



News and Resource Update April 2017: Your guide to what's happening 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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Women and Girls in Sport - Research to Action
18th World Congress | Miami FL USA
Hosted by **Barry University**



Themes:

- Pedagogy of Physical Education, Sport, and Dance
- Lifelong Physical Activity for All
- Global to Local Initiatives and Assessment
- Sport Sciences

ON-LINE REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN - to book your place on our 18th Congress please [visit the booking website](#)

Note: Delegates can also register at the event

IAPESGW Board members and the event host, Barry University, are looking forward to welcoming all delegates to the 18th Congress for what we hope will be an enlightening and most enjoyable occasion.

International

Nippon Sport Science University in partnership with the International Council for Coaching Excellence (ICCE) - 2017-2018 NSSU-ICCE Coach Developer Programme 10-15 September 2017 and 16-23 February 2018 in Tokyo, Japan

We invite practitioners working across the sporting contexts (national systems, coaching organizations, national and international sporting federations, and universities) to join our 2017–2018 programme and:

- Become part of a global network of coach developers striving to enhance the quality of coaching at all levels
- Develop your skills in facilitation, coach assessment, programme design and mentoring
- Improve your coach education programmes, your coaches, and your coaching system

Run by the NSSU Coach Developer Academy (NCDA), the Coach Developer Programme offers a blended learning experience that is divided into two broad parts; the on-campus residential component and the remote component. The on-campus residential component consists of two one-week residentials at NSSU in Tokyo (both are compulsory) and include a mixture of workshops, seminars, discussion groups and practical work. The remote component consists of packages of E-modules and online support aimed at helping coach developers utilise and implement skills gained on and through the programme when working with real coaches back in their organizations

The call for applications will close at 5pm GMT on 5th May 2017

[View more details](#)

International University Sports Association - UNESCO General Assembly - International Day of University Sport (IDUS) 20 September 2017

The International Day of University Sport (IDUS) will be celebrated annually on 20 September. It is officially endorsed by the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation (UNESCO).

FISU Member Associations and the countries member of UNESCO are invited to celebrate this day based on tailor-made events according to their culture and specific needs with the focus that sport is not to be taken out of universities and left to the initiative of the private sector because sport must be fully integrated in higher education and research structures, taking its rightful place in multidisciplinary strategies. All the different partners including universities and municipalities will join efforts to also organise the FISU Festival in the heart of their cities.

[View more details](#)

WHO - *HEPA Europe 13th Annual Meeting and 8th Conference 15 - 17 November 2017, Zagreb, Croatia

This year's HEPA Europe conference will focus on "Modern approaches to physical activity promotion and measurement". The events are kindly hosted by the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Kinesiology.

Key dates:

Abstract and symposia submission deadline: 11 September 2017

Abstract acceptance notification: Continuously, latest by 1 October 2017

Early bird registration deadline: 5 September 2017

Registration for authors closes: 15 October 2017

Late registration for other participants (non-authors) closes: 1 November 2017

[View more details](#)

* European network for the promotion of health-enhancing physical activity

Laureus Sport for Good Foundation (6 April 2017)

Laureus celebrates the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

Today, Laureus Sport for Good is honoured to celebrate with the world the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

Due to its vast reach, unparalleled popularity and foundation of positive values, sport is ideally positioned to contribute towards the United Nations' objectives for development and peace. To raise awareness of this potential, 6 April was declared as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) by the UN General Assembly. The adoption of this Day signifies the increasing recognition by the United Nations of the positive influence that sport can have on the advancement of human rights, and social and economic development.

Laureus is pursuing a vision of "using the power of sport to end violence, discrimination and disadvantage. Proving that sport can change the world". We supports more than 100 sports-based community programmes in around 40 countries to combat social challenges facing children and young people, such as violence and crime, discrimination, lack of education, unemployment and preventable diseases. Laureus is a global leader in research and knowledge-sharing in relation to operating sport for development programmes.

Israeli Heni Bizawi, 25, is a project leader from PeacePlayers International – Middle East, one of many Laureus-supported projects. Sport has changed her life and the community around her. This is her story.....

[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (5 April 2017)

Kohli and Perry named leading cricketers of the year

India's captain Virat Kohli and Australian Ellyse Perry have been named as the leading players of the year after the 2017 edition of the Wisden Cricketers Almanack was released today.

.....
All-rounder Ellyse Perry was awarded the women's title, becoming the second Australian to do so after Meg Lanning won the inaugural prize in 2014.

