



IAPEGW International Update, March 2019: 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](#)

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Our next Regional Congress.....

March Editorial

Many of us celebrated International Women's Day this month. The Update includes news of some events conducted around the world.

I attended a dinner, organised by my local council, which is always very enjoyable. The venue is set up with goods and services made and supplied by women (available to purchase or try) followed by a sit-down dinner with female speakers who are advocates for gender equality. Last year I spoke on women in sport.

This year was somewhat controversial as one of the guest speakers started off by saying "I am no feminist" and then talked of how she had defeated sexist practices by taking on officialdom in her own "unique" way. Controversy certainly gets people talking and engaging with each other, as happened at this dinner....we don't all have the same views and background cultural experiences.....

The March Update features a number of awards to women. We list the Laureus Sport Awards for IWD and the IOC awards to gender equality advocates. Such inspiring and empowered women from all parts of the world.

Scan through the ICSPPE News link and you will see the honour awarded to our former President Darlene Kluka, another inspirational woman. Darlene was asked to respond and has written:

'After a forty five year professional career in education, I am grateful for many events: honorary life membership in IAPESGW and being honored by COSMA into its inaugural class in the Master Professor category being so special. It gives me great pleasure that people have honored me for efforts that I am passionate about'.

We have included IWG's newsletter and other publications, such as Sport for Development: The Road to Evidence. We also feature forthcoming conferences in various parts of the world and a reminder: it's time to book your travel to our Madrid Congress in July!

We cover news from Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, the UK and the USA. Lots of good information from the UK, such as the Get Out Get active Toolkit which is for disabled and non disabled people to take part in fun and inclusive activities together.

Janice Crosswhite OAM
Communications Director

International

Events.....

8th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport
15 - 22 May 2022, New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC) in Auckland,
New Zealand

The Conference Programme is not yet available.

If you are interested in possibly attending the 8th IWG World Conference as a delegate, speaker, exhibitor, partner or supplier, or as a volunteer we'd love to hear from you! Please make sure you [fill in this pre-registration form](#) to express your interest in attending.

Please download the official brochure for the 8th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport: [8th IWG World Conference Brochure March 2019 FINAL](#)

**SportAccord Convention 2019: World Sport and Business Summit
5 -10 May 2019, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach,
Queensland, Australia**

MediaAccord conference programme: Media’s Ever Important Role and Contribution to Sport and Society on 9 May

Jannah Wootten, General Manager Partnerships and Communications, Sport New Zealand said “Sport New Zealand is leading our sector’s response to a new central government strategy designed to empower women and girls to reach their potential through sport and active recreation.

“Like many other countries we have concerning underrepresentation of women and girls being physically active, occupying leadership roles and lagging behind men in terms of value and visibility.

“This new strategy has energised the sector and builds on recent successes such as securing the hosting rights for International Working Group on Women in Sport Conference 2022. It is an exciting time to be a female working in sport within New Zealand.”

During her MediaAccord case study, Wootten will share details of the new government strategy for New Zealand, its fresh initiatives and how the sport and recreation sector has responded to them, as well as the hardest obstacles to overcome in the future.

In the last few years, increasing numbers of professional leagues can now be found worldwide, and in Australia, women’s leagues such as the Rebel Women’s Big Bash and the Women’s Australian Rules Football League (AFLW), are attracting large audiences, stand-alone sponsorships and broadcast revenue.

While coverage of female athletes and women’s sport have increased considerably, there are still challenges for women working, or hoping to work, in sports media. What can be done to help create positive media guidelines with regard to gender equality in competition schedules and coverage?

What are some pro-active steps for ensuring better female representation within written, television and photographer media circles? What is the media’s role in how female athletes are/should be portrayed? And, how can sports media best engage the public to promote a healthier, more active society?

A panel session discussing Women in Sport Media will address these challenges. Panellists taking part include: Clare Briegal, Chief Executive, International Netball Federation; Belinda Clarke AO, Interim Executive General Manager Team Performance Cricket Australia; Tracey Holmes, Senior Reporter/Presenter, News Radio ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation); and Jannah Wootten.

This will follow with a debate on Major Event Bidding and Media and discuss how cities can get the public onboard with: Alain Mercier, Editor in Chief, Francs Jeux; Philip Pope, General Manager Communications, Queensland Rugby Union; Wayne Smith, Senior Sport Writer, The Australian.

[View more details of the event](#)

Inside the games reports (28 February 2019)

IBSA targeting holding official women's blind football competitions in 2020

Official blind football tournaments for women could be held as early as next year, the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) has claimed after Japan won the Normalisation Cup in Saitama.

The host nation defeated an IBSA world select team, made up of players from Europe, South America, Oceania and Africa.

Around 1,000 people were in attendance at the Saiten Chemical Arena in Saitama, located just outside of Tokyo, to watch the match.

It followed the conclusion of a two-day training camp for women's players at the Nihon University 100th Anniversary Hall in the Japanese capital.

Players from nine countries - hosts Japan plus Argentina, Australia, Austria, the United Kingdom, Germany, Nigeria, Sweden and Zimbabwe - took part in the camp.

