



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

FACTSHEET WOMEN IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

UPDATE – March 2013

MISSION

The IOC is committed to gender equality in sport.

The [Olympic Charter](#) states that one of the roles of the IOC is “to encourage and support the promotion of women in sport at all levels and in all structures, with a view to implementing the principle of equality of men and women” - (Rule 2, paragraph 7). Its commitment extends well beyond its efforts to increase women’s participation in the Olympic Games. The IOC also recognises that gender equality is a critical component of effective sports administration and continues to support the promotion of women and girls in sport at all levels and structures.

WOMEN IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Women first took part in the Olympic Games in Paris in 1900, four years after the first Olympic Games of the modern era in Athens. Despite the reticence of the reviver of the modern Games, Pierre de Coubertin, 22 women out of a total of 997 athletes competed in just five sports: tennis, sailing, croquet, equestrian and golf. But only golf and tennis had events for women only. Female participation has increased steadily since then, with women accounting for more than 44 per cent of the participants at the 2012 Games in London, compared with 23 per cent at the Games in 1984 in Los Angeles and just over 13 per cent at the 1964 Games in Tokyo.

In the last 20 years, the IOC has also increased the number of women’s events on the Olympic programme, in cooperation with the International Federations (IFs) and the Organising Committees. With the addition of women’s boxing, the 2012 Olympic Games in London were the first in which women competed in every sport on the Olympic programme.

Also, since 1991, all new sports wishing to be included on the Olympic programme must feature women’s events

INTRODUCTION OF WOMEN - SPORTS/DISCIPLINES

Year	Sports
1900	Tennis, Golf
1904	Archery
1908	Tennis, Figure skating
1912	Swimming
1924	Fencing
1928	Athletics, Gymnastics
1936	Alpine Skiing
1948	Canoeing
1952	Equestrian sports
1960	Speed skating
1964	Volleyball, Luge
1976	Rowing, Basketball, Handball
1980	Field Hockey
1984	Shooting, Cycling
1988	Tennis, Table Tennis, Sailing
1992	Badminton, Judo, Biathlon
1996	Football, Softball
1998	Curling, Ice Hockey
2000	Weightlifting, Pentathlon, Taekwondo, Triathlon
2002	Bobsleigh
2004	Wrestling
2008	BMX
2012	Boxing
2014	Ski Jumping

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 and administrative bodies of the Olympic Movement has remained low.

OBJECTIVES

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

The NOCs, IFs, 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 by the end of 2005. This objective was not achieved.

However, a first objective (having at least 10% of women in decision-making positions by December 2000) was met by more than 61% of NOCs and 52% of IFs.

The IOC is nevertheless aware 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 IN THE IOC

The first two women, the Venezuelan Flor Isava-Fonseca and Norwegian Pirjo Haeggman were co-opted as IOC members in 1981. As of March 2013, 21 women are active IOC members out of 101 (around 20.8%). Four 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, Anita DeFrantz, became an IOC Vice-President (1997-2001). In 2004 Gunilla Lindberg was also elected as IOC Vice-President. Olympic champion Nawal El Moutawakel from Morocco was elected as a member of the IOC Executive Board in 2008 and IOC Vice-President in July 2012. She was also the first woman ever to chair an IOC Evaluation Commission. She has now taken on the same role for the 2016 Olympic Games. In 2013, three women are members of the IOC Executive Board: Nawal El Moutawakel, Gunilla Lindberg and Claudia Bokel. Mrs Lindberg is acting as Chairperson for the IOC Coordination Commission for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang. In addition, Mrs Angela Ruggiero is acting as chairperson for the IOC Coordination Commission for the 2016 Youth Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer.

WOMEN IN NOCS AND IFS

The Loughborough research entitled "Gender Equality and Leadership in Olympic Bodies" published in June 2010 concluded that the Olympic Movement is yet to attain the 20% target for women in decision-making positions.

Based on responses received from 110 of the 205 NOCs (a 53.7% response rate), and from 70.4% of the IFs (Winter 85.7%, Summer 82.1%, Recognised 61.1%):

	NOCs	IFs
Women on Executive Boards	17.6%	18.0%
Women Presidents	4%	3.2%
Women Secretaries General	9%	3.9%

THE IOC WOMEN AND SPORT COMMISSION

Created in 1995, the IOC's Women and Sport Working Group served as a consultative body composed of representatives of the three constituent bodies of the Olympic Movement (the IOC, IFs and NOCs), plus an athlete representative and independent members. Chaired by Anita L. DeFrantz, the Working Group became a full Commission in 2004, and advises the IOC President and the Executive Board on which policies to adopt in order to increase female participation in sport at all levels.

INFORMATION SEMINARS

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

EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR WOMEN

The IOC has been able to address the need to further develop educational and training programmes targeting women in sport. With this, the IOC aims to enable women to take leadership positions in the administrative structures of NOCs and National Sports Federations.

OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY PROGRAMMES

Olympic Solidarity offers a series of assistance programmes for athletes, young hopefuls, coaches and sports managers, and these 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 NOCs' participation 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 plan of action to improve and increase the participation of women in sport.

The fifth edition was held in Los Angeles, USA, in February 2012 with over 700 delegates from 121 countries in attendance.

