



## IAPESGW International Update, March 2018: News and resources from 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:



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We're on Facebook too - [view our page](#)



[Our page on the website](#)

### IAPESGW Regional event - International Congress Cubamotricidad 22 - 26 October 2018, Havana Convention Center, Cuba

The World Organization of Stimulation, Education and Child Development (OMEEDI), the International Association of Physical Education and Sports for Girls and Women (IAPESGW), the International Association of Sports for All (TAFISA) with the National Institute of Sports , Physical Education and Recreation (INDER) of the Republic of Cuba, with the auspice of prestigious institutions and international organizations are convening the International Congress Cubamotricidad 2018, which will take place from October 22nd to 26th at the Havana Convention Center, Cuba.

[View a flyer for the event in English](#)

[View a flyer for the event in Spanish](#)

## **IAPESGW 18th Congress Book of Abstracts**

We are pleased to give you access to the material from our Congress in this 83-page document - giving you sight of some of the key submissions delivered over the course of the event held at Barry University, Florida , 18 - 20 May 2017.

[View the Book of Abstracts](#)

## **IAPESGW membership brochure 2017 edition**

Our membership brochure was update last year (currently, only English language version available) - [please view the latest edition](#)

**Note:** We will provide this in other languages soon.

## **March Editorial**

This is another bumper 32 page edition as the month of March included International Women's Day which has been celebrated in a big way in many places around the world. It seems this year was more encompassing than before, possibly fueled by various social media campaigns around sexual harassment.

Many sporting associations and governments made important announcements in regard to gender equality policy, funding of programs and facilities. You can read about the Commonwealth Games Federation Gender Equality Strategy which has been implemented for the Gold Coast (Australia, 4-16 April) Games where there is an equal number of sports for men and women for the first time and the sports of basketball, hockey and swimming will have at least 50% female officials for the first time. The IOC announced on IWD that it has reviewed 25 of its key Gender Equality Strategies.

You can share with our contributors how they celebrated IWD in various ways. IAPESGW national representative from Australia, in celebration of International Women's Day, A/Professor Clare Hanlon was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women 2018 in recognition of her significant contribution to women in sport. She was one of 20 "inspirational women inducted from all walks of life". In Turkey the government banned public recognition of IWD but we know many women and organisations celebrated the achievements of women in private gatherings. We congratulate these brave women!

I was part of a panel of five women from various backgrounds who spoke at a dinner function organised by my local council. The event was sold out and was a great success. Under the #PressforProgress slogan we took away stickers saying "I will influence the beliefs and actions of others".

A major European announcement is that StreetGames UK has received funding to move into Europe. The research and good practice modelling is worthy reading.

As usual we feature inspiring women gaining places on committees and in leadership positions, and cover new research papers, publications and events.

News from countries include: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Iran, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, UK, Northern Ireland and the USA, where much of the world media covered the lawsuit of Sharron Miller, the University of Minnesota women's hockey coach, who successfully sued her employer on the grounds of discrimination and was awarded \$3.74. The implications for female coaches in USA college sport are huge.

**Please note it is probably time to make your travel plans to our Cuban IAPESGW Regional Congress 22-26 October 2018.**

**And continue to #PressforProgress!**

**Janice Crosswhite OAM  
Communications Director**

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## **International**

**An event....**

### **International Physical Literacy Association - Physical Literacy Conference 26 June - 28 June 2018 Cardiff, Wales**

The goals of the IPLA Conference 'Physical Literacy – Coaching, Community and Education' are:

- Bringing together international speakers, researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and administrators; to share their knowledge during formal keynote presentations, workshops, paper presentations and practical sessions.
- Celebrating the impact physical literacy has on individual communities (both locally and globally).
- To challenge, inspire and support practitioners in providing accessible opportunities to nurture physical literacy.
- Providing opportunities to network with other professionals to share ideas and resources.
- Promoting the value of physical literacy across the lifespan worldwide.
- To continue to develop the concept of physical literacy, providing a forum for exchange of views and research.

The full IPLA Conference 2018 programme can be downloaded via the link below:

[IPLA Conference 2018 Agenda](#)

[View more details](#)

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*An older item but pertinent to include re the Commonwealth Games starting next month.....*

### **Commonwealth Games Federation (27 November 2017)**

#### **CGF Gender Equality Strategy implementation gathers pace ahead of Gold Coast 2018**

- Basketball, Hockey and Swimming lead drive to ensure gender parity of Technical Officials at Games
- Launch of Women's Coaching Internship Programme set to build women's coaching capacity across Commonwealth
- Gender parity in the number of medal events between men and women: 133 Women's events; 133 Men's events; 9 Mixed/Open events

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) today announced that central features of its Gender Equality Strategy have been implemented ahead of the XXI edition of the

Commonwealth Games which takes place on the Gold Coast, Australia from 4 – 15 April 2018.

### **Gender Parity of Technical Officials**

The International Federations for Basketball, Hockey and Swimming have confirmed that, for the first time ever, at least 50% of their technical officials presiding over the sporting action at Gold Coast 2018 will be women. The announcement supports the collective mission of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), the Gold Coast 2018 Organising Corporation (GOLDOC) and its international sporting stakeholders to ensure the upcoming edition of the Commonwealth Games in Australia are the most gender-equal multi-sports event in history.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (25 February 2018)**

#### **Chinese speed skater elected onto IOC Athletes' Commission as Coventry confirmed as Executive Board member**

Chinese speed skater Zhang Hong has been elected onto the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission following a vote at the 132nd Session here today.

Zhang, who initially finished fourth in the vote of the athletes competing at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games, replaces compatriot Yang Yang on the Commission.

The 29-year-old, winner of the 1,000 metres gold medal at Sochi 2014, was then sworn in as a member of the IOC.

The Executive Board proposed Zhang take the third and final available place on the Commission after Finnish ice hockey player Emma Terho and American cross-country Kikkan Randall were elected following the athletes vote.

The Athletes Commission berth was available due to the departure of Yang, the two-time Olympic champion whose term had come to an end.

Zhang finished fourth in the athletes vote behind Norwegian cross-country skier Astrid Uhrenholdt Jacobsen having polled a total of 787 votes.

The IOC Executive Board recommend she take up the last place to ensure a better "continental and geographical representation" on the Athletes' Commission.

Zimbabwean swimmer Kirsty Coventry was officially confirmed as the head of the

Commission, replacing outgoing chair Angela Ruggiero of the United States for the next two years. Coventry, a double Olympic champion, also takes up a place on the IOC Executive Board.

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[View the full news item](#)

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**International Women's Day - some news item to share.....there are other items in the 'specific countries' section**

**International Olympic Committee (8 March 2018)**

**International Women's Day: IOC setting the stage for lasting change in sport**

In support of today's International Women's Day and the call to action to #pressforprogress, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is launching today an overview of 25 key recommendations from its [Gender Equality Review Project](#), which focus on changing the conversation about women in sport holistically – from participation to representation and decision-making.

Covering five key areas – sport, portrayal, funding, governance and human resources – the 25 recommendations not only create an actionable roadmap to work with all of the IOC's partners and affiliates around the world to advance gender equality within the Olympic Movement and the global sports community, but also reflect the efforts already underway by the IOC, National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and International Federations (IFs) to promote greater participation, decision-making and leadership by women across all aspects of sport – to reflect and drive lasting change.

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[See the overview of the 25 recommendations.](#)

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[View the full news item](#)

**Inside the games reports (8 March 2018)**

**IPC award Egypt NPC President Hayat Khattab for inspiring women in the Paralympic Movement**

The President of the Egyptian National Paralympic Committee (NPC), Hayat Khattab, has been rewarded by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) for her "efforts and achievements in inspiring women in the Paralympic Movement" as part of this year's International Women's Day.