[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (1 March 2019)

First female figure skater to compete wearing headscarf to take part at Krasnoyarsk 2019

Zahra Lari of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the first woman to compete in the sport internationally wearing a traditional Muslim headscarf, is set to take part in the 2019 Winter Universiade here.

Dubbed the "Ice Princess" due to being inspired to skate by the Disney film with the same name, Lari is the first figure skater to represent the UAE internationally.

The 23-year-old made her international debut at the 2012 European Cup in Canazei, allowing the UAE to become the first Arab state to join the International Skating Union.

Her appearance generated controversy, however, when she was deducted a point for wearing a headscarf.

Lari then campaigned to change these regulations, leading the ISU to amend the rule and allow hijabs as part of an outfit.

[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (7 March 2019)

South Africa awarded 2023 Netball World Cup after beating New Zealand

South Africa has beaten New Zealand to win the hosting rights for the 2023 Netball World Cup.

The International Netball Federation (INF) announced today that their flagship event would take place at Cape Town's International Convention Centre.

It means Africa will host the Netball World Cup for the first time.

[View the full news item](#)

Laureus Sport for Good (8 March 2019)

Tegla Loroupe - An inspiration on International Women's Day

If Tegla Loroupe isn't a household name around the world, it is probably fair to say she should be. A Kenyan long distance runner, she was twice winner of the New York Marathon, won the London Marathon in 2000 and she also picked up multiple half-marathon world titles in her career.

For many, such a successful sporting career would be enough. But Loroupe's upbringing in rural Kenya was characterised by a burning sense of social justice and desire for equality.

"I was the babysitter at the age of three – just helping mothers take care of their kids. Around the age of seven, I realised I had the power to help others. I just didn't know how."

To have this self-awareness at such a young age is rare, but there were other reasons for choosing sport too as Loroupe explains, "I had 24 siblings and the school was very far - I had to fight to be a good student. It's so difficult for girls to go to school where I grew up. I went to school alone without permission. I did sports because I was trying to be better than my brothers! I had no idea that I would end up as an elite athlete."

That she did end up as an elite athlete was testament to her talent, but always bubbling underneath was that sense of social justice and before long, she began to see sport as the means to an end.

[View the full news item](#)

Not an 'advert' for their products merely awareness of the resources....

Women's Sports Network - WNet (8 March 2019)

'Empowerment through Sport' goes worldwide

The HerMoJo programme targets teenage girls to help them overcome some of the issues they face with competitive sport by encouraging engagement, building retention and helping girls gain confidence through sport and take that confidence into everyday life. Making them stronger, fitter and more empowered young women. [MORE INFO](#)

One year on from the launch of the first MoJoManual we are now; launching the first digital editions in a range of languages.

NOW IN BRAZILIAN!

International Women's Day 2019 sees the launch of [FOOTBALLMoJo](#) and [ROWMoJo](#) in Brazilian (Portuguese) in conjunction with the Brazilian Rowing Federation and The Brazilian (Sao Paulo) Football Association. Two WNet associates in Brazil (Júlia Belas & Saulo

Deboni) are running IWD2019 seminars on March 8th In Sao Paul - Buy them on Kindle [HERE](#)

Brazilian from R\$ 3.99 BRA (80 pence), In English from £3.99

Inside the games reports (13 March 2019)

Official poster unveiled for 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup as individual tickets go on sale

The official poster for the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup in France has been unveiled at the Galerie Celal in Paris.

It is claimed the bespoke design of the poster reflects the "cultural creed" of the tournament, ensuring a level playing field for women's football and empowerment through football for girls, women and society in general.

With a woman's face as the central feature, set against the background of a football, the work of art is said to encapsulate the "essence" of the eighth edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup, due to take place from June 7 to July 7.

The shards of bright yellow light in the poster reflect light and illumination - the key elements of the creative concept for the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup - captured by the tournament's official slogan "Dare to Shine".

[View the full news item](#)

The International Olympic Committee (19 March 2019)

IOC Awards 2019 Women and Sport Trophies To Gender Equality Advocates

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) celebrated this evening six role models and change-makers in advancing women and girls in and through sport. In partnership with [UN Women](#), a dedicated awards ceremony was held on the sidelines of the commission on the status of women (csw) at the united nations headquarters in New York, USA.

Six trophies. One goal.

International baseball umpire from Chinese Taipei Ms Po Chun Liu was awarded the World Trophy for her staunch advocacy for female empowerment through sport.

Throughout her sporting journey, she has refused to let gender discrimination stand in the way. It has not been an easy road. But her determination saw her go from being a volunteer in Little League to becoming the first female baseball umpire in her native Chinese Taipei. With a boost from the New York Yankees, the figure known as "the Mother of Women's Baseball" in Chinese Taipei has gone on to umpire internationally in World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) tournaments and made Forbes' 2018 list of the "Most Powerful Women in International Sports".

[View the full news item with details of all the award winners](#)

Inside the games reports (21 March 2019)

Verdict in Semenya case postponed until the end of April

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has said that its verdict in the Caster Semenya testosterone case will now not be announced until the end of April.