Perry averaged 81 with the bat in ODIs and now has a total of 17 half centuries in 23 innings since 2014, a record for men and women.

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[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (5 April 2017)

Asian Paralympic Committee back wheelchair basketball camp

The Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) has backed a women's wheelchair basketball camp which will be held in Thai capital Bangkok.

The event, organised by the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation's (IWBF) Asia Oceania Zone (AOZ), will take place between April 16 and 21.

Developing women's wheelchair basketball across Asia and creating more national teams are considered key goals.

It is hoped the APC's support will make the camp accessible for more female players.

The International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) development arm, The Agitos Foundation, is also backing the camp alongside the World Wheelchair Express Foundation.

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[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (24 April 2017)

PASO reopen Executive Committee candidature process to ensure female representation

Nominations have been reopened for Pan American Sports Organization (PASO) Executive Committee candidates from the Group One cluster of countries in a bid to find a female representative.

This is necessary in order to fulfil a new statute requirement for each regional arm of the organisations to have at least one women on one of its three Executive Committee positions.

At present, it is four men are standing for the three roles.

[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (24 April 2017)

ITU reviews mixed relay Olympic bid proposal during Executive Board meeting

The International Triathlon Union (ITU) reviewed the proposal for mixed relay's inclusion on the programme for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games as part of its Executive Board meeting in Seoul.

ITU President Marisol Casado exclusively told insidethegames last July that mixed relay has "all the ingredients" to be added to the Tokyo 2020 programme.

Documents have been sent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to make a formal bid proposal, which the ITU says "emphasises the great asset that mixed relay is, not only to our sport, but to the Olympic Movement and gender balance in sport".

The ITU had initially hoped the event, which sees two women and two men on each team compete in a "super-sprint" triathlon format before tagging their next team-mate, could be included on the programme for Rio 2016.

Last month, German city Hamburg was awarded this year's ITU Mixed Relay World Championships, which are due to be held from July 15 to 16.

[View the full news item](#)

British Journal of Sports Medicine (April 2017)

SoundCloud Talk: Dark underbelly of competitive sport - Harassment and abuse. Dr Margo Mountjoy. Host Dr Karen Litzky

What is abuse and how does it manifest itself in sport? In this hard-hitting podcast, Karen Litzky hosts Dr Margo Mountjoy, IOC medical commission, FINA executive board member, and associate clinical professor at McMaster University. Dr Mountjoy explores the various types of harassment, how it can occur, and what safeguards can be put in place to help athletes report abuse.

Highlights include:

- What does it mean when we talk about abuse and harassment?
- Youth sport and why we need to be especially careful in our younger athlete
- Top tips to recognizing abuse: when is the athlete trying to tell us something?

- Putting in safeguarding mechanisms to protect athletes and report abuse
- The impact of social media in sport especially among "millennials"
- Take home messages for working in practice

Also - Link to the open access (FREE) IOC consensus statement on non-accidental violence in sport: ow.ly/YzMd30aBmA2

[Listen to Podcast](#)

Journal of Physical Activity and Health: The Official Journal of the International Society for Physical Activity and Health. Volume 14, Issue 4, April 2017

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

[View the abstracts](#)

[Also view Issue 3, March 2017](#)

Specific countries

AUSTRALIA

Inside the games reports (18 April 2017)

Gold Coast 2018 participates in Australian-first diversity initiative

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC) is taking part in an Australian-first "benchmarking programme" designed to measure the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people within sport in the country.

The Pride in Sport Index (PSI) is an initiative of the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Australian Sports Commission, and is a legacy of the Bingham Cup, a biennial international, non-professional, gay rugby union tournament, first held in 2002.

It allows Australian sporting organisations to determine what constitutes good practice and benchmark their own initiatives against an external measure and other sporting bodies.

GOLDOC chairman Peter Beattie said the Corporation's participation is in line with its vision to stage an event that welcomes participation by people of every gender, socio-economic status, race, orientation or ability.

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[View the full news item](#)

CANADA

Inside the games reports (23 April 2017)

Smith re-elected Canadian Olympic Committee President

Tricia Smith has been re-elected as the Canadian Olympic Committee's (COC) President following a vote.

The 60-year-old was unanimously voted back into the role by the COC Session, made up of sports leaders, athletes and coaches, after standing unopposed.

It is the second term Smith, a lawyer and businesswoman based in Vancouver, will serve in the position and she is due to remain as President until 2021, meaning she will oversee preparations for Pyeongchang 2018 and Tokyo 2020.