Khattab was given the IPC's 2018 International Women's Day Recognition today ahead of four other final nominees for the award.

The annual award is given to someone who "embodies the spirit of the Paralympics and serves as a role model within the Movement for all females, from athletes to technical officials and committee leaders".

After receiving her accolade, Khattab said: "Getting such an award is a great honour to me personally and to the Egyptian Paralympic Committee.

"I am very proud of getting this award, which is a compensation for all the hard work I have been doing for the Paralympic Movement."

Khattab became the Egyptian Paralympic Committee's first female President in 2015 and has since implemented several reforms to try and encourage more female athletes to take up sports.

She has also been praised for trying to entice retired female athletes to take up positions in coaching or on committees.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (8 March 2018)**

#### **Commonwealth Games Federation President claims organisation setting the pace for equal gender representation in sport**

Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) President Louise Martin claims the organisation is setting the pace for equal gender representation in sport.

Speaking on International Women's Day, Martin reflected that the CGF had taken strides to improve equality in terms of the number of medal events, as well as by boosting the number of female technical officials and coaches.

"International Women's Day is the right time to reflect on how far we have come with gender equality and how far we still have to go to ensure real balance and fairness in both sport and society," Martin said.

"The Commonwealth Sports Movement is proud to be setting the pace for equal gender representation and opportunity in sport, by ensuring that an equal number of medals will be up for grabs at Gold Coast 2018 for women and men.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Beyond Sport (8 March 2018)**

#### **Sport promoting gender equality on International Women's Day**

Thursday the 8th of March marked 2018's International Women's Day, in a year that has been seismic in terms of social movements and campaigns for the protection and promotion of women's rights. It is a day to celebrate the contribution of women past and present and an opportunity to continue striving for equality in all areas of modern society for a more equal future.

Beyond Sport has continuously advocated for the role that sport can play in empowering women and facilitating gender equality. In 2017, winners of the Beyond Sport Global Awards included some outstanding organizations that are actively promoting gender equality in communities around the world.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Gold Coast 2018 (8 March 2018)**

#### **11 inspiring women of the Commonwealth Games**

Across the Commonwealth, women are leading the way in sport, art and business. At GC2018, they will take centre stage as they inspire the next generation of leaders. And for the first time, there will be an equal number of medal events for men and women.

To celebrate International Women's Day, be inspired by some of the leading ladies of the Games.

#### [Peace Proscovia - Netball](#)

Growing up in the Arua District in the West Nile of Uganda, Peace Proscovia's parents couldn't afford to pay her education fees. Against their wishes, she left home to go to the city

and now she's the captain of the Ugandan netball team, is studying a Masters degree in marketing and is an incredible role model for women in Uganda and around the world.

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[View the details of all the 11 inspiring women](#)

### **Inside the games reports (12 March 2018)**

#### **INAS name first sport champions for We Are Sport project**

International Federation for Athletes with Intellectual Impairments (INAS) have announced the first athletes to take part in their "We Are Sport" project.

The initiative was launched on International Women's Day, with seven female athlete and administrator sport champions revealed.

Through the programme, INAS aims to help female athletes to use social and other media to show their life as a high-performance sports person.

The organisation claim this will help to make the athletes more visible and raise their profile, while acting as role models for the next generation.

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Britain's London 2012 Paralympic swimming champion and Rio 2016 silver medallist Jessica-Jane Applegate is set to be the face of the campaign.

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[View the full news item](#)



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### **Inside the games reports (11 March 2018)**

#### **IWF claim progress being made to ensure gender equality in weightlifting**

International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) have claimed they are making strong progress towards ensuring equal opportunities for men and women.

IWF President Tamas Aján claimed equality was a key priority of the federation as they marked International Women's Day.

"Gender equality is a key priority for the IWF," Aján said.

"We want to ensure that there are equal opportunities for men and women to practice our sport from amateur level all the way up to elite.

"Good progress has been made but there is more work to be done and the IWF is committed to working with our National Federations to achieve gender equality."

The IWF President claimed that women's weightlifting has grown impressively in recent years, citing a rise in the number of women taking part at the World Weightlifting Championships.

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[View the full news item](#)

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Australia's Jade Lucy and Singapore's Danielle Moi Yan Ting have been confirmed as sport champions, with the swimmers joined by table tennis players Yang Hee Seo of South Korea and Hong Kong's Wong Pui Kei.

Ecuador's World Para Athletics Championship shot put silver medallist Poeth Mendes and Australia's INAS high jump world champion Caitlyn Sharp are also supporting the initiative.

Britain's London 2012 Paralympic swimming champion and Rio 2016 silver medallist Jessica-Jane Applegate is set to be the face of the campaign.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (13 March 2018)**

#### **IOC and Olympic medallists to participate in UN discussion on gender equality**

A panel discussion on gender equality in sport is due to take place at the 62nd Session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women in New York City tomorrow.

The debate, entitled "Racing Towards Gender Equality: The Media's Portrayal of Women Athletes and Its Effects on Women's Participation in Sports", will include contributions by athletes, as well as business leaders and sporting officials.

Taking place at the Diplomat Ballroom in the Millennium Hotel in New York, the discussion will be moderated by NBC Sports broadcaster Andrea Joyce.

Other speakers include two-time Olympic swimming gold medallist Donna de Varona, a member of the IOC Women and Sport Commission, and Olympic bronze medal winning figure skater Maia Shibutani.

They will be joined by Rebecca Lowell Edwards, the IOC strategic communications director, and Marc Pritchard, the chief brand officer at Procter and Gamble.



Khetsiwe Dlamini, the chief of staff and acting director of strategic partnerships at UN Women, will complete the line-up alongside UNESCO director of the gender equality division, Saniye Gülser Corat.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (21 March 2018)**

#### **Crisis-hit AIBA announce diversity in boxing programme to aid National Federations**

The International Boxing Association (AIBA) have unveiled a diversity in boxing programme which they claim will be used to help national federations access various initiatives in the coming years.

A total of CHF1 million (£750,000/\$1.05 million/€850,000) will be made available for federations each year, although an additional CHF200,000 (£150,000/\$209,000/€170,000) is set to be on offer this year to ensure a positive start to the programme.

AIBA said the programme will be financed by one of their sponsors.

National federations will be able to apply from April, with AIBA then set to review and make final decisions on the applications.

The governing body stated that the financial support will be closely monitored with full disclosure given over allocation of the funds.

The initiative will mainly support schemes focused on good governance and organisational ethics programmes, AIBA said, with the organisation's own politics currently in turmoil.

#### **Focus will also be placed on developing youth and women's boxing initiatives.**

The latter is significant, with AIBA claiming that they will significantly increase the number of female boxers competing, having come under pressure from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to achieve greater gender equality.

The governing body's assertions came after the IOC removed two weight categories from the men's competition to make way for two women's at Tokyo 2020.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **European Commission - Sport (21 March 2018)**

#### **New Eurobarometer on sport and physical activity**

The report, unveiled by Commissioner Navracsics in Sofia during the annual EU Sport Forum, shows that levels of participation have not changed substantially since the previous Eurobarometer survey in 2014. In fact, the proportion of those who say they never exercise or play sport has slightly increased from 42% to 46% Europe-wide, and this is a continuation of a gradual trend since 2009.

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The Eurobarometer also shows that most physical activity takes place in informal settings, such as parks and outdoors (40%) or at home (32%) or during the journey between home and work, school or shops. Still, 15% of Europeans do not walk for 10 minutes at a time at all in a weekly period, and 12% sit for more than 8.5 hours per day.

These figures emphasize the crucial role that other actors can play: employers, for example, can help addressing sedentary behaviours at the workplace, and cities and local authorities can also play a part in helping citizens be more physically active in their daily lives.