A decision in the landmark case was originally promised by March 26 after five days of hearings ended in Lausanne last month.

CAS has now said that additional submissions have been made by both sides which will push back its ruling.

South Africa's Semenya, a double Olympic and triple world champion over 800 metres, is challenging the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) who are hoping to bring in new rules on female participation.

[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (21 March 2019)

Women's World Cup winners to get \$4 million prize money

The winners of this year's Women's World Cup in France will get prize money of \$4 million (£3 million/€3.5 million), **just over one-tenth of the \$38 million (£28.8 million/€33.5 million) which the French team received for winning last year's men's tournament.**

The prize money breakdown is contained in the newly-published FIFA financial report for 2018.

This also reveals that the beaten finalists will pocket \$2.6 million (£1.97 million/€2.29 million), beaten semi-finalists \$1.6 million to \$2 million (£1.21 million-£1.52 million/€1.41 million-€1.76 million) and beaten quarter-finalists \$1.45 million (£1.1 million/€1.28 million).

Sides eliminated at the last-16 stage will receive \$1 million (£758,000/€881,000) each; the remaining eight teams will pocket \$750,000 (£568,500/€660,750).

As already reported, overall prize money has been set at \$30 million (£22.7 million/€26.4 million), double the \$15 million (£11.4 million/€13.2 million) paid out at the last Women's World Cup in Canada in 2015.

FIFA has also introduced preparation money for the 24 teams who have qualified for the tournament, to be played in June and July.

This will total \$11.52 million (£8.73 million/€10.15 million) and be used to support organisation of preparation matches.

[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (21 March 2019)

International Teqball Federation announces commitment to maintaining mixed gender status

The International Teqball Federation (FITEQ) has announced a commitment to maintaining its mixed gender status, making it one of the few sports in the world where women and men compete on an equal playing field.

FITEQ has also joined other bodies, including the World Surf League, where women and men compete for an equal share of the prize money across both singles and doubles matches.

Last year's Teqball World Cup, held in French city Reims, offered \$100,000 (£76,000/€88,000) in prize money.

[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (29 March 2019)

Mahlangu named first female President of Federation of Africa University Sports

Nomsa Mahlangu has become the first woman to be voted as President of the Federation of Africa University Sports (FASU).

The South African was voted into the position at the FASU General Assembly in the Ugandan city of Entebbe.

Mahlangu, the University of Johannesburg's senior sports director, will now serve in the role for the next three years.

[View the full news item](#)

Publications.....

Sport For Development: The Road To Evidence. A Systematic Review & Comparative Analysis. Laureus Sport for Good and the Commonwealth Secretariat, September 2018 (12 pages)

Key findings and recommendations:

The research found that an SfD approach is often inseparable from “generalised” youth development, and that discussing SfD as a wholly separate approach to youth development is an unnecessary separation. The research suggests that working towards initiatives with broader youth development and social policy interventions is a more effective approach, and that the effect of SfD is enhanced through initiatives that are designed to contribute to policy change, build institutional capacity, and actively engage community leaders.

The research makes clear recommendations to multiple stakeholders (practitioners, researchers, funders and policy makers) on how to work together towards strengthening the SfD evidence base. Specifically, the report endorses:

- The need for greater open and honest communication of research and evaluation methods and results
- The need for the use of validated measures and assessments of actual behaviour methods and results
- The importance of contextualising research within the social and political climate
- The importance of supporting organisations for longer funding cycles
- The need for considering the scale (micro vs. macro, local vs. global) at which SfD is implemented and measured

[Download a copy](#)

[View the March 2019 Newsletter](#)

The International Working Group (IWG) on Women & Sport - IWG Catalyst e-Newsletter, March 2019 - [available to view](#)

Please go to the [IWG Catalyst](#) section on our website to read in Español and Français.

Journal of Physical Activity and Health: The Official Journal of the International Society for Physical Activity and Health. Volume 16, Issue 3, March 2019
Editor - the abstracts from the articles in this current edition to be placed on their website are now available.

[View the abstracts](#)

And...

Journal of Physical Activity and Health: The Official Journal of the International Society for Physical Activity and Health. Volume 16, Issue 4, April 2019

[View the abstracts](#)

Specific countries

AUSTRALIA

[Women Sport Australia 12 March at 20:00](#)

We support [20x20.i.e](#) campaign by [Federation of Irish Sport](#) to raise the visibility of girls & women in sport. [#ShowYourStripes](#) by making a pledge that'll help turn dial for your sporting sisters.

[Women Sport Australia](#) is raising visibility via our Women In Sport Photo Action Awards.

Enter now here: www.wispaa.com.au.

Watch how important sport is for these young Irish

lasses. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_lpmYVM7UE&feature=youtu.be



YOUTUBE.COM

[20x20 #ShowYourStripes](#)

Janice Crosswhite - This photo has created a storm as you can see from the comment here from WSA. Trolls made sexist, etc remarks for the TV channel to react and take down the photo initially. This photo will become a milestone photo as it still shows what a sexist society we have in regard to sections of women's sport.

