

## News and Resource Update February 2017: Your guide to what's happening around the world

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## IAPESGW 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress - *Women and Girls in Sport: Research to Action* Barry University, Florida, USA 17 – 21 May 2017

Themes:

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

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

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## International

### International Women's Day - 8 March

We know that sport communities in countries across the world will be celebrating the day with events and initiatives to encourage more women and girls to be active and to make them aware of what is being delivered at a local level.

In the March edition we will hopefully have examples of some of the events that took place around the world to share with you - ***we want to hear from you.***

**UNESCO - Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport - MINEPS VI  
13 - 15 July 2017, Kazan, Russia**

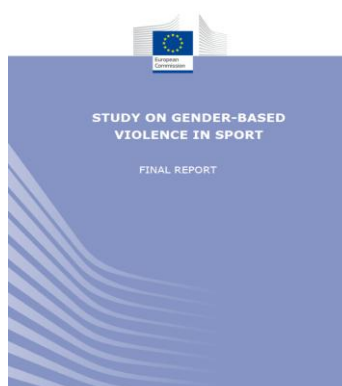
MINEPS VI is expected to mark a shift from declarations of policy intent towards measurable action. Consequently, the conference is expected to agree on a plan of actions to which the ministers commit.

MINEPS VI will be structured around three main themes:

- Developing a comprehensive vision of inclusive access for all.
- Maximizing the contributions of sport to sustainable development and peace.
- Protecting the integrity of sport.

[View more details](#)

**European Commission: Study on gender-based violence in sport: final report (2016)**



The IAPESGW board member, Rosa Diketmüller, was part of a group of a European research team, which contributed to a study on gender based violence in sport in Europe, initiated by the European Commission.

This study provides an overview of legal and policy frameworks, describes initiatives promoted by sport and civil society organisations, identifies best practice in combatting gender-based violence in sport and makes recommendations for future action. Due to a lack of studies and methodological difficulties, reliable prevalence and incidence data on (forms of) gender-based violence in sport are strikingly absent across the EU and internationally. The terminology used to refer to forms of gender-based violence varies greatly across the EU, and there remains a lack of clarity in legal texts. The policy frameworks of fewer than half of all EU Member States make explicit reference to forms of gender-based violence in sport.

Various approaches to prevent gender-based violence in sport were identified. Most initiatives target sports organisations (including federations, associations, and clubs) and coaches. These were mostly carried out on an ad-hoc basis. A holistic approach to fight gender-based violence in sport is needed that considers:

- an assessment of the magnitude of the problem;
- prevention initiatives;
- comprehensive legal regulations, policy and disciplinary provisions to prosecute and punish perpetrators and to protect athletes from gender-based violence;

- provision of services for those subjected to acts of gender-based violence;
- and multi-level, multi-disciplinary and multi-actor partnerships.

The report about the study on gender-based violence in sport was launched on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Please find the link here: [http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/sport/library/studies/gender-based-violence-sport-study-2016\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/sport/library/studies/gender-based-violence-sport-study-2016_en.pdf).

***Thanks go to Janice Crosswhite for flagging this up....***

**SCORE (Strengthening Coaching with the Objective to Raise Equality) - Gender Equality in Coaching Interactive Toolkit (ICCE and Co-funded by Erasmus+ programme of the European Union)**

[Access the on-line toolkit](#)

*Some background....*

**SCORE Final Conference successfully held in Cologne (25 October 2016)**

On 13th of October 2016, the SCORE team presented the result of the project and the final version of the interactive toolkit “Gender Equality in Coaching” during the Final Conference of SCORE.

The Conference, which took place in Cologne at the Trainer Academy of the German Olympic Sports Confederation, had several international speakers and guests. It was organised together with the International Council for Coaching Excellence, partner organisation of SCORE project. The first part of the event was a joint plenary for ICCE and SCORE events during which the Honorary President of ENGSO, Birgitta Kervinen, welcomed the participants and highlighted that gender equality has been one of ENGSO’s priorities for a long time. Furthermore, Heidi Pekkola, SCORE project manager, gave a general overview on the project in the plenary session.

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The Conference finished with a panel discussion “How to break the glass ceiling in coaching?”, with the participation of ICCE President, John Bales, who presented the work that ICCE, as an umbrella organisation of national coaching associations, will do in order to increase the impact of the project. Particularly, he highlighted the plans for the internal dissemination. The toolkit will be adopted within the educational materials of the ICCE for their coaching programme and it will be officially presented during their annual conference in 2017.

[View the full news item](#)

**International Paralympic Committee (8 February 2017)**

**The IPC opens nominations for 2017 Media Awards and BP Courage Award**

Both sets of awards mark achievements at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

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**The biennial BP Courage Award** recognises the immense courage of an individual, team or organisation at a [Paralympic Games](#). This year it will recognise an individual, team or organisation that participated at [Rio 2016](#) and fulfils at least one of the following criteria:

- The inner strength to redefine their own possibilities
- The impact on perceptions of what others may deem unexpected
- The resilience to truly excel in the face of challenges

In 2015 the award was presented to Dutch snowboarder [Bibian Mentel-Spee](#) for her role in successfully campaigning for [snowboard](#) to be part of the Paralympic Winter Games programme at [Sochi 2014](#)

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All IPC members, including National Paralympic Committees, Regional Organisations, International Federations and [International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled](#) are eligible to nominate for the respective awards.

Each organisation is entitled to submit one nomination per category and the closing date for entries is 12:00 CET on 3 March 2017.

An awards committee will select the winners and the awards will be presented at a glittering awards ceremony on 7 September 2017.

[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (7 February 2017)**

#### **Double Olympic medallist makes renewed four-woman bobsleigh call**

American bobsleigh pilot Elana Meyers Taylor says she will do all she can in the push to get the four-woman event onto the Winter Olympic programme.