The main motivations for participation in sport or physical activity are improved health (54%) and fitness (47%). Lack of time (40%) is the principal barrier.

This Eurobarometer survey was carried out for the European Commission by Kantar Public in the 28 Member States between 2 and 11 December 2017. Around 28 000 respondents from different social and population groups took part in the poll. The survey follows comparable surveys conducted in 2002, 2009 and 2013, and will contribute to providing data to support the development of policies to promote sport and physical activity.

[View the full details](#)

[Access all the fact sheets on this page](#)

### **StreetGames - in the UK (March 2018)**

#### **European Us Girls**

StreetGames has been successful in securing Erasmus+ Sport funding to share our insight and learning about engaging women and girls in sport across Europe.

Using the learning from the award-winning Us Girls programme and understanding the context of women's sport in our partner countries StreetGames will lead the project to disseminate learning. Working with partners from Italy, Denmark, France, The Netherlands and Poland StreetGames will develop tools for improving the quality of sport provision for women.

This will include training and learning resources adaptable for different national settings that can be rolled out Europe-wide. In particular, a new international course to train young women to be peer educators in grassroots sport.

The project will create a large and dynamic new European network for grassroots sport. The partners bring their own extensive networks to this project, which will interact on the new networking platform to form a 'network of networks'.

#### **Research**

As part of this exciting project, the partners have conducted two research reports that are now available to view and download here:

**European Us Girls Case Study Report** – Providing 28 examples of good practices for engaging female volunteers and improving girls' inclusion and participation in sport and physical from across Europe and beyond. To download the Executive Summary, [click here](#); To download the full report, [click here](#).

**The Academic Review** - provided findings from extant peer-reviewed literature with regards to female volunteers in sport and how their role could contribute to girls' increased participation in sport and physical activity. To download the full report, [click here](#).

If you are interested in finding out how you could get involved in this project please contact [europeanusgirls@streetgames.org](mailto:europeanusgirls@streetgames.org)

[Source of information](#)

### **Inside the games reports (27 March 2018)**

#### **CGF to launch first women's coaching mentor programme at Gold Coast 2018**

A total of 19 female coaches from the Commonwealth are set to benefit from a new tailored mentor scheme due to be held during Gold Coast 2018, it was announced here today.

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has officially launched its Women's Coaching Internship Programme (WCIP), offering participants mentoring, learning and on-the-ground training at the event.

It forms part of the CGF's gender-equality strategy, which they claim is setting the benchmark for standards in international sport.

The coaches from 11 nations due to compete at the Games, scheduled to take place from April 4 to 15, represent 12 sports on the Gold Coast 2018 programme.

Botswana, Canada, England, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, South Africa and New Zealand are all represented on the WCIP.

They will participate in regular information sessions, including presentations from established women coaches who will share their stories, while learning from their respective mentors.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **UNESCO (28 March 2018)**

#### **Launch of a study to promote women's football internationally**

In the spirit of the approaching FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in France in June 2019, UNESCO, together with the French National Union of Professional Footballers (l'Union nationale des footballeurs professionnels – UNFP) and the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS), will work together to advance the promotion of women's football on the world stage.

The will of these three actors is to advance, each at its own level, gender equality and equity in women's football, and to promote its inclusive role in society.

UNESCO, [UNFP \(link is external\)](#) and [IRIS \(link is external\)](#) announce officially, on Wednesday 28 March 2018, the launch of a study to promote women's football internationally.

The study has three main objectives. It will first determine the status of women's participation in football at all levels (including amateur, professional, coaching and administrative or managerial positions). Secondly, it will identify the barriers to their participation. Finally, based on quantitative and qualitative analysis collected through the study, the partners in this project will provide concrete recommendations for public authorities, sport bodies and the general public to promote and develop gender equality and female empowerment through football. The study also intends to provide a clear picture of the status of women in football and prompt action for advancing gender equality in football.

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[View the full news item](#)

*A study of interest...*

**BMC Pediatrics**BMC series – open, inclusive and trusted201818:78

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12887-018-1029-7>, published 22 February 2018. “Not just another Wii training”: a graded Wii protocol to increase physical fitness in adolescent girls with probable developmental coordination disorder- a pilot study. Bonney, E et al

### **Abstract**

**Background:** Adolescents with low motor competence participate less in physical activity and tend to exhibit decreased physical fitness compared to their peers with high motor competence. It is therefore essential to identify new methods of enhancing physical fitness in this population. Active video games (AVG) have been shown to improve motor performance, yet investigations of its impact on physical fitness are limited. The objective of this study was to examine the impact of the graded Wii protocol in adolescent girls with probable Developmental Coordination Disorder (p-DCD).

**Methods:** A single-group pre-post design was conducted to assess the impact of a newly developed Wii protocol in adolescent girls attending school in a low income community of Cape Town, South Africa. Sixteen participants (aged 13-16 years) with p-DCD ( $\leq 16$ th percentile on the MABC-2 test) were recruited. Participants received 45 min Wii training for 14 weeks. Outcome measures included the six-minute walk distance and repeated sprint ability. Information on heart rate, enjoyment and perceived exertion ratings were also collected.

**Results:** Significant improvements in aerobic and anaerobic fitness were observed. The participants reported high enjoyment scores and low perceived exertion ratings. The graded Wii protocol was easily adaptable and required little resources (space, equipment and expertise) to administer.

**Conclusions:** The findings provide preliminary evidence to support the use of the graded Wii protocol for promoting physical fitness in adolescent girls with p-DCD. Further studies are needed to confirm these results and to validate the clinical efficacy of the protocol in a larger sample with a more robust design.

[View the 13-page article](#)

**Journal of Physical Activity and Health: The Official Journal of the International Society for Physical Activity and Health. Volume 15, Issue 4, April 2018**

**Editor** - the abstracts from the articles in this current edition to be placed on their website are now available.

[View the abstracts](#)

## **Specific countries**

### **AUSTRALIA**

**Victoria State Government - Sport and Recreation (8 March 2018)**

**New push to boost female leadership in sport**

To celebrate International Women’s Day, the Victorian Government has announced \$220,000 towards the Change Our Game Scholarship Program, providing a new pathway to senior roles for women in sport.

The scholarships are targeted at women already working in sport and recreation organisations, who have fewer opportunities to set up and lead due to the male dominated nature of sport.

This program seeks to break down this barrier and start levelling the playing field for women.

There will be as many as 24 scholarships each year, ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000, to provide professional development to enhance skills in sport leadership and management.

It comes on top of a range of Victorian Government initiatives – from establishing Victoria's first Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, to upgrading or building more than 100 new female-friendly facilities across the state.

Our record \$14 million Female-Friendly Facilities Fund has already helped more than 200 clubs transform their ageing facilities to get more women and girls involved and active.

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[View the full news item](#)

*Full article in this case as couldn't pick up a web version - item flagged-up by Janice Crosswhite via an email news item received....*

[Narelle Gosstray](#) - Non-profit professional , sports diplomat, women's sport advocate and volunteer, specialising in governance and strategy

### **This is a BIG deal! Australian female baseball coach makes sporting history (12 March 2018)**

A few weeks ago an Australian coach quietly made history. Amongst all the noise and the hype of the AFLW, the winter Olympics, W-League finals and every other sporting code the feat of this woman slipped through the cracks.

BLINK

You just missed it.

On a stormy Sunday afternoon in a controversial game with ejections, rain delays and home runs, the Brisbane Bandits secured their third straight Claxton Shield in the Australian Baseball League, defeating the Canberra Cavalry at home 4-2.

And in the dugout was the woman who made Australian sporting history.