Women Sport Australia (20 March 2019)

Tayla Harris photograph

While the initial decision by [7AFL](#) to remove [Michael Willson](#) photo of Tayla Harris and the offensive comments posted about it was incorrect, it was heartening to witness the huge community backlash and [7AFL](#)'s willingness to admit its mistake and repost the picture - minus the derogatory comments.



WSA loves the photo because it shows a strong, skilled powerful female athlete in full flight. The image would be a great candidate for WSA's WISPAA competition - Women in Sport Photo Action Awards.

We look forward to the day when images like this are the norm.

You can enter your award-winning images of Australian sportswomen in action here: www.wispaa.com.au

ARGENTINA

Female Coaching Network (25 March 2019)

Meet Sian Kelly – Argentina Women's Cricket first female head coach

Argentina may be more well-known for its footballing fraternity, but cricket is no stranger to the South American country – and a former Warwickshire Women's wicketkeeper is certainly doing her part to help grow the name of our beloved bat-and-ball game.

Sian Kelly's extraordinary story has been revealed thanks to an exclusive feature from BBC Sport. Kelly moved to Argentina as part of a year abroad element to her university degree under three years ago, taking upon the opportunity to coach cricket. Her time in Argentina has seen her spread word on the game as head coach of the women's national side, and take the 'Flamingos' to the South America Championships.

Furthermore, she is also developing the junior section of the women's game, with events held for girls to get a feel for the game. Speaking to the BBC, Kelly explained the enjoyment she gets from helping introduce cricket to a brand new audience.

"For me the most rewarding part of the job is seeing the little girls' faces when they take their first catch or hit their first four. You see the excitement in their eyes and their faces and they

go home and tell their mums and their mums are happy. I want to make sure that girls over here have the same sporting opportunities that I was lucky enough to have in England.”

READ FULL STORY – icc-cricket.com

[Source of information](#)

BRAZIL

Inside the games reports (28 February 2019) Brazilian Olympic Committee to send all-female athlete support team to South American Beach Games

The Brazilian Olympic Committee (COB) has announced it will send an all-female athlete support team to this year's South American Beach Games.

Chef de Mission Mariana Mello will head the group with the move designed to "acknowledge women's critical contribution to sport in Brazil".

Nine women are set to be part of the team in all with the Games due to take place in Rosário in Argentina between March 14 and 23.

[View the full news item](#)

MEXICO

[Alexa Moreno, bronze in Baku's World Cup](#)

Alexa Moreno has won the bronze medal in the vault finals at the FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan. She has scored 14,429 points. In this competition, American gymnast Jade Carey won the gold medal and Oksana Chusovitina from Uzbekistán won the silver medal.

This is the first time she won a medal in the World Series of Artistic Gymnastics Cups. Her first participation was in Olympic Games in Rio 2016.

Full text in Spanish by El Universal 22/03/2019

<https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/universal-deportes/mas-deportes/alexa-moreno-bronze-en-campeonato-mundial>

RUSSIA

Inside the games reports (20 March 2019) Anikina elected permanent President of Russian Bobsleigh Federation

Russian Bobsleigh Federation (RBF) vice-president and interim head Elena Anikina was elected President of the organisation at an Extraordinary Meeting in Sochi today.

Anikina, who led Sochi's successful bid for the 2014 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, beat rival Andrei Pimashkov by 25 votes to eight to secure the role on a permanent basis.

According to Russia's official state news agency TASS, Oleg Sokolov withdrew his candidacy before the vote, leaving a two-horse race between Anikina and the businessman from Krasnoyarsk.

[View the full news item](#)

SAUDI ARABIA

Inside the games reports (20 March 2019)

Saudi Arabia win historic women's basketball gold medal on last day of competition at Special Olympics World Summer Games

The first appearance by Saudi Arabian women at a Special Olympics World Games was marked by glory today as the country's female basketball team struck gold at Abu Dhabi 2019.

A 16-11 win over Ivory Coast at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre saw Saudi Arabia finish top of the unified female PLYRD02 standings.

Ivory Coast had to settle for silver, while Kuwait took bronze.

[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (28 March 2019)

Athlete thanks King Salman after Saudi Arabian women compete at international Para-athletics meet for first time

Zahra Al Tala has thanked Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud having recently become one of the first women from the country to compete in an international Para-athletics meet.

History was made at last month's World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai when Al Tala competed alongside compatriots Amal Alahmari and Sarah Aljumaah.

Covered from head to toe, with her face concealed, she finished last out of the five athletes in the discus wheelchair F52-54 final with a mark of 3.10 metres.

[View the full news item](#)

SOUTH AFRICA

Women Leadership Programme (Wlp) in collaboration with Tafisa and the African Union Sports Council Region 5

On 21 and 22 March 2019 a Women Leadership Programme (Train the Trainers) was attended by 18 women representing 9 countries in the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5. This WLP is a response to the perpetual issue of marginalization of women from leadership of sport and decision-making positions. It is one of the responses by the Region to the gaps exposed in the findings of the 2013 Baseline Survey conducted with support

from the Norwegian Confederation of Sport and Paralympic Committee (NIF) in which it became apparent that a negligible number of women occupied leadership positions in sports organisations. At the same time TAFISA launched their Certified Leadership Course (CLC) in the AUSC Region 5.