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[View the full news item](#)

COLOMBIA

Inside the games reports (10 April 2017)

Colombia's Barrera named IPC Athlete of the Month for March

Maria Paula Barrera of Colombia has been named the Allianz International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athlete of the Month for March.

The swimmer finished first with 59 per cent of the public vote and was followed by cyclist Joseph Berenyi of the United States, who was second with 36 per cent.

The Colombian was nominated after she enjoyed a stunning Youth Parapan American Games in the Brazilian city of São Paulo last month.

She won six swimming gold medals, one silver and one bronze to finish as her country's most decorated athlete at the event.

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[View the full news item](#)

FRANCE

Inside the games reports (10 April 2017)

Paris 2024 vow support for gender diversity at city's Marathon

Paris 2024 supported the United Nations' HeForShe movement at the city's Marathon, which they claim displays their commitment to gender diversity.

The HeForShe movement works to promote gender equality and accelerate the fight against gender discrimination.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo met with Elizabeth Nyamayaro, head of HeForShe, at the race in the French capital to discuss the issue and how it is part of the city's bid for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"I am happy to pledge my support for this brilliant initiative that will help to encourage the next generation of women in our city to fight inequality and challenge themselves to do more than ever before," she said.

"The Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games can be a real vehicle for change in society, a tool to empower people.

"Social change is at the heart of our legacy plan, and together we can change our country, our city, for the better."

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[View the full news item](#)

IRAN

Independent, UK (11 April 2017)

Women barred from Tehran marathon defy rules to complete their own race instead

Determined not to waste months of training and prove women 'can do anything they want', female participants created their own race route.

A group of female runners who were told at the last minute they could not take part in the [Tehran](#) marathon risked being arrested and detained by [Iran's](#) strict religious authorities in order to stage their own race instead.

Around 160 women out of a total of 600 runners had registered to compete in Friday's first ever 'TehRUN', a 26 mile (42 kilometre) race around the Iranian capital, including dozens of foreigners.

However, female participants were dismayed to be told in an email from organisers three weeks ago that they would actually [not be allowed to take part](#), as men and women cannot participate in sports together in the conservative country.

Iran's track and field federation provided several confusing updates before the event meaning that the day before the race, female participants were still unclear on the rules.

Non-profit '[Free to Run](#)', which encourages women and girls mainly from conflict areas to participate in sport and experience the outdoors, said in a Facebook post the week before that the authorities had been listening to the concerns of female runners and it appeared that women would be allowed to compete after all.

On race day, though, it emerged that women could take part in the 10 kilometre run but not the half marathon or full marathon, and those still wishing to complete the full distance would have to use an indoors sports stadium track instead.

[View the full news item](#) - *some good photographs as well*

Inside the games reports (16 April 2017)

FIBA hail "historic moment" after men attend female basketball match in Iran

International Basketball Federation (FIBA) secretary general Patrick Baumann has hailed a "historical moment for women's sport in Iran" after men were granted permission to attend a female game in Tehran.

This is claimed to mark the first time in which men have been allowed to witness a women's sporting event in person in the Islamic country.

The exhibition contest between Gaz and Koosha Sepehr also gave FIBA an opportunity to oversee an in which players wore hijabs before they consider a proposal permitting headgear to be worn during all matches next month.

The world governing body were represented by Lubomir Kotleba, an "advisor" to the secretary general.

He attended alongside Mahmoud Mashhoun and Ali Towfigh, the respective President and Secretary General of the Basketball Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[View the full news item](#)

NEPAL

Inside the games reports (5 April 2017)

Nepal Taekwondo Association to host women's tournament

The Nepal Taekwondo Association has organised its first international tournament for female players.

The event in the Asian country will take place at the National Sports Council in Kathmandu from today.

According to the Himalaya Times, a total of 169 athletes will compete in the nation's capital city.

As well as home competitors from Nepal, athletes have made the trip from India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

[View the full news item](#)

UK

The Amateur Swimming Association (27 March 2017)

Jane Nickerson appointed ASA CEO

The Amateur Swimming Association has today confirmed that Jane Nickerson has been appointed to the role of Chief Executive Officer.

Mike Farrar, ASA Group Board Chairman, said: "I am delighted to announce that Jane Nickerson, our current interim CEO, has been confirmed in the role.

.....
Jane's first task will be to launch Towards a Nation Swimming, a strategic plan for swimming in England 2017-21 next week.