At present, the two-woman is the only bobsleigh opportunity for female athletes on the Games programme - with the men competing in the both the two and four man.

Meyers Taylor is already a double Olympic medallist after winning silver at Sochi 2014 and Vancouver 2010.

But the 32-year-old would love to see more opportunities to win medals on the grandest stage of all.

The triple world champion does have experience driving a four-man sled, and three all female quartets competed with the men at this weekend's International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) World Cup in Igls.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (13 February 2017)**

#### **Polish IOC member Szewińska awarded Order of the Rising Sun**

International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Irena Szewińska has received the Order of the Rising Sun, one of the highest honours in Japan.

The 70-year-old, who won three Olympic gold medals on the track and currently serves as vice-president of the Polish Olympic Committee (POC), was given the honour by Japanese Ambassador in Poland Shigeo Matsutomi at a ceremony in Warsaw.

She also received a diploma signed by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe.

"I sincerely thank the Japanese emperor, Prime Minister and ambassador for this honourable distinction," Szewińska, who won a total of seven Olympic medals during her athletics career, said.

Szewińska was bestowed with the Order of the Rising Sun for her outstanding sports career, as well as her work within sport and the Olympic Movement.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (14 February 2017)**

#### **Coe hopeful of IAAF success in appeal to CAS over gender testing**

International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) President Sebastian Coe has reiterated the organisation's desire to be successful in challenging the Court of Arbitration for Sport's (CAS) suspension of a ruling which halted the monitoring of female athletes with higher than usual levels of testosterone.

South African 800 metres runner Caster Semenya is the most high-profile athlete who would be affected should the IAAF win their appeal to the CAS.

The 26-year-old, who won the Olympic gold medal over two laps of the track in Rio de Janeiro last year, is in line to be upgraded to first place in the 800m races at London 2012 and the previous year's World Championships in Daegu after Russia's Mariya Savinova was stripped of her titles for doping.

Following her world title win at Berlin in 2009 it was revealed that the then 18-year-old Semenya had undergone gender testing and she was withdrawn from international competition until July 2010.

But last year, the rules introduced by the IAAF in 2011, partly in response to Semenya's case - which required female athletes with high levels of male hormones to obtain medical clearance before competing - were suspended for two years by the CAS.

Scientific evidence provided by the IAAF concerning the rule was deemed questionable by sport's supreme court.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (15 February 2017)**

#### **Amis takes on Unicef role in collaboration with Commonwealth Games Federation**

Lucy Amis has been appointed as the children's rights and sports specialist at Unicef UK as part of a collaboration with the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

Amis, formerly a research fellow of mega-sporting events at the Institute for Human Rights and Business, is currently in The Bahamas supporting this year's edition of the Commonwealth Youth Games.

The role of her job is to integrate children and young people's rights into the bidding processes and operational delivery of future Commonwealth Games and Youth Games.

The position is based with UNICEF, the United Nations (UN) children's humanitarian programme, and not the CGF.

Future Games include Gold Coast 2018 and Durban 2022, and the 2021 edition of the Youth Games in Northern Ireland.

"I am delighted to be joining Unicef UK as children's rights and sports specialist, and to be working directly with the CGF to integrate human and children's rights into their governance and bidding processes, as well as helping to build the human rights capacity of all Commonwealth Games hosts," said Amis.

A plan will be drawn up to ensure human and children's rights due diligence is integrated into all future Commonwealth Games and other big sporting events.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Laureus Sport Foundation (14 February 2017)**

#### **Awards - And the Winners are...**

The premier global sports awards took place in the company of royalty as HSH Prince Albert and HSH Princess Charlene joined the biggest names in sport at the Laureus World Sports Awards in Monaco.

At the Ceremony, Usain Bolt and Simone Biles were named Laureus Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year, following their outstanding performances in 2016.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Medical Express (14 February 2017)**

#### **A new study reveals the level of physical activity and sport per European country**

Sweden, Finland and Denmark are the European countries that do more sport on a regular basis, according to a study published in the Open Access Library Journal by an international collaborative of researchers. According to the study, people in Portugal, Italy, Spain and especially Greece, are listed below the European average regarding the indicators on population and sport.

Sedentarism and lack of physical activity is increasingly common in western [countries](#). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the lack of physical activity is the fourth greatest risk factor in global mortality, and the main cause of more than 21 percent of breast and colon cancers, 27 percent of diabetes cases and around 30 percent of [coronary heart disease](#) cases.

The new study published in Open Access Library covers general aspects of physical activity and does not focus on any sport in particular. It is based on the multivariate analysis of data from around 27,000 people from 27 European countries according to the information published by the Eurobarometer of the European Commission on the practice of sport by people over 15. For each analysed country, the experts analyse the practice of physical exercise and sport of their inhabitants, who are listed in four categories: the ones who never play sport, barely play, occasionally play, and regularly play sport.

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**More information:** Daniel Ríos et al. A Graphical Classification of European Countries According to Physical Activity Level of Its Citizens, *OALib* (2016). [DOI: 10.4236/oalib.1103195](#)

[View the full news item](#)

**The Guardian, UK (19 February 2017)**

**Sean Ingle Blog: Heading footballs can injure adolescents' brains as well**

Scientists at Purdue University found that when teenage girls head a football regularly there is a risk of low-level brain injuries which – in some cases – lasts for four or five months.

It has become a depressingly familiar pattern. Dead sportsmen's brains are sliced up, skewered under a microscope and the evidence of how their professions have wrecked their minds becomes horribly clear. Where American football leads, association football has followed. Last week research from Swansea University and University College London linked chronic, repetitive head impacts with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and dementia in deceased players. Yet the broad direction of travel has long been established