



INTERNATIONAL
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COMMITTEE

FOCUS

WOMEN AND SPORT

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Making Progress: Seeking gender equality in sport

The Olympic Games have provided a global stage for female athletes to defy gender stereotypes ever since women first participated in 1900. The London 2012 Olympic Games demonstrated the progress that continues to be made towards the goal of gender equality in sport, with the inclusion of women's boxing on the Olympic programme meaning that women competed in every Olympic sport for the first time. The participation of women on National Olympic Committee teams from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Brunei Darussalam also meant that every NOC has now sent women to the Games. In total, more than 44 per cent of the competitors in London were women, while female athletes outnumbered men on 35 Olympic teams, including some of the largest delegations, such as the USA.

The Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games will provide further progress, with women competing in ski jumping for the first time on the Olympic stage.

While female Olympians serve as powerful role models for young girls around the world, the IOC also highlights the work of others who have made major contributions to women's participation in sport and sport administration by presenting the Women and Sport Awards each year.

As part of the IOC's on-going commitment to advancing the cause of women in sport on and off the field of play, each of the 2013 award winners will be offered the opportunity to introduce new initiatives at national, regional and continental levels with the financial support of the IOC.



"Following the gender equality landmarks that we witnessed at the London Games, we must continue to build on

the progress we have made through our successful collaborations with the United Nations and other allies by strengthening and expanding those partnerships. Having seen great successes in the strive for gender equality on the field, we will now need to step up our efforts in integrating more women in leadership and administrative structures."

Jacques Rogge,
IOC President



"As I congratulate each of the recipients of this year's Women and Sport Awards, I hope that

they will continue to dedicate themselves towards our shared goal of equality in sport. Together, we can make a difference and provide a bright future for our daughters, granddaughters and generations to come."

Anita DeFrantz,
IOC member and Chair
of the IOC Women
and Sport Commission



The IOC Women and Sport Awards

The IOC recognises and celebrates the efforts made by an individual or an organisation to promote gender equality through the IOC Women and Sport Awards. This year six awards (one world and five continental) are being given for outstanding achievements to encourage and strengthen the participation of women and girls at all levels in the sporting world.

World Trophy: Ms Ahlam Salem Mubarak Al Mana



Ahlam Salem Mubarak Al Mana is a pioneer for women's rights in Qatar. Since being appointed President of the Qatar Women's Sport Committee, Ms Al Mana has played an active role in popularising sport among schoolgirls. She has also boosted the selection of Qatari sportswomen at an international level, having played an integral role in the participation of four Qatari female athletes at the London 2012 Olympic Games – the first time in Olympic history that Qatari women had taken part. Concerned about the lack of coaches in Qatar, she took an active role in promoting teachers from different schools into coaching positions and appointed overseas coaches for various sports teams in the country, while she also developed training and preparation programmes to provide specialised Qatari women coaches in handball, basketball, table tennis, football, volleyball, swimming and athletics.

Ms Al Mana has also enhanced the positions and leadership roles of Qatari women in sport through cooperation with the Qatar National Olympic Committee and national sports federations, and has attracted sponsorship for women's sport in Qatar. In addition to developing a project entitled "Incorporation of Women in Sport" for handball, basketball, football and athletics clubs, Ms Al Mana was named "Best Female Sports Administrator" by Qatar's leading regional sports weekly magazine.

The Continental Winners of the 2013 IOC Women and Sport Awards



Africa: Dr Djènè Saran Camara (Guinea)

Through her work with the NOC of Guinea, Dr Camara has devoted herself to the inclusion of women in sport in her country. She has travelled throughout Guinean sports clubs, schools and universities to organise awareness seminars and workshops on gender equality and has spoken out for the inclusion of girls and women in sports, political and administrative decision-making structures. Through her various roles as interim President of the Republic, Minister of Industry, Trade and Small and Medium-size Enterprises, Deputy in the National Assembly, member of the NOC Executive Committee and member of ANOCA's Medical Commission, Dr Camara has also inspired girls and women across the continent.



Americas: Ms Marlene Bjornsrud (USA)

Convinced that the full benefits of sport in society cannot be reached without women, Ms Bjornsrud and Olympic football stars Brandi Chastain and Julie Found co-founded the Bay Area Women's Sport Initiative (BAWSI) – a non-profit organisation aiming to mobilise and inspire female athletes. Through her work with BAWSI, she has committed to improve access for women and girls to sport and physical activity, offering them meaningful opportunities to develop as strong and confident leaders, to advocate women's equality in sport, and to increase the positive promotion of female athletes in the media. Through Ms Bjornsrud's leadership, BAWSI has already helped transform the lives of more than 13,000 girls and women in the San Francisco Bay Area, in California, who previously lacked the opportunity to engage in regular physical activity.



Asia: Ms Boossaba Yodbangtoey (Thailand)

Ms Yodbangtoey has been active in women's weightlifting in Thailand for the past two decades. A former governor of one of the country's

provinces, Ms Yodbangtoey is now President of the Thai Weightlifting Association. She has established a weightlifting centre for girls and women and, with her guidance, Thai women's weightlifting has risen in the world rankings. Weightlifting in Thailand has also opened new opportunities for talented girls from the country's poorer areas, with good coaching and excellent facilities provided to female weightlifters of all ages. By offering education opportunities to women weightlifters, Ms Yodbangtoey has also contributed to opening leadership positions within the Thai Weightlifting Association.



Europe: Ms Ona Baboniene (Lithuania)

Ms Baboniene has devoted her life to promoting sports activities among women and girls from rural areas. She organises successful school sports events and educational activities involving both boys and girls, while her support for women in their campaigns for senior positions in sports organisations has seen many of them being elected to decision-making posts in sports bodies. In her capacity as head of the Parliamentary Committee for Public Education, Science, Culture and Sport, she has supported women in administrative and decision-

making structures. During her mandate, the level of support for sport and physical activity by the government, especially related to the health of girls and women, has also grown.



Oceania: Ms Catherine Alice Wong (Fiji)

Passionate about sport and physical activity, Ms Wong has achieved a great deal in promoting fellow women in sport. She was instrumental in setting up a women's sports committee during her medical studies and later became the first professional female to break through the male-dominated field of rugby sports administration in Fiji.

Through her work to promote women in sport, Ms Wong has become a role model for many women and girls who want to enter the sports medicine profession.

In addition, she was instrumental in ensuring that female physiotherapists are now appointed to accompany national rugby teams.

Fiji's Ministry of Health has also awarded her "Champion for Physical Activity" and, in her capacity as the co-ordinator of the Fiji Rugby Union Medical support Group, she has been a strong advocate for supporting women in management roles.