Both programmes seek to address the imbalance of women leaders in sport through mentorship and coaching young women to usher them smoothly into the leadership of sport. A “Woman for Woman” model was therefore developed in which women trainers would be supported to train other women through mentorship.

The Train the Trainers seminar was presented under the theme “Empower One Empower Multitudes.” It is anticipated that this programme collectively would mentor a total of 2000 women by the year 2028 in Region 5 of the AUSC. The target is to produce 200 astute women leaders per year (20 per 10 countries in the UASC Region 5).

This seminar was financially supported by UNESCO as well as TAFISA and Anneliese Goslin attended as invited guest and represented ICSSPE and IAPESGW.

SOUTH KOREA

Inside the games reports (4 March 2019)

South Korean Sports Ministry urges governing bodies to toughen misconduct rules following abuse survey results

Governing bodies in South Korea have been urged to toughen their misconduct rules after a survey revealed nearly 40 per cent of female professional athletes in the country had suffered sexual harassment during their careers.

The findings showed 37.7 per cent of women in professional football, baseball, basketball, volleyball and golf had been subjected to some form of harassment, according to South Korean news agency Yonhap.

In a worrying discovery, the survey found only 4.4 per cent of those who had been harassed had reported their case to an official or superior.

A total of 11.3 per cent of the female athletes who took part in the study, conducted from May to December last year, said they had experienced sexual harassment in the past 12 months.

Just over four per cent said they had been physically abused.

The findings of the survey, which involved 927 people and spanned athletes, coaches and members of professional clubs, has prompted the South Korean Sports Ministry to call on organisations to strengthen the sanctions available to them. This includes life bans for those found guilty of sexual abuse crimes.

[View the full news item](#)

SPAIN

Inside the games reports (6 March 2019)

Valentín officially completes historic Olympic triple after finally receiving re-allocated gold medal from London 2012

Spain's Lidia Valentín has officially made history as the first female weightlifter to medal at three Olympic Games, having been belatedly awarded the women's 75 kilograms gold from London 2012 at a ceremony in Madrid.

With a silver medal at Beijing 2008 and a bronze from Rio 2016, the 34-year-old now joins an exceptionally-limited club with a complete set of Olympic medals from three different Games.

Valentín had originally finished in fourth place at London 2012, but re-analysis of samples conducted by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) saw all three athletes who lifted more disqualified and handed suspensions for their abuse of anabolic agents.

[View the full news item](#)

UK

Women in Sport (25 February 2019)

Ruth Holdaway to leave Women in Sport to become Tennis Victoria's first female CEO

Chief Executive of Women in Sport, Ruth Holdaway, is leaving the charity to take up the role of Chief Executive of Tennis Victoria in Australia. This is a fitting move for Ruth, having campaigned for the last five and a half years for an increase in female leadership across the sport sector.

Ruth joined Women in Sport in 2013, leading a transformational rebrand of the charity and bringing significant impact to the sport sector and the lives of women and girls, including:

- hundreds of sports organisations developing new programmes for women and girls thanks to the charity's research, insight and advice service
- a requirement for more women in leadership roles written into the Code of Sport's Governance
- millions of pounds raised from grant and corporate supporters who increasingly understand the positive social impact that is achieved when women and girls are empowered through sport.

[View the full news item](#)

Royal and Ancient (26 February 2019)

Georgia Hall becomes R&A Ambassador

Women's British Open champion Georgia Hall will support The R&A's drive to inspire more women, girls and families into playing golf by becoming its latest ambassador.

The R&A is investing £80 million into women's and mixed golf over the next ten years to boost participation in the sport and the 22-year-old will undertake a wide range of promotional activities to enhance initiatives that encourage more women, girls and families to take up golf.

Hall will play a key role in raising the profile of women's and girls' golf in support of the Women in Golf Charter, led by The R&A, which aims to inspire an industry-wide commitment to developing a more inclusive culture within golf around the world and to enable more women and girls to flourish at all levels of the sport and maximise their potential.

[View the full news item](#)

British Universities and Colleges Sport (1 March 2019) BUCS Women's Football & Futsal Innovation Fund Projects Announced

Twelve [BUCS Women's Football and Futsal Specialist Hub](#) universities have been successful in receiving BUCS Women's Football and Futsal innovation funding in partnership with the FA

Collectively, these 12 projects will receive £14,690 to support projects aimed at targeting over 850 female participants and 80 workforce members. The innovation projects aim to provide solutions to participation and workforce challenges in women's and girls' football and futsal that can be shared across the sector. Institutions will upskill a diverse student workforce to deliver the activity and work with both university and local community partners.

The successful universities who will be receiving the funding are:
Worcester University, University of Wolverhampton, University of Surrey, Northumbria University, University of Exeter, University of Birmingham, University of Essex, University of East Anglia, Queen Mary University London, Newcastle University, University of Hertfordshire, University of Hull.