Lisa Norrie was appointed as an Assistant Coach to the Bandits earlier this year and was in the dugout for the Bandit's historic win. Her appointment in itself creates a crack in the "grass"

ceiling of sport, as the first woman to coach in the Australian Baseball League (ABL). With the Bandits victory she has claimed a trifecta ... first woman to coach in the ABL, first woman to coach in a men's national league (in any sport) in Australia and first woman to coach on an Australian championship team (in any sport).

There is little surprise that it was the Bandits who opened the door for 42 year old Norrie to make this history. The Bandits have always been about leading the pack. They were the first to appoint a female General Manager, Kate Dobie in 2014, and this year created two firsts – a "three-peat" and a female coach.

With innovation comes success, and the Bandits can claim success. As can Norrie. This appointment comes as just reward for her dedication and commitment to the game. Observed by Bandits head coach, David Nilsson as she mentored female Queensland team squad members alongside the Bandits squad, he recognised her capabilities and offered her the role.

Norrie was initially worried that she might not be accepted in the team due to her gender, but with the support of both Nilsson and Bandits CEO Mark Ready, the entry was surprisingly easy. Says Norrie “Initially I thought that I would be mainly observing, but David gave me the opportunity to coach third and first base, throw to hitters in batting practice and hit fungos (fielding practice) in training.” These responsibilities firmly position Norrie as a legitimate member of this history making team.



Norrie’s resume includes Assistant Coach for the Australian Women’s National Team (the Emeralds) in 2014 in Korea, where they knocked the intimidating USA team out of medal contention with her coaching first base. She has previously managed and played on the Queensland State Team, and also has a long history in softball as a Queensland representative. Having been around the game a long time, Norrie tells of her experience with the Bandits that “baseball is baseball, there wasn’t a lot new around the game itself, however I learned a lot being exposed to the professionalism of the team, and the behind the scene processes like managing different personalities, pitching rotations and bullpens (to get the most out of players and staff).”

Norrie will again join the Emeralds when they vie for the title of World Champion at the 2018 Women’s World Cup in Florida this August. She hopes the experience she has gained being part of the Bandit’s elite environment will help the Emeralds campaign. Adding that to her second time around on the world stage, there is no doubt she will contribute to the Emeralds success in 2018

But before then she has a unique task ... to supply her ring size to the ABL. A long standing tradition of baseball is the championship ring, and no offence to her husband Chris, there is no doubt this piece of jewellery will hold pride of place on her dresser at night.

We all look forward to the time when a female coach is not ground breaking. But until then we will continue to celebrate the successes of the pioneers like Lisa Norrie that pave the way for future generations of women in sport.

### **Beyond the Game TV (21 March 2018)**

#### **Susan Alberti - on the Australian Football League Women's (AFLW)**

What an inspirational and passionate woman who has truly given back to her community and has done wonders for AFLW.

Susan Alberti speaks out and answers her critics.

[Watch the short video](#)

## **VicHealth (March 2018)** **About this girl can – Victoria**

[Click here to watch the This Girl Can – Victoria commercial.](#)

### [Jump to Frequently Asked Questions](#)

This Girl Can – Victoria is here to celebrate and support Victorian women (yep, you!) embracing physical activity in a way that suits you. Whether it's a little or a lot, what matters is getting some movement into your day.

While many of us know that exercising is important for our physical and mental health, that doesn't change the fact that half of us aren't getting enough exercise each week.

Why? Victorian women have told us that a big part of not trying new activities or getting involved in sport is a fear of being judged, or not being fit enough to start. Not to mention, twice as many women than men put off getting active because they're worried about what other people think – how unfair is that? Sports, gyms and moving your body are for everybody (literally, every body).

So we're banding together to put a red-hot stop to this.

Because it's perfectly normal to get sweaty and messy when you're having fun and getting active. Because moving and making time for your health doesn't need to be a chore. Because there are so many options, and we're on a mission to help you find something that feels right for you.

This Girl Can – Victoria is an empowering campaign from VicHealth, based on [Sport England's](#) highly successful [This Girl Can](#) campaign (which motivated a whopping 3.9 million women in England to take their fitness into their own hands). After seeing the impact there, the VicHealth team was inspired to get involved – and now, Australia is the first country in the world to license this powerful campaign.

Want to get involved? Learn how you can inspire more women to get more active: register to access the This Girl Can – Victoria Promotional Toolkit, or download our [free guide](#) to help you create more welcoming environments for women.

Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#), or get in touch at [thisgirlcan@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:thisgirlcan@vichealth.vic.gov.au). We'd love to hear your thoughts!

### [View the website](#)

## **Inside the games reports (28 March 2018)**

### **Russell appointed chief executive at Swimming Australia**

Swimming Australia has appointed experienced sports administrator Leigh Russell as its new chief executive, it was announced today.

Russell is the first woman to hold the role within the national governing body and she is due to take up the position on April 16, the day after the conclusion of the Commonwealth Games here.

She replaces the interim chief executive Chris Forbes, chosen on a temporary basis

following the departure of Mark Anderson to Australian Football League (AFL) club Collingwood.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **BRAZIL**

*News on events supplied by IAPESGW board member Beatriz Ferreira:*

**1. The International Women's Day** was celebrated in different situations in Brazil. The aim was to recognise and support the women's empowerment and gender equality. There were different conferences, debates on tv, discussion on benefits of physical activity for women, and so on.

### **2. 2018 World Day for Physical Activity**

The Physical Fitness Research Laboratory of Sao Caetano do Sul – CELAFISCS, Brazil – is inviting all the world organizations to take part in the 2018 World Day for Physical Activity. This day will be celebrated for the 17th time since 2002, each year on 6th April, 2018.

This year's theme is Be Active

You can see information of the program on the website below:

<http://www.celafiscs.org.br/index.php/eventos/item/dia-mundial-de-atividade-fisica-2018-seja-ativos-todos-os-dias>

In Brazil there will be a parade on 6th April, 2018 (see the site below):

<http://www.celafiscs.org.br/index.php/eventos/item/caminhada-agita-mundo-2018>

You can send information to be published about the good physical activity practice during the year

<http://www.celafiscs.org.br/index.php/eventos/item/boas-praticas-2018>

You can send information the virtual walking about what you have been done (see site below):

<http://www.celafiscs.org.br/index.php/eventos/item/caminhada-virtual-participe-conosco>

## **CANADA**

### **National Post ( 28 February 2018)**

#### **Budget 2018 plays long game when it comes to boosting number of women in sports**

OTTAWA — The Liberal government wants to see gender equality in Canadian sports — from the local arena to the Olympics — by 2035, a vision articulated in a federal budget aimed at increasing opportunities for women and girls.

The long-term target comes with \$30 million over three years to get the ball rolling towards that goal, including for data and research to figure out why fewer women and girls take part in sports or other physical activity than do men and boys.

“Once we better understand why women and girls choose not to participate in sport, or move into the senior ranks of coaching or management of sport, we can then work to remove those barriers,” Jocelyn Sweet, a spokeswoman for the Department of Finance, wrote in an email Wednesday.



The budget said the money would also support innovative practices to tackle the problem, as well as efforts by national sports organizations to promote a higher rate of participation of women and girls, both on the ice and behind the bench.

Statistics Canada estimated in 2010 that about one-third of Canadian men regularly participated in sport, compared with just one-sixth of Canadian women.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (20 March 2018)**

#### **Taekwondo Canada welcomes Anderson as executive director**

Taekwondo Canada has appointed Carla Anderson, formerly the director of Games for the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC), as their executive director.

According to a Taekwondo Canada release, Anderson, who was with the COC for 29 years until her departure in October 2016, will be "responsible for developing opportunities for Taekwondo Canada, and will drive the vision to develop, promote, expand and sustain our organisation".