[View the full news item](#)

England Athletics (27 March 2017)

RunTogether and Race for Life supporting women in their running

RunTogether and Cancer Research UK's Race for Life have launched a new initiative to support women taking part in Race for Life events. By becoming part of a local RunTogether group women are able to access the advice, support and encouragement that is available to help them with their running. Members of RunTogether groups will also be encouraged to get involved in Race for Life events.

Each year more than 500,000 women run, jog or walk in more than 300 Cancer Research UK Race for Life events across the UK - either 5k, 10k or a Pretty Muddy obstacle course run.

RunTogether groups, including many that are provided by England Athletics affiliated clubs, are able to provide these women with additional support in the build up to their chosen event and to then continue to enjoy their running and the fitness benefits it brings.

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[View the full news item](#)

Sport and Recreation Alliance (29 March 2017)

Sport and Recreation Alliance launches new strategy to get nation active

The Sport and Recreation Alliance has published its new strategy outlining its ambition to create a vibrant sport and recreation sector. The strategy, which will run through to 2021, is heavily focused on grassroots sport, something which is reflected in the name, [The Heart of an Active Nation](#).

The new strategy includes some exciting new focus areas which reflect the impact of changing demographics, environments, resources and technologies as well as continuing to deliver the services which its members value most. The strategy is built on eight principles and includes an ambition to encourage more people from under-represented groups into sport and recreation, including as participants, volunteers or spectators.

The Alliance will be focusing on work to demonstrate the economic and social value of sport and recreation, improve access to sport and recreation for young people, as well as providing

a greater focus on the role of volunteering in the sector. The Alliance will also continue to act as the independent, collective voice of the sport and recreation sector with Government, policy makers, the media and wider public.

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[View the full news item](#)

Sports Coach UK (30 March 2017)

Emma Atkins named new Director of Coaching at Sports Coach UK

Sports Coach UK has announced Emma Atkins as its new Director of Coaching, a new role that will commence from June when Emma will leave her current position of Chief Executive of the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust.

In her new role Emma will lead the on-going development of coaching requirements for sport and physical activity in the UK. And will work with key stakeholders, alongside Sports Coach UK's technical team and Chief Executive Officer, Mark Gannon, to help shape and inform the ongoing evolution of coaching in the UK.

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[View the full news item](#)

Women's Sport Trust

#BeAGameChanger Awards 2017 - Public voting opens on 18 April

Following a public nomination process, each award was shortlisted by our [Board of Trustees](#). The finalists in each category will then chosen by our [Expert Panel](#). Public voting decides the winners.

Winners will be announced at the #BAGC2017 awards in London on Thursday 11th May 2017.

[View more details](#) - *includes the shortlists*

Kick it Out (31 March 2017)

Education Officer Hayley Bennett speaks to The Voice during Women's History Month

Hayley Bennett, Education Officer at Kick It Out, spoke to The Voice newspaper during Women's History Month in her role delivering education to colleges and universities for football's equality and inclusion organisation.

Below is the piece from The Voice:

Bennett joined Kick It Out initially as a volunteer in May 2013 whilst studying for a degree in politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). After graduating in 2014, Bennett took up a full time position at Kick It Out, leading the creation of the organisation's first ever Education Programme.

She is passionate about football, and equally passionate about equality, inclusion and diversity. Over the past three years, Bennett has made it her mission to share these passions with as many young people as possible through the education programme, which has worked with over 4,000 people to date.

This has seen her also create a pioneering training course for employees of the football industry with the Equality and Diversity Awareness in Football Award, in partnership with Southampton Solent University.

.....
[View the full article](#)

British Cycling (3 April 2017)

British Cycling announces big increase in female race licence holders

Ahead of the 2017 HSBC UK | National Women's Road Series, British Cycling is delighted to announce a significant increase in the number of women taking part in competitive cycling in Britain.

Since 2013 – when British Cycling launched its women’s strategy aiming to get one million more women cycling by 2020 – there has been a 43% increase in the amount of women holding a race licence, which enables them to race competitively in any cycle sport discipline of their choice.

[View the full news item](#)

Leeds Beckett University (7 April 2017)

New study to boost representation of women in coaching

A Leeds Beckett University academic will be the key European expert for a new study into gender-specific education schemes for sports coaches and how these can help to boost the representation of women in coaching.

Dr Leanne Norman, Senior Research Fellow in the Carnegie School of Sport, will work closely with leading research and consultancy company, Ecorys, on the European Council research study into the mapping and analysis of education schemes for coaches from a gender perspective, across Europe.