[View the full news item](#)

Women in Sport (March 2019) Get Out Get Active Toolkit

Our toolkit inspired by Get Out Get Active brings you resources, templates and key findings from the programme which is funded by [Spirit of 2012](#). [Get Out Get Active](#) (GOGA) is a programme that supports disabled and non-disabled people to take part in fun and inclusive activities together.

[View the toolkit](#)

Note - one item: Engaging all women in physical activity and sport – This resource is designed to guide what you Think, Do and Say when supporting women to become more active. This includes top tips to assist sport providers and coaches. The resource was developed in partnership with Activity Alliance. **(COMING SOON!)**

Chance to Shine (8 March 2019) Charity celebrates two million girls playing cricket, on International Women's Day 2019

Chance to Shine is marking a major milestone on International Women's Day today (Friday 8 March): reaching its two millionth girl to play, learn and develop through cricket since 2005.

Nine-year-old Keira McDermott from Langley Primary School in Staffordshire has become the two millionth girl to pick up a cricket bat and ball through the Chance to Shine programme which is supported by the England & Wales Cricket Board and Sport England.

Chance to Shine works with 39 county cricket boards to fund high quality cricket coaches to deliver cricket to around 500,000 children in 4,000 state primary schools each year (15,000 since 2005) and urban community areas nationally through its Chance to Shine Street initiative.

From April 2019, the new secondary school girls' programme will include:

- girls-only after-school clubs in 120 state secondary schools – an accessible environment to build confidence, skills teams and develop role models for 3,500 young people.
- leadership training to 1,200 girls aged 14-16, building the skills to support and run their own after-school cricket club; volunteer alongside their coach in their old primary school; set up and run a cricket festival for local primary schools on their secondary school site
- engaging 3,500 Year 6 girls to experience cricket through festivals facilitated by young leaders.
- county and regional competitions and festivals for 7,000 girls.
- digital resources to support schools nationally to engage girls and boys in Chance to Shine.

[View the full news item](#)

Women in Sport (8 March 2019)

Dame Katherine Grainger: There's been progress but we're not there yet

For International Women's Day, we spoke to leading figures within the sports industry and asked them to reflect on [Beyond 30%](#), Women in Sport's report on workplace culture in sport. We're sharing highlights from these interviews ahead of their wider release.

Dame Katherine Grainger is the Chair of UK Sport. She was appointed to a four-year term in April 2017. A former rower, Grainger is the first British woman ever to win medals at five successive Olympic Games.

Do you think the culture of sport is impeding women's progress?

[View the full news item](#)

[View more of their interviews for International Women's Day](#)

Health Club Management reports (8 March 2019)

Women in Fitness Association launches UK council on International Women's Day

The Women in Fitness Association (WIFA) has launched its UK council today (8 March 2019, International Women's Day), a not-for-profit organisation that aims to unite women in the fitness industry by offering support, resources and mentorship programmes, whilst also addressing specific issues women face in the industry.

Established in the US by industry veteran Lindsey Rainwater, WIFA gives its members access to a global network that offers a wealth of knowledge, experience and contacts, as well as live events, quarterly virtual meetings, meetings aligned to major industry events,

exposure on the WIFA website and a host of speaking, presenting and blogging opportunities.

A number of notable women from the UK fitness industry have already signed up to be part of the WIFA UK council including Sue Anstiss MBE, CEO of Promote PR; Jenny Patrickson, MD of Active IG; Gemma Bonnett-Kolakowska, global marketing director at Myzone; Lou Atkinson, lead master trainer Core H&F and Laura Higgins, founder of Lifted Fitness.

[View the full news item](#)

Women in Sport reports (12 March 2019)

Girls Active Awards 2019 Live Launch

Girls from across more than 300 primary and secondary schools in England will have the chance to be recognised for their work to inspire more girls in their school to get active, through the 2019 Girls Active Awards.

The Awards, now in their third year, are a celebration of the work girls 8 to 18-year-olds are leading, to get their peers more active and enjoying PE and physical activity in their school. Teachers, parents and the girls themselves are able to nominate those individuals or groups that meet one of the five award categories celebrating the work done through the YST Girls Active programme.

Girls Active is developed by the Youth Sport Trust, and is delivered in partnership with Women in Sport, and This Girl Can; it is funded through Sport England National Lottery. The programme involves girls in the design and delivery of PE, physical activity and school sport in primary and secondary schools.

Nominations are [now live](#) and there are five categories this year:

Nominations are open until Friday 28th June or via post by Monday 1st July 2019.

The shortlist will be announced this summer with an awards event in London in October.

Read more about the [categories and criteria](#) and [nominate now](#).

[View the full news item](#)

Sport England (21 March 2019)

Research gives insight into children's attitudes to sport and physical activity

Enjoyment is the single biggest factor in motivating children to be active, new analysis from our Active Lives Children and Young People Survey has revealed.

More than 130,000 children and young people were surveyed in the academic year 2017/18, [with participation figures published in December](#).

[This new analysis](#) has identified five key findings that give us further insight into the attitudes of children and young people towards sport and physical activity.