Anderson will also be expected to provide overall management of the day-to-day operations and to work closely with the Board of Directors in developing the organisation in a manner "consistent with the mission and goals of Taekwondo Canada".

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[View the full news item](#)

## **COLUMBIA**

*Profesora Doctora Luz Amelia Hoyos Cuartas, Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, Bogotá - Colombia kindly sent us this item for inclusion....*

In Colombia, women's day is celebrated, as a special day for the recognition of women's rights, and special attention is given to women who belong to vulnerable groups such as: displaced women or women victims of violence.

In the same way, during the month of March, events are held in which women who have played an important role in different areas are recognized; as social leaders, academics, project managers. It also highlights the role of women athletes who in recent decades have represented our country internationally with great achievements.

The Olympic Comite of Colombia (COC), organized last week a academic event: ***Equality, Diversity and Gender in the Sport***. The porpuse of this event is the development and application of strategies, policies and activities that promote gender equality, the inclusion and diversity in the sport practice.

## **IRAN**

### **Female Coaching Network reports (19 March 2018)**

#### **Child's tears spark weightlifting protest that raises bar for Iran's sportswomen (Iran)**

If you are good at weightlifting in [Iran](#), you can become as rich as a Premier League footballer. The country boasts 300 professional weightlifters, dedicated arenas in every

sizable town, and full-time officials in all 31 provinces. When an Olympic champion got married in 2006, his wedding made national television news.

“Weightlifting is more popular in Iran than in any other country,” said Mohammad Barkhah, the national team’s head coach. Only football is more popular and, as with football, the sport has historically been an overwhelmingly male domain – until now. Next month four teenagers are set to become the first female weightlifters to represent Iran – in a competition in Uzbekistan. The young women have the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo in their sights, and weightlifting has become an unlikely vehicle of female empowerment.

The change has come about thanks in part to a remarkable alliance between Iran and the US, and the efforts of an eight-year-old girl who won nationwide support for the women’s cause last weekend.

Aysan Adib was in tears when security men enforced a ban on females entering the arena for a men’s international competition, the Fajr Cup, in Ahvaz, south-west Iran. Religious leaders in Khuzestan province had given permission for the ban to be relaxed, but because the signed paperwork was not presented the security guards refused them entry. Aysan, and six-year-old Yeganeh Bandeh Khodo, thus missed a unique chance to show off their skills in a demonstration scheduled for the penultimate day of the event.

The result was a passionate protest that rapidly went viral. Ursula Garza Papandrea, one of the most senior women in the sport, who headed a US delegation of three to the competition, joined the exiled girls outside in protest.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (7 March 2018)**

**Religious authorities' decision helps to fuel Iranian weightlifting's surge in popularity**  
Religious authorities from Khuzestan province have signed papers that will help Iran's national weightlifting federation to stage a landmark event tomorrow, and add to the growing popularity of the sport there.

The authorities have given special approval for women to attend a men's competition for the first time.

Women are not normally allowed to watch men performing, nor are men allowed to attend women's sports events in Iran.

This is a highly contentious issue in football, as many Iranian women have highlighted with their recent attempts to enter stadiums, but the restrictions have been lifted for the Fajr Cup, an international weightlifting competition that began today here in Ahvaz.

Not only will women be allowed to watch, but there will be a woman coaching a man in the 62 kilograms class when Derrick Johnson, the lone American competitor, lifts tomorrow afternoon.

Johnson is coached by Ursula Garza Papandrea, President of USA Weightlifting and an International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) vice-president who is in Iran to help launch the nation's new women's weightlifting programme, as is technical official Sally Van De water.

Both women will break new ground as the first female coach and referee at men's contests.

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[View the full news item](#)

## MEXICO

### Women's soccer course for coaches in Mexico

At the sport facilities of the Faculty of Sport Organization at Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon, took place a training course for female Mexican coaches of women's soccer. This is part of the sports diplomacy course of the United States embassy in Mexico, working in partnership with the Mexican Soccer Federation (FMF). The main interest are the issues of Mexican girls and women's empowerment through sports; soccer is considered as the most popular sport in Mexico, and it is also a sport where the United States has been really successful, particularly women's soccer team.

The Mexican Soccer Federation (FMF) has indicated that it is really important that every platform of women's soccer in Mexico has the capacity of full development, ensuring that all coaches who take care of the girls and women (in women's soccer) obtain the best training, being the basis of all sportive development. The course also provides tools of technical, tactical and psychological knowledge to promote and environment for the human and sportive development. The main interest is having soccer players fully and psychologically trained in the same way as skilled in order to transcend to the next soccer tiers in the

country. In Mexico, it has been started the Mx women's league, being the first soccer league at professional level where it is really important that coaches participate actively and have in charge the development of the soccer players to be trained and prepared in order to provide them a better future in the sports side and making them better persons.



**From: Dr. Jeannette López  
Alejandra Gonzalez  
Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León  
Facultad de Organización Deportiva (FOD  
Mexico**

## NEW ZEALAND

### The Guardian reports (13 March 2018)

#### Rugby union: New Zealand's national women's side receive historic paid contracts

Twenty-three years after men's rugby union was made professional, New Zealand's national women's team – the Black Ferns – will be offered paid contracts for the first time, [valued at up to NZ\\$45,000](#) inclusive of allowances and other payments.

England had previously funded a professional women's XV ahead of last year's Rugby World Cup, however that funding has now been [diverted to rugby sevens](#).

The new memorandum of understanding between New Zealand Rugby and the New Zealand Rugby Players Association sees a [minimum of 30 players employed on contracts](#). They will also have access to medical and life insurance, as well as maternity leave entitlements to encourage women to return to the game.

The 30 contracted players will commit 10-14 hours per week to training, as well as 50 days a year of training camps and playing fixtures. Given the contracts will remain semi-professional and unable to support a living wage, players will also be encouraged to continue with work and study alongside their sporting commitments.

In addition to the 30 contracted players, a Black Ferns performance programme will allow another 20 players to train in regional performance hubs, as well as access interim contracts when called into the squad.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **Sport New Zealand (17 March 2018)**

### **The Value of Sport**

We've launched a new study which explores the value of sport to New Zealanders, their communities and our country. The Value of Sport is based on extensive research, including a survey of around 2,000 New Zealanders and a review of previous studies from here and around the world.

There's no question sport is at the heart of our national identity, but this study tells us that being physically active also creates happier, healthier people, better connected communities and a stronger New Zealand.

We've developed a print ready [infographic](#) illustrating The Value of Sport that we hope you'll find useful.

### **Here are some key findings from the Value of Sport research:**

- 92 per cent of the people we talked to believe being active keeps them physically fit and healthy, and helps relieve stress
- 88 per cent believe that sport and other physical activities provide them with opportunities to achieve and help build confidence
- 84 per cent believe sport and physical activity bring people together and create a sense of belonging
- 74 per cent say sport and physical activity help build vibrant and stimulating communities
- 86 per cent agree that high performance sport both helps instil a sense of pride in our country, and contributes to our national identity as New Zealanders
- Sport and active recreation contributes \$4.9 billion or 2.3% to our annual GDP, and the sector employs more than 53,000 New Zealanders.

You can read more about the key findings of The Value of Sport in the [Main Report](#).

You can also read the original [Research Report](#) that we commissioned.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **Female Coaching Network reports (19 March 2018)**

#### **South Africa Football Association walks the talk on women empowerment in football (South Africa)**

The South African Football Association (safa) is proving its seriousness about making women empowerment in football a priority.

Conversely, the number of women in leadership positions in South African football in the past five years has grown significantly, albeit, not as fast as SAFA would like.

“While we do face many challenges towards gender equity, we have made significant progress.”

So said Ria Ledwaba, a SAFA executive committee member, following her presentation at the CAF Women’s Symposium in Marrakesh, Morocco, last Thursday.