Dr Norman’s role will be as key European expert, which will involve identifying and connecting the team to relevant sources, stakeholders and coach education schemes, undertaking consultations with sport stakeholders in the UK and at a European level, carrying out a number of detailed reviews of schemes, and reviewing reporting.

[View the full news item](#)

Rugby Football Union (12 April 2017)

Griffin re-elected on the RFU Council [women and girls game developments]

Deborah Griffin has been re-elected as the women and girls’ representative on the Rugby Football Union (RFU) Council.

The appointment was confirmed at April’s RFU Council meeting, after a number of high-quality nominations were put forward for the position.

Ambitious targets for participation

Ahead of England Women’s appearance at the 2017 Women’s Rugby World Cup (WRWC) as the current holders, the RFU set new ambitious targets as part of their women’s and girls’ strategy to double the number of female players to over 50,000 by the next WRWC.

The new target was set at the beginning of this season after it was announced that 26,000 women and girls now regularly play contact rugby, surpassing our previous goal of 25,000, one year ahead of schedule.

With over 300 rugby clubs across the country now hosting women and girls’ teams, there are numerous opportunities for women and girls across England to participate in rugby whether in sevens, 15s or O2 Touch.

This year the RFU also launched the Meet Your Inner Warrior campaign, aimed at encouraging more women and girls to take up contact rugby. As part of the campaign, 100 camps took place in rugby clubs across the country in January, offering fun rugby taster sessions for women who want to try out the sport before joining their local club. The next set of camps are due to be held in May and June of this year.

[View the full news item](#)

British Golf Industry Association - National Golf Month - May 2017

The importance of attracting more women into golf

It is essential for the economic health and reputation of the sport that we encourage even more women to get onto the nation's golf courses and driving ranges. This is the reason why we have decided to focus this year's National Golf Month on encouraging women who are new to the game to try the sport and persuading lapsed female players to revisit their local course, club or centre.

Golf is one of the few sports in which men and women can compete alongside each other, which is something that we should be celebrating.

The gender mix of golfers in many other European countries underlines how the sport in the UK can appeal to both men and women. According to research undertaken by consultants KPMG in 2016, only around 15% of UK golfers are female compared to 25% in the whole of Europe and 35% in countries such as Germany, Austria and Slovenia. Getting the UK to the 25% European average could bring 91,000 new female participants into the sport. We believe that this is a highly realistic ambition, given that another research survey, commissioned by golf industry supplier Syngenta, has indicated that there are 3.79 million prospective female golfers in the UK and Ireland, by which they mean non-golfers and lapsed players who when questioned said they would be very interested or interested in taking up golf in the next two years. The same study suggested that the value to the sport of each new female golfer is \$949 per year (equivalent to around £770), making the additional 91,000 players worth £70 million per year to the UK's golf clubs, pros, courses and equipment manufacturers.

The evidence further suggests that increasing the number of female participants also benefits the wider player-base by encouraging more families to take up the sport.

[Source of information](#)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport (21 April 2017)

Culture Secretary appoints Dame Katherine Grainger as new chair of UK Sport

Culture Secretary appoints Dame Katherine Grainger as new chair of UK Sport

Culture Secretary, The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, has appointed Dame Katherine Grainger as Chair of UK Sport.

Dame Katherine Grainger has been appointed as the new chair of UK Sport for a term of four years, Sports Minister Tracey Crouch confirmed today.

The former rower is Britain's most decorated female Olympic athlete and the first British woman to win medals at five successive games.

Dame Katherine will take up the role from 1 July 2017.

Rod Carr will step down at the end of his term on 22 April 2017.

[View the full news item](#)

England Hockey (27 April 2017)

New Great Britain Hockey President appointed

Great Britain Hockey are delighted to announce the appointment of Sheila Morrow as new President.

Sheila has been a Director of Great Britain Hockey for five years, as well as a member of the Hockey Wales Board since 2008. As a player she won 136 caps for Great Britain and Wales, playing in five World Championships and captaining both teams.

She was Head of Governing Body Services for Sport England for 13 years, and has been a Tournament Director, Technical Officer and umpire at countless international hockey events including both the Beijing and London Olympic Games. She takes over from Richard Leman, who has completed his ten-year term with great success, helping achieve Olympic gold and bronze medals during his tenure.

[View the full news item](#)

Publications....