The five key findings are:

1. Physically literate children do twice as much activity. The more of the five elements of physical literacy - enjoyment, confidence, competence, understanding and knowledge - children have, the more active they are.
2. Enjoyment is the biggest driver of activity levels. Despite the majority of children (68%) understanding that sport and activity is good for them, understanding had the least impact on activity levels.
3. Children who have all five elements of physical literacy report higher levels of happiness, are more trusting of other children, and report higher levels of resilience (continuing to try if you find something difficult).
4. Physical literacy decreases with age. As children grow older, they report lower levels of enjoyment, confidence, competence, and understanding. Previous research from Sport England shows that activity levels drop when children reach their teenage years.
5. The results also reveal important inequalities among certain groups of children which must be tackled:
 - Girls are less likely to say they enjoy or feel confident about doing sport and physical activity. (58% of boys enjoy it, compared to 43% of girls. 47% of boys feel confident, compared to 31% of girls.) Among children aged 5-7, boys are more likely to love playing sport, while girls are more likely to love being active.
 - Children from the least affluent families are less likely to enjoy activity than those from the most affluent families, and previous research shows they are also far less likely to be active.
 - Black children are more physically literate than other ethnic groups – driven by boys, but they're less active than the population as a whole.

[View the full news item](#)

The report....

Active Lives Children and Young People Survey: Attitudes to sport and physical activity (Academic year 2017/18). Sport England, 21 March 2019 (29 pages)

The last report revealed that although 43% of children and young people lead active lives, there is much more to do to increase activity levels at every age, whilst also addressing some significant inequalities – including gender and affluence. To help with that challenge, this report focuses on the five elements of physical literacy – enjoyment, confidence, competence, understanding and knowledge. It identifies which of those elements – both individually and in combination – have the biggest impact on increasing levels of activity, mental wellbeing, resilience and social trust.

It's well understood that increasing activity levels will make an important contribution to improved physical wellbeing, but the data presented helps us better understand how delivered in the right way, sport and physical activity can also contribute to better mental wellbeing, individual development and social and community development outcomes for children and young people.

The intention of this report is to summarise the key findings. We hope it becomes a valuable, practical tool to help the wide range of organisations with an interest in providing children's sport and physical activity understand and recognise the importance of how children feel, alongside what activity they do.

[Download a copy](#)

The Football Association (20 March 2019)

Barclays unveiled as title sponsor of FA Women's Super League

The Football Association and Barclays have today announced a landmark partnership, the biggest ever investment in UK women's sport by a brand, with Barclays unveiled as the title sponsor of the FA Women's Super League with effect from the 2019-20 season.

The multi-million pound partnership, running until July 2022, will see the top tier of women's football renamed as the 'Barclays FA Women's Super League' and the introduction of record levels of investment into the women's game in England.

The new partnership includes The FA and Barclays working together to drive the growth of the women's game at a grassroots level, with Barclays becoming the lead partner of the FA Girls' Football School Partnerships, a nationwide scheme to help develop girls' access to football at school.

The initiative will see a network of hubs delivering bespoke FA programmes for their local network of schools, which will engage, excite and encourage girls to make football a part of their life. Barclays will collaborate with The FA and The Youth Sport Trust to support the development and delivery of 100 Girls' Football School Partnerships.

[View the full news item](#)

England Golf (20 March 2019)

Girls Golf Rocks 2019 is underway

Girls Golf Rocks is back for 2019 – with free taster sessions for girls now on offer in 26 counties.

Bookings have just opened for the two-hour tasters, which will start in May and are running in a total of 116 clubs across England. Visit girlsgolfrocks.org to find a session and book.

Girls Golf Rocks is an inspirational programme which attracts girls to the sport, supported by club and county girl ambassadors who act as mentors as they learn to play.

Five new counties are involved in this year's recruitment campaign: Cornwall, Hampshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire and Worcestershire.

[View the full news item](#)

Women in Sport (21 March 2019)

Women in Sport's statement on Sport England's Actives Live Children and Young People survey March 2019

With just 14.4% of girls and 20.2% of boys reaching the recommended hour a day of physical activity, it is clear that there is more to be done to create positive attitudes in children, especially girls, towards sport and physical activity.

The latest survey has shown that girls are less likely to say they enjoy, feel confident or competent doing sport compared to boys. Moreover, young girls who are aged between 5 and 7 are also less likely to love playing sport.

The report also highlights that children from less affluent families are less likely to enjoy being active and have lower confidence and knowledge when it comes to taking part.

As a charity, we are determined to ensure that all girls can enjoy the lifelong benefits that sport, and physical activity provide.

To help achieve this, we are proud to be a partner of the Youth Sport Trust's Girls Active programme and work with Sported through our partnership Project 51.

Later this year, we will be releasing new insight that places girls at the heart of the solution to the challenge this report clearly lays out.

[View the full news item](#)

University of Bath (21 March 2019)

New testosterone rule for female athletes 'risks setting an unscientific precedent' warn experts

Regulations challenge the evidence base that underlies medical practice, argue researchers including Dr Sheree Bekker behind a new BMJ paper.