“We are well aware of the patriarchal culture in the South African society, and it is even more evident in sport, including football. For this reason, we are making a concerted effort to advance the role of women in football.”

Ledwaba said SAFA wanted to ensure that generations of girls understood that there was a future for women in sport, particularly in football.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **UK**

### **England Golf (27 February 2018)**

#### **New report highlights need to grow women and girls’ golf**

A new research report published by The R&A underlines how golf can grow significantly if it attracts more women, girls and families into the sport.

The report brings together a review of all the research on the subject, comments from golf experts and a host of practical recommendations for golf clubs to consider to get more women and girls into golf.

These range from increasing the number of women in influential leadership positions to exploring how to combine childcare and golf participation, perhaps with crèche or play facilities or junior camps in the evenings or at weekends.

The report has been welcomed by Lauren Spray, England Golf Women and Girls’ Manager, who commented: “This report puts women and girls’ golf high on the agenda of everyone in the industry and it confirms that we at England Golf are working on the right lines to grow the game.

“It’s great to have all the research in one, go-to place and the action points are excellent. There are many, very good ideas for clubs to consider and discuss with their England Golf Club Support Officer.”

The signs of growing female interest in golf in England are clear to see. Between 2015 and March 2017 over 10,000 women took Get into Golf activities; in the year to March 2017 women accounted for 40% of all new players who took opportunities offered by England

Golf's county network; in 2016 girls' golf grew in 17 counties, leading to a national total of 4078 – a two-year high.

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[View the full news item](#)

*The report...*

**Women's, Girls' and Family Participation in Golf: An Overview of Existing Research (2018). Royal and Ancient, February 2018 (60 pages)**

The key themes identified in the report, which was produced by Dr John Fry and Philip Hall, include:

- The importance of establishing the optimum environment for family participation by being aware of the make-up of the modern family
- A direct link between equality in sports participation and wider measures of gender equality such as women in influential decision-making positions in golf
- That parents are the chief factor underpinning families' likelihood to play golf and that their motivations for their children taking part include having fun, improving health and developing friendships
- The increasing desire for golf to provide opportunities for socialising and to be adaptable and flexible given the time and cost constraints placed on the modern family
- The need for the sport to evolve to meet the demands of contemporary society and for clubs to encourage memorable events for their customers, as that memory itself or the 'experience', is increasingly replacing the 'product' of playing golf
- The research reflects The R&A's continued drive to encourage more women, girls and families to play golf more regularly, working with its affiliates around the world to enhance golf's appeal.

[Download a copy](#)

[View the executive summary \(4 pages\)](#)

**Rugby Football League (28 February 2018)**

**This Girl Can Play Rugby League: Campaigning for Girls' Rugby League**

Player registrations in the female game are showing good signs of growth, with 28 women's teams and 52 girls' teams applying to be part of Rugby Football League the competitions in 2018.

The RFL's focus remains on supporting existing grassroots clubs.

Clubs that offer girls and women's Rugby League, or would like to, can access a range of support from the Rugby Football League including free marketing and promotion assets and materials to help with player recruitment in schools and the local community.

Marketing and design support has already been provided to a number of clubs including Leigh East, West Leeds and Oulton Raidettes.

A programme of support to community clubs is being developed in partnership with the Women's Super League Founder Clubs to build on existing local work to recruit new players for the benefit of the Championship competition and the Merit League.

The Champion Schools competition is a key recruitment tool for the girls' game and the Rugby Football League is ensuring that the Foundations and clubs know which secondary

schools are driving girls' Rugby League and joining up the schools opportunity so that teachers and the girls they coach are signposted to local clubs. In addition, there are a number of coaching opportunities in support of the female game:

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[View the full details](#)

### **Sport England / Club Matters (1 March 2018)**

#### **Top tips to engage with more women and girls at your club**

To celebrate International Women's Day (March 8th), we wanted to take this opportunity to discuss how your club can encourage more girls and women into sport and improve engagement with existing members. Following the launch of the This Girl Can campaign,

female participation in sport has risen significantly. However, more men still regularly take part

in sport than women, with many women believing there are several barriers stopping them from taking part. We want to help you break down these barriers, with some quick and easy

tips that can increase the number of female members at your club and further encourage your existing members.

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[View the 'Top tips'](#)

### **Women's Sports Network (2 March 2018)**

#### **Teenage girls & sport – what are the issues?**

#### **WSNet launches ROWMoJo, FOOTBALLMoJo & LACROSSEMoJo**

On IWDDay2018 The Women's Sports Network will launch a series of kitbag 'MoJoManuals' - to help teenage girls (teachers, coaches, parents) as they start out in competitive sport, to develop greater body confidence in parallel with sport-related skills. MoJoManuals are predicated on 'Physical Literacy' & effective movement. They also cover a wide range of issues which impact how girls engage/drop out of sport including; Diet & Hydration, Training & Periods, Anxiety, Body Image, Breast Health, Core Stability, Resistance Training . . & Fear of Failure.

[View more details](#)

### **Rugby Football League (6 March 2018)**

#### **Inspiring a Generation of Women and Girls**

As excitement builds for the start of the 2018 Women's Rugby League competitions, the Rugby Football League is pleased to launch the 'Women and Girls Framework' – bringing together a range of commitments to develop the sport over the next four years.

The Framework features eight major commitments; ranging from supporting clubs with free campaigning and marketing assets, developing young female talent, producing more qualified female Rugby League coaches and growing the number of female players, with the ultimate aim of England Women winning the 2021 Rugby League World Cup.

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Read the Women's Framework in full below:

[Women's Framework](#)

[View the full news item](#)

### **Youth Sport Trust (8 March 2018)**

#### **New programme sends powerful message to girls**

The Youth Sport Trust has teamed up with Sophie Radcliffe, adventure athlete, blogger and now, youth mentor on a new innovative programme to boost confidence and self-belief among teenage girls.

Launching on International Women's Day (8 March) in a bid to tackle rising mental health problems among teenage girls, TrailBlazers is a ground breaking youth empowerment initiative.

It is aimed at helping young girls develop the confidence and skills to navigate their own path and live courageously. By using the transformative power of adventure, active challenges and the inspiration of a relatable role model to tackle the alarming decline in mental health and physical activity among secondary-school aged girls, and advise them how social media can be used for good and to inspire one another.

More than a third of teenage girls now suffer from anxiety or depression, according to Department for Education statistics. [Research](#) released by the YST and Women in Sport revealed that fewer than one in ten girls achieve the recommended daily 60 minutes of physical activity, attributed to a lack of confidence.

The pilot programme is initially working with 100 year 9 and 10 girls across six schools in London and Kent. The teenage girls involved will undertake a series of confidence building challenges, encouraging them to try new things and break out of the bubble of their day to day lives.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Basketball England (8 March 2018)**

#### **Basketball England to launch Girls' 3x3 Programme**

Basketball England is delighted to announce the launch of a new national 3x3 basketball programme for girls that will begin in April 2018.

With the help of funding from FIBA's Youth Development Fund, the new programme will aim to begin bridging the gap between male and female participation at the Under 14 level.

Basketball England's 10 regions will play an important role in the programme through recruitment, promotion and organisation.

.....  
[View the full news item](#)



**The Football Association (8 March 2018)**  
**FA launch ambassador scheme on #IWD2018**

A new FA initiative to harness the power of former England internationals in a positive and empowering way has been launched on International Women's Day.

With the England senior team performing so well at the prestigious SheBelieves Cup in the United States, the spotlight has also fallen on a number of England greats who are continuing to play their part in promoting the game.

Whether through the player-to-coach scheme, technical or media roles, the commitment is there to ensure a pathway for those wanting to stay in football.

