation in sport. Representatives of non - Asian countries may be involved as guests and observers. The AWS Conference provides a forum for the development and discussion of new policies and approaches towards the achievement of a sports culture which provides equal opportunities for both women and men, girls and boys to participate fully in all aspects of sport and the implementation of recommendations which serve to reach this aim.

Dated 15 December 2001.

Amended on October 16, 2003 (Operational Principle, 1) AWG Composition)

[As developed and put forward to the AWS network by the interim Asian Women and Sport Working Group pursuant to the Osaka Action Plan 2001 ]