

FEMALE PRESENCE IN THE MAIN STRUCTURE OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

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Abstracts:

The IOC has made women's participation in sporting activities and the Olympic Games – and by implication in administrative and sports authorities – one of its major concerns. At the same time, in 1994, the Olympic Charter was amended and now contains an explicit section on the need to work in this direction: (The IOC) “strongly encourages, by appropriate means, the promotion of women in sport at all levels and in all structures, particularly in the executive bodies of national and international sports organizations with a view to the strict application of the principle of equality of men and women” (Rule 2, paragraph 5).

Introduction

The IOC has made women's participation in sporting activities and the Olympic Games – and by implication in administrative and sports authorities – one of its major concerns.

The possibility of practising a sport is a right that we acquire at birth. The practice of sport teaches respect for rules, tolerance, solidarity, contributes to developing the body and the spirit and gives joy, pride and well-being. The IOC also considers sport to be an important means of communication and emancipation, which can contribute to developing the physical and psychological wellbeing. Through sport, women and young girls can become aware of their role in society.

Material-method

Four years after the first Olympic Games of the modern era in Athens, women took part in their first Olympic Games, in Paris in 1900. In spite of the reticence of the reviver of the Games, Pierre de Coubertin, 22 women out of a total of 997 athletes competed in five sports: tennis, equestrian, croquet, sailing and golf.

With the 1970s, and the awareness of the role of women in the world, female participation in sports competitions and in the Olympic Games became higher.

The IOC has ensured, particularly in the last 20 years, an increased number of women's events on the Olympic Programme in cooperation with the IFs and the Organising Committees. Thus, since 1991, all new sports wishing to be included in the Olympic Programme must include female events. In Athens, at the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad, women will take part in 135 events (out of 301, that is 45% of all events) in 26 sports (out of 28, not including baseball and boxing).

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Results

While women's participation in physical activities and in the Olympic Games has steadily increased, the percentage of women in governing bodies and sports authorities in the Olympic Movement is still low.

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

– The NOCs, the IFs, the National Federations, and sporting bodies belonging to the Olympic Movement must set the objective of reserving at least 20% of decision-making positions for women (particularly in all executive and legislative bodies) within their structures.

– A first objective (having at least 10% of women in decision-making positions) was set for December 2000. As of today, more than 61% of NOCs and 52% of Ifs have achieved this objective.

The IOC is nevertheless fully aware of the fact that such an objective can be attained only in successive stages. A number of NOCs and IFs have already shown their willingness to work on achieving parity between men and women.

In 1981 the first woman was co-opted as a member of the IOC. Since then, there have been 18 female IOC members. In 2004, 12 women are active IOC members out of 124 (i.e. 10%) (two women are honorary members). In 1990, for the first time in the history of the IOC, a woman was elected on to the Executive Board, (Flor Isava Fonseca), and in 1997, another woman became Vice-President of the IOC (Anita L. DeFrantz).

Today, the IOC commissions and working groups include more women than ever before.

Based on information provided by 187 NOCs (as of 1 December 2003):

- 114 NOCs (60.9%) have achieved the objective of 10%.
- 169 NOCs (90.4%) have at least one woman on their executive body.
- 48 NOCs (25.7%) have more than 20% of women on their executive body.

Furthermore, the executive body of the five continental NOC associations (ANOCA; EOC, OCA, PASO and ONOC) include at least one female representative.

Based on information provided by 35 Olympic IFs (as of 1 December 2003):

- 20 Olympic IFs (57%) have achieved the objective of 10%.
- 32 Olympic IFs (91%) have at least one woman on their executive body.
- 8 Olympic IFs (23%) have more than 20% of women on their executive body.

Discussions

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

A series of assistance programmes for athletes, young hopefuls, coaches and sports managers is offered to NOCs by Olympic Solidarity, which benefit a growing number of women. Furthermore, a special “Women and Sport” programme was created to help more particularly the NOCs of developing countries to put in place other types of projects in the field of women and sport, such as research, national seminars or participation in meetings. This programme also serves to finance the participation of NOCs in the IOC’s regional seminars.

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Titlu: Prezența femeilor în structura principală a mișcării olimpice

Cuvinte – cheie: prezența femeii, Mișcare Olimpică, Jocuri Olimpice, promovarea femeii, principiul egalității

Sumar: CIO a făcut din participarea femeilor în activitățile sportive și la Jocurile Olimpice – și implicit în cadrul autorităților administrative și sportive - una din preocupările sale majore. În același timp, în 1994, Carta Olimpică a fost modificată și acum conține o secțiune explicită cu privire la necesitatea de a lucra în această direcție (articolul 2, paragraful 5): (Comitetul Olimpic Internațional) " încurajează ferm, prin mijloace adecvate, promovarea femeilor în sport la toate nivelurile și în toate structurile, în special în cadrul organelor executive ale organizațiilor sportive naționale și internaționale cu scopul aplicării stricte a principiului egalității între bărbați și femei".

Titre: La présence des femmes dans la structure principale du mouvement olympique.

Mots-clés: la présence des femmes, Mouvement Olympique, les Jeux Olympiques, la promotion des femmes, le principe de l'égalité.

Résumé: Le CIO a fait de la participation des femmes dans les activités sportives et les Jeux Olympiques – et implicitement dans les autorités administratives et sportives – une de ses inquiétudes importantes. En même temps, en 1994, la Charte Olympique a été amendée et contient maintenant une section explicite sur le besoin de travailler dans cette direction (la Règle 2, le paragraphe 5) : (le CIO) "encourage fortement, par des moyens appropriés, la promotion des femmes dans le sport à tous les niveaux et dans toutes les structures, particulièrement dans les corps exécutifs des organisations sportives nationales et internationales avec

une vue à l'application stricte du principe de l'égalité des hommes et des femmes”.