Baroness Sue Campbell, FA director of women's football, said: "We're delighted to launch our ambassador scheme.

"Football is a fantastic tool to empower girls and women to take part in sport and through that improve their self-esteem and their ability to do well in life.

"These England legends act as positive role models for our young girls both at grassroots and elite level."

Among the former players involved are Kelly Smith, Casey Stoney, Faye White, Rachel Yankey, Alex Scott, Sue Smith, Rachel Brown-Finnis and Sophie Bradley-Auckland.

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[View the full news item](#)

**England Golf (8 March 2018)**  
**Girls' Golf is Rocking into 2018**

Girls Golf Rocks is back for 2018 - with great plans to involve even more girls and spread the recruitment project further across the country.

This year it's running in 21 counties with Berkshire, Northumberland, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Sussex and Warwickshire joining the campaign.

Girls Golf Rocks will also be backed by Facebook advertising to help spread the message that golf is fun, friendly and great for girls.

Last year over 860 girls attended Girls Golf Rocks taster sessions and 730 enjoyed it so much they went on to take a coaching course with PGA professionals. The newcomers are supported by girls from county squads who act as ambassadors.

This year, Girls Golf Rocks will also be going 'On Tour' in eight counties. They'll be running golf days with fun competitions to encourage new players to get out on the course and enjoy themselves with friends.

The Tour was successfully trialled in Essex this summer and will also run in 2018 in Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Dorset, Durham, Gloucestershire, Norfolk and Nottinghamshire.

The other counties involved in Girls Golf Rocks in 2018 are Bedfordshire, Cumbria, Kent, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Wiltshire and Yorkshire.

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[View the full news item](#)

**Rugby Football Union (8 March 2018)**  
**England Rugby announces support for Onside campaign**

- The Onside campaign is aimed at supporting women and girls in sport
- Over 30,000 women and girls are now playing regular club rugby

England Rugby has announced that it is partnering with the Women's Sport Trust for their Onside campaign.

The campaign, a Women's Sport Trust initiative, seed funded by Sport England, is aimed at engaging men and boys as role models to speak up and take action to support women and girls in sport.

England Rugby also announced today that over 30,000 women and girls are now regularly playing club rugby (double that of the number playing just four years ago), and England

Rugby will work with the Women's Sport Trust on Onside to utilise the support of the rugby

community, particularly male players, to encourage support for women across the game.

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[View the full news item](#)

**Rugby Football Union (8 March 2018)**  
**International Women's Day in numbers**  
[View the details](#)

**England Squash (8 March 2018)**  
**England Squash launches new campaign to entice more females on court**

We're thrilled to launch a new national campaign to encourage more women and girls on court.

The new social media campaign, which is part of the [Squash Girls Can](#) initiative, seeks to raise the profile of squash amongst women and girls, change perceptions and showcase the benefits the sport can bring.

Launched to coincide with International Women's Day, the new campaign has been designed to challenge the gender gap in squash, where currently only one in four players are female, and highlight how accessible and inclusive the sport is.

The campaign sees the launch of a new video promo and a [Squash Girls Can session map](#) to enable new players to find their nearest session. A [toolkit](#) has also been developed for any leaders or coaches seeking to deliver female-only sessions.

[View the full news item](#)

### **Path to Success (8 March 2018)**

#### **Path to Tokyo 2020: Path to Success launches campaign to sponsor women in disability sport**

British charity to sponsor group of female athletes in support of International Women's Day, as they seek to achieve their dream of Paralympic Gold.

In celebration of International Women's Day on March 8th, leading disability charity Path to Success has announced the launch of a new campaign to support talented British women in disability sport.

Path to Success will provide sponsorship for women competing in four major disability sports; Para-Equestrian Dressage, Para Powerlifting, Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Tennis, with further sponsorship announcements to follow later this year.

The Path to Tokyo initiative will provide financial support for women in disability sport who need funding to pursue their dream of competing for a medal at the Paralympic Games.

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[View the full press release](#)

### **Loughborough University (8 March 2018)**

#### **Eating breakfast every day increases physical activity among girls**

Girls were more active when they ate breakfast daily as part of a study into whether breakfast frequency affects physical activity.

Researchers from Loughborough University and the University of Bedfordshire conducted the research among 27 adolescent girls who ate a standard breakfast on seven consecutive days.

The same girls then ate breakfast on three days alternating with four days of eating no breakfast over another seven-day period.

The results showed that the girls were more active in the morning and after school, and less active after school, when breakfast was eaten daily than when it was eaten intermittently over the seven-day periods.

The findings were outlined in the paper, [Physical activity duration but not energy expenditure differs between daily and intermittent breakfast consumption in adolescent girls: a randomized crossover trial](#), published in the Journal of Nutrition.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **The Royal & Ancient (13 March 2018)**

#### **Funding to attract women and girls into golf**

The R&A is continuing its commitment to increase participation in golf among women and girls by providing funding to support the appointment of new development managers in Australia, England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Working with its affiliates around the world to enhance golf's appeal, the investment forms part of the governing body's drive to encourage more women, girls and families to play golf more regularly across the globe and to go on to become members of golf clubs.

An initial three-year funding package of £75,000 per nation, has been agreed between The R&A, Golf Australia, England Golf, the Golfing Union of Ireland / the Irish Ladies' Golf Union, Scottish Golf and Wales Golf for the recruitment and appointment of experienced sports development staff.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **Sport Northern Ireland Active, Fit & Sporty - Update March 2018**

The Active, Fit and Sporty partnership celebrated International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March with a 'Lessons from Sport and Business' conference held by Ulster Rugby at the Kingspan Stadium.

The attendees heard from Ellvena Graham, president of the NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry. After working in the banking world for 20 years, Ellvena now holds a number of wide-ranging board roles (including the Electricity Supply Board, Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall and the Senate of Queens' University Belfast) and she drew on this experience in addressing the conference. Ellvena inspired all those at the conference to take any opportunities offered to us, "your attitude, not your aptitude determines your altitude."

The conference was also addressed by Jackie Henry and Karen Butler from Deloitte NI's senior management team who outlined the company's talent strategy. Speaking of their BrightStart programme and academy model, they demonstrated that diversity is the key to Deloitte's talent strategy.

The day was led and introduced by Dorothy Jones, the founder of Marlagh Training, a company specialising in communication skills and training for business and community

leaders. As well as hosting the event, Dorothy provided a workshop examining the differences in communication for males and females. The entertaining topic made us all examine how we communicate and the best way we can use our words, tone and body language.

The final speaker was former Ireland women's rugby international Mazzie Reilly. Mazzie outlined her initial steps into the rugby world right up to her first international cap and how she then went on to represent Ireland at three rugby world cups. Entertaining throughout, Mazzie shared several memories from her international rugby career, including facing the mighty New Zealand in the 2014 women's rugby world cup. Mazzie explained you need three qualities to succeed in the sporting world – a wishbone, a funny bone and a backbone – she demonstrated all three to those gathered at the conference.

We also celebrated the success of the Active, Fit & Sporty partnership on International Women's Day. In particular, we highlighted the fantastic work two of our partners have been doing during the past year. WISPA (Women in Sport and Physical Activity) have seen 1378 women attend their 86 programmes across Belfast, and have worked with a whopping 69 community partners during the last year. WISPA believe that their model of delivery empowers the women who participate to make healthier lifestyle choices and this in turn improves their overall physical and mental health and wellbeing. WISPA offer a variety of classes to engage with women, including boxercise, Zumba, aerobics, dancercise, Pilates, circuit training, armchair aerobics and many, many more.