New rules to curb high testosterone levels in female athletes with differences of sex development 'risks setting an unscientific precedent for other cases of genetic advantage', warn experts including [Dr Sheree Bekker](#) from our Department for Health in a BMJ paper released today .

Writing in an editorial, Dr Bekker and Professor Cara Tannenbaum (University of Montreal), argue that the medical profession 'does not define biological sex or physical function by serum testosterone levels alone' and they say the regulations 'challenge the evidence based, benevolent ethos that underlies medical practice.'

The regulations, proposed by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) in 2018, state that women must have a blood testosterone level of 5 nmol/L or less at all times in order to compete. These are based on the contention that women with high testosterone levels and androgen sensitivity have a performance advantage over their peers. If women are over this level, they are required to lower it with hormone treatment.

[View the full news item](#)

Disgraceful archaic rules.....

Inside the games reports (28 March 2019)

Women's snooker world number three quits local league over "men-only" rule

Britain's Rebecca Kenna, third in the World Women's Snooker (WWS) rankings, has quit her local snooker league after being prevented from playing matches due to being a female.

Kenna, a 2016 and 2017 Women's World Snooker Championship semi-finalist, plays in the Crosshills and District Snooker League.

She has quit, however, after being turned away from two matches due to some clubs in the league holding a "men-only" policy.

Upon speaking to the league organisers, they said they could not overturn the decision.

[View the full news item](#)

[View what Women in Sport says about this](#)

Sustrans (28 March 2019)

Blog: Jools Walker on women and cycling

In March 2019, Sustrans Research and Monitoring Unit held a roundtable discussion on women and cycling to determine what needs to happen next.

We invited a broad cross-section of speakers and guests who had an understanding of the issues around the lack of women cycling in our towns and cities. Over the coming weeks, we'll be sharing the insights we gained.

One speaker was Jools Walker - the [Vélo-City-Girl](#) blogger seeking to tackle mainstream gender norms in cycling. Here are her perspectives:

This month marks 9 years since I got back into cycling and launched my blog VéloCityGirl, so when Sustrans Scotland invited me to speak at their March 2019 Women and Cycling Roundtable, it felt like a fitting way to celebrate this bikeaversary.

The Roundtable was borne out of research Sustrans had undertaken on the gender gap in cycling. Findings from it highlighted that across UK cities, men are 2-3 times more likely to cycle than women; only 12 per cent of women cycle once a week and 73 per cent of women living in Bike Life cities never ride a bicycle.

[View the full blog](#)

Publication.....

Sporting Equality Fund Evaluation Report. Spirit of 2012 Trust, 8 March 2019 (23 pages)

The Fund's evaluation report is published today, on International Women's Day. The Fund was established to tackle gender inequalities in access to, and participation in, sport and physical activity among girls and women, and the historically lower levels of physical activity among girls than boys in Scotland.

All of the projects targeted girls and women with very low levels of activity. At the start of KA Leisure's programme, for example, 80% of the girls taking part were active less than three times a week, and almost half (47%) said they did not exercise at all. By the end of the project, more than 70% of the girls were active at least three times a week.

The report also reveals that girls and women who took part in the programme registered higher levels of wellbeing as a result. Overall there was a 12% rise in the number who said they were satisfied with their life, an 11% increase in feelings of life being worthwhile, and an 8% increase in girls who said they were 'happy yesterday'.

In a couple of cases the change was spectacular. For example only 38% of the women who took part in the Venture Trust project had high life satisfaction levels at the beginning – 79% reported high wellbeing levels at the end.

The success of the Fund is down to the approach all 14 partners took in delivering physical activity sessions. Most did not offer competitive sport, instead focusing on activities that relied on team work and togetherness.

[Download a copy](#)

USA

Inside the games reports (19 March 2019)

United States Olympic Committee confirm three major appointments

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) has confirmed the appointments of three key members of staff.

Bobbi McPherson will take on the role of chief people officer with Katie Bynum joining as chief of staff.

Christine Walshe has been promoted to chief development officer with all three staff members reporting to USOC chief executive Sarah Hirshland.

It comes as the USOC works to transform the culture of the organisation and American sport in general.

"I am excited to have Bobbi and Katie join our organisation and to have Christine step into this new role as we build an executive team capable of leading the US Olympic and Paralympic community into the future," said Hirshland.

[View the full news item](#)

Beyond Sport reports (22 March 2019)

49ers partner with Play Like A Girl on Steam Curriculum

The San Francisco 49ers education consulting venture, [EDU Academy](#), announced last week a partnership with Play Like a Girl (PLAG) to introduce a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) education curriculum to female youth. Launching in June in Nashville, with eventual expansion across the country, the program will leverage sports to engage students in STEAM subjects.

[PLAG](#), a US 501(c)3 charitable organization providing high-impact STEAM and sports programs to girls in a supportive environment, is working with EDU Academy to launch a curriculum focused on project-based learning and 21st Century learning skills. Play Like a Girl is a Tennessee-based organization that helps rising 9th grade girls deepen their love of sports and gain exposure to exciting sports-related careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

[View the full news item](#)