The delegates unanimously approved "The Los Angeles Declaration", a series of recommendations aimed at promoting gender equality in sport and using sport as a tool to improve the lives of women around the world.

The Declaration focused on two main themes:

- The need to bring more women into management and leadership roles
- The need to increase collaboration and partnerships, especially with UN organisations, to promote gender equality.

[Read the Los Angeles Declaration here](#)

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.

The six winners of the 2012 IOC Women and Sport Awards (one world and five continental) were:

- IOC World Trophy: Manisha Malhotra (India)
- IOC Trophy for Africa: Peninnah Aligawesa Kabenge (Uganda)
- IOC Trophy for the Americas: The Bradesco Sports and Education Programme and Centre (Brazil)
- IOC Trophy for Asia: Zaiton Othman (Malaysia)
- IOC Trophy for Europe: Aikaterini Nafplioti-Panagopoulos (Greece)
- IOC Trophy for Oceania: Roseline Blake (Cook Islands)

The winners of the 2012 Women and Sport Awards were recognised for their roles in getting more women involved in sport as athletes, administrators, leaders and as members of the media.

[Click here to learn more about their profiles and achievements.](#)

On the occasion of Olympic Day in 2011 (23 June), the 2011 Women and Sport Award trophies were presented as follows:

- IOC World Trophy: Tegla Loroupe (Kenya)
- IOC Trophy for Africa: Nadouvi Lawson Body (Togo)
- IOC Trophy for the Americas: The Women and Sport Commission of the Ecuadorian Olympic Committee
- IOC Trophy for Asia: Narin Hajtass (Jordan)
- IOC Trophy for Europe: Sema Kasapoglu (Turkey)
- IOC Trophy for Oceania: Daphne Pirie (Australia).



Table A: Women's participation in the Olympic Winter Games

Year	Sports	Events*	Participants	%	Year	Sports	Events*	Participants	%
1924	1	2	11	4.3	1972	3	14	205	20.5
1928	1	2	26	5.6	1976	3	15	231	20.6
1932	1	2	21	8.3	1980	3	15	232	21.7
1936	2	3	80	12	1984	3	16	274	21.5
1948	2	5	77	11.5	1988	3	19	301	21.2
1952	2	6	109	15.7	1992	4	26	488	27.1
1956	2	7	134	17	1994	4	28	522	30
1960	2	11	144	21.5	1998	6	32	787	36.2
1964	3	14	199	18.3	2002	7	37	886	36.9
1968	3	14	211	18.2	2006	7	40	960	38.2
Including mixed events					2010	7	41	1.044	40.7

Table B: Women's participation in the Games of the Olympiad

Year	Sports	Events*	Participants	%	Year	Sports	Events*	Participants	%
1896	-	-	-	-	1960	6	29	611	11.4
1900	2	2	22	2.2	1964	7	33	678	13.2
1904	1	3	6	0.9	1968	7	39	781	14.2
1908	2	4	37	1.8	1972	8	43	1,059	14.6
1912	2	5	48	2.0	1976	11	49	1,260	20.7
1920	2	8	63	2.4	1980	12	50	1,115	21.5
1924	3	10	135	4.4	1984	14	62	1,566	23
1928	4	14	277	9.6	1988	17	72	2,194	26.1
1932	3	14	126	9	1992	19	86	2,704	28.8
1936	4	15	331	8.3	1996	21	97	3,512	34.0
1948	5	19	390	9.5	2000	25	120	4,069	38.2
1952	6	25	519	10.5	2004	26	125	4,329	40.7
1956	6	26	376	13.3	2008	26	127	4,637	42.4
					2012	26	140	4,676	44.2



Table C: Women's Participation in the Olympic Games – % of events

Year	Games of the Olympiad			Olympic Winter Games*		
	Total events	Women's events	% of women events	Total events	Women's events **	% of women events
1900	95	2	2.1	-	-	-
1904	91	3	3.3	-	-	-
1908	110	4	3.6	-	-	-
1912	102	5	4.9	-	-	-
1920	154	8	5.2	-	-	-
1924	126	10	7.9	16	2	12.5
1928	109	14	12.8	14	2	14.3
1932	117	14	12.0	14	2	14.3
1936	129	15	11.6	17	3	17.6
1948	136	19	14.0	22	5	22.7
1952	149	25	16.8	22	6	27.3
1956	151	26	17.2	24	7	29.2
1960	150	29	19.3	27	11	40.7
1964	163	33	20.2	34	14	41.2
1968	172	39	22.7	35	14	40.0
1972	195	43	22.1	35	14	40.0
1976	198	49	24.7	37	15	40.5
1980	203	50	24.6	38	15	39.5
1984	221	62	28.1	39	16	41.0
1988	237	72	30.4	46	19	41.3
1992	257	86	33.5	57	26	45.6
1994				61	28	45.9
1996	271	97	35.8			
1998				68	32	47.1
2000	300	120	40			
2002				78	37	47.4
2004	301	125	41.5			
2006				84	40	47.6
2008	302	127	42.1			
2010				86	41	47.7
2012	302	140	46.4			

Remarks: * including mixed events

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