Youth Sport Trust have been facilitating Girls Active programmes in 17 schools across Northern Ireland for the past year, with one school, Killicomaine Junior High School, being recognised for their contribution to the programme. At the recent Youth Sport Trust awards, the school was awarded highly commended for their section, 'Best Secondary School in the UK.' The school have demonstrated their passion for getting all their girls active during the past year with the establishment of the Girls Leadership and Marketing squad (GLAMs), new after-schools activities and their own 'Like a Girl' video which encouraged the girls to run, throw, fight and hit just 'like a girl!'

International Women's Day was a fantastic opportunity to reflect on what the partnership has achieved so far and also provided us with plenty of inspiration to continue working towards getting women and girls active, fit and sporty!

**Lauren Callender  
Development Assistant  
Sport Northern Ireland**

***Publications.....***

**International Women's Day: Steps Being Taken to Press for Gender Equality Globally Debate on 8 March 2018. House of Lords Library, 28 February 2018 (18 pages)**

This House of Lords Library Briefing has been produced for the debate taking place in the House of Lords on 8 March 2018, to mark International Women's Day, on "the steps being taken to press for progress on gender equality globally". It provides an overview of the global situation regarding gender equality, the UK's position, and actions taken by the UK Government to promote gender equality overseas and domestically.

[Download a copy](#)

**The Football Association Gender Pay Report 2017. The Football Association, released March 2018 (2 pages)**

In January 2018, The FA announced a significant number of initiatives to improve the diversity, inclusion and culture of our organisation. We are committed to becoming a more

diverse organisation that will better represent the people who play football at every level of the game.

This report contains important information on The FA's gender pay gap as required by law, as well as additional information which we are voluntarily disclosing and believe provides helpful background and context.

[Download a copy](#)

**Active Lives Adult Survey November 16/17 Report. Sport England, March 2018 (18 pages)**

Welcome to the third Active Lives Adult Survey Report summarising activity levels in England from November 2016 to November 2017.

With only two full years of data it is too early to meaningfully talk about trends over time, but based on these results, it is fair to say that the picture is one of stability.

Alongside presenting the latest national picture of engagement in sport and physical activity, we have included references to where there have been statistically significant changes in the last year, which you will see indicated with arrows. Where there is no change, or it is within the margin of error and therefore too small to be confident there is a genuine difference, it is recorded as 'no change'.

The intention of this report is to give the big picture in an easily digestible format. For those who want to explore the data further, there are links in this report to the data tables. If you would like to carry out your own analysis of the data take a look at our Active Lives Analysis Tool, which can be found at: [activelives.sportengland.org](http://activelives.sportengland.org). The tool will enable you to explore the data and focus on your own areas of interest.

[Download a copy](#)

**Physical activity and the environment NICE guideline. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 22 March 2018 (57 pages)**

This guideline covers how to improve the physical environment to encourage and support physical activity. The aim is to increase the general population's physical activity levels. The recommendations in this guideline should be read alongside NICE's guideline on [physical activity: walking and cycling](#).

This guideline includes recommendations on:  
[strategies, policies and plans to increase physical activity in the local environment](#)

[active travel](#)

[public open spaces](#)

[buildings](#)

[schools](#)

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*An event....*

**Women in Sport - The Empower Conference  
18 October 2018, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London**

The Empower Conference combines fresh thinking with the latest research and welcomes top UK journalists, broadcasters, sportswomen and industry leaders to consider how sport can level the playing field for women and girls.

With a number of keynote speakers, a choice of afternoon “in focus” sessions, plus the release of Women in Sport’s new research into the visibility of women’s sport in the media, this is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to learn, discuss and network with peers from the sports and media sectors.

Located at the iconic, delegates will also get behind-the-scenes insights and access to the Museum’s new Votes for Women exhibition and the London 2012 Olympic Cauldron gallery.

[View more details](#)

**USA**

**Duluth News Tribune (15 March 2018)  
‘A big day for women’: Jury sides with Miller, orders UMD to pay \$3.74 million**

An exuberant Shannon Miller emerged from the front doors of the federal courthouse in Duluth on Thursday afternoon, pumping her fists amid cheers and celebratory music from a crowd of supporters.

Minutes earlier, jurors awarded the former University of Minnesota Duluth women’s hockey coach \$3.74 million after an eight-day trial in her lawsuit against her longtime employer.

The jury of eight women and four men took a little over four hours to find that UMD discriminated against Miller on the basis of her sex and retaliated against her for making Title IX complaints when officials decided in December 2014 not to offer her a new contract.

“It’s a big day for women,” Miller proclaimed on the courthouse steps. “Women in general, but especially women in college athletics.”

Standing by her side, Miller’s lead attorney, Dan Siegel, used the word “brave” to describe his client, crediting her for taking on the three-year legal battle to great personal sacrifice.

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[View the full news item](#)

*More background.....*

**Becky Carlson, D-I NCAA Coach, Founder of The Fearless Coach (15 March 2018)**

**Miller vs UMD: 5 Reasons this Case is Vital to the Future of Women in College Athletics**

In 2015, Coach Shannon Miller's contract was not renewed, essentially firing her [from her post as head coach of the women's ice hockey program at the University of Minnesota, Duluth](#).

This mid season non-renewal was unprecedented and to date there have been zero male coaches in college athletics that have been let go by institutions claiming they could no longer afford their salary. Most of what the public knows about the case is what they gather from occasional press releases and social media. Despite what the critics believe, this monumental case is not and never has been solely about damages, or proving who did what to who.

Consider the Miller case as a gift or an open book of quite common experiences for women in college athletics everywhere. This real-life event is a window of unbridled access to a 10,000 foot perspective that has the potential to create lasting value for the future of women coaches in college athletics.

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[View the full article](#)

**Champion Women reports (23 March 2018)**

**The SafeSport Act is Now Law, and Congress Approved funding for the U.S. Center for SafeSport**

The [Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Authorization of SafeSport Act](#) (SafeSport Act) has been passed by both houses of Congress and signed into law! We just found out yesterday that Congress has allocated \$2.5 million in funding the U.S. Center for SafeSport. This is important because the Center is responsible for taking complaints, conducting investigations, holding hearings and then issuing a sanction or clearing a member. That's a lot of work! As the Center celebrates its first anniversary, there have been a whopping 600 complaints filed. That just goes to show how desperately the independent entity was needed to remove abusers from sport.

These are great strides in protecting athletes from sexual abuse. But one thing we've learned for sure is that getting the statute passed is a crucial step, but not the finish line. there is still a long way to go in educating the sports community about what is required, and about changing a culture steeped in conformity and obedience. In some sports, the culture still hasn't rooted out the problem of coaches "dating" (read; abusing) the athletes they coach. So, if you have time and money, please, donate and help stop abuse in sports today.

***Information received by email***

**Center for Sport, Peace, and Society, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, University of Tennessee (19 March 2018)**

**CSPS Meets U.S. Olympic Hockey Team, Speaks at SXSW Festival**

Over the past month, directors from the Center for Sport, Peace, and Society travelled throughout the United States celebrating the powerful impact of sport in the lives of women at several significant events, including the 2018 South by Southwest Festival, the Los Angeles Women in the World Salon, and the USA Gold Medal Women's Hockey Tour.

Logging thousands of travel miles, the CSPS continues to receive national and international invitations as it establishes itself as the preeminent center for sport and women's empowerment in the United States.

In February, Sarah Hillyer, director of the center, was on the red carpet as an official representative interviewing the incredible women involved in the L.A. Women in the World

salon. Founded by media mogul Tina Brown in 2010, Women in the World annually brings together the world's most powerful women for national events where they discuss relevant gender issues. At this event, more than 200 audience members were present to hear from speakers such as Academy Award winner Viola Davis, heroic British-Syrian doctor Rola Hallam, and Marinus Analytics CEO Emily Kennedy, among others.

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[View the full news item](#)

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