Women in Sport - E-Newsletter April 2017 - [available to view](#)

Engage-HER: Challenging sports deliverers in Northern Ireland to think differently 2016-17. Case study. Sported and Women in Sport, March 2017 (5 pages)

Following a successful pilot, Sported and Women in Sport are delighted to publish the case

study for its Engage-HER joint programme, in partnership with Sport NI and funded by the Department for Communities.

The innovative pilot drew on the respective networks, insight and experience of Sported and Women in Sport, and is part of Sport NI's strategy to encourage greater participation and increase opportunities for women and girls to get involved in grassroots sport.

[Download a copy](#)

I've just come across this..

Changing the visual landscape of women's sport. Insight to Action series. Women's Sport Trust, October 2016 (10 pages)

The Women's Sport Trust aims to raise the visibility and increase the impact of women's sport in the UK. We achieve this through the promotion of role models, stimulating media coverage and encouraging greater funding. We are the leading UK charity focused on using the power of sport to accelerate gender equality.

This is the first in our occasional series of "Insight to Action". We are developing this series of short pieces to share the insight that guides our work, to highlight great case studies of how others are making change happen and how we are accelerating action in women's sport.

The main outcome highlighted in this insight piece is the establishment of "Visual Guidelines for Sporting Women". These were drafted by Getty Images and Women's Sport Trust and refined with a live audience at an event hosted by the BBC as part of Women's Sport Week in October 2016. Getty Images and WST are actively promoting the guidelines in the media and sending them to over 200,000 professional photographers.

[Download a copy](#)

A report that some people may be interested in.....

Duty of Care in Sport Review: Independent Report to Government. Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, 21 April 2017 (38 pages)

In December 2015, as part of the Sporting Future strategy, the Minister for Sport asked Baroness Grey-Thompson to conduct an independent review into the Duty of Care sport has towards its participants. This report sets out the findings of that review.

[Download a copy](#)

USA

Inside the games reports (10 April 2017)

USA Volleyball hits back at criticism after transgender player cleared to compete

USA Volleyball has hit back at criticism over its decision to clear a transgender player to compete as a woman and potentially earn a place on the women's Olympic team.

According to KHNL-TV, based in Hawaiian city Honolulu, male-born Tia Thompson was approved by USA Volleyball to compete as a woman in January.

Thompson told *LifeSiteNews* that she believes she is advancing the transgender cause by competing as a woman, adding: "I am living my truth, and if this can help other trans-athletes, then it's worth it."

But *Hawaii News Now* reports "there has been some push back" from the volleyball community, claiming players and parents they spoke to anonymously say the situation is "unfair for teams with biological women because it creates an unrealistic level of competition".

USA Volleyball has issued a statement to clarify its position on what it describes as "inaccurate reports in recent news media articles".

"USA Volleyball supports the inclusion of transgender athletes in USA Volleyball events in the gender in which they self-identify, yet also prioritises a fair and competitive landscape," the statement reads.

[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (24 April 2017)

Teenage Muslim boxer wins right to compete in hijab in United States

Muslim boxer Amaiya Zafar has won the right to compete wearing a hijab in the United States after initially being barred from donning traditional dress during matches.

The 16-year-old from Minnesota challenged USA Boxing's rules having been prohibited from wearing her hijab, long sleeves and leggings in the ring.

The Star Tribune reports that under a new USA Boxing exemption, Zafar can adhere to her religious beliefs rather than to a mandate that she wear a sleeveless jersey and shorts that cannot go below the knees.

[View the full news item](#)

Inside the games reports (24 April 2017)

Williams slams "racist and sexist" comments made by Nastase

Serena Williams has heavily criticised Ilie Nastase over comments, which she branded racist and sexist, that the Romanian Fed Cup captain said during their match with Great Britain.

The United States tennis star posted a message on her Instagram profile discussing her views on what the 70-year-old said about Williams, her unborn baby, match officials, British women's number one Johanna Konta and opposing captain Anne Keothavong.

In her post, which can be read [here](#), 23-time Grand Slam champion Williams said: "It disappoints me to know we live in a society where people like Ilie Nastase can make such racist comments towards myself and unborn child, and sexist comments against my peers."

[View the full news item](#)

VANUATU

International Basketball Federation

Video - Hoops for Health - Season of Hope

Watch the amazing work of the Vanuatu Basketball Federation coaches in part one of our documentary series exploring the Hoops for Health program across Oceania.

[View the video](#) (7 mins 32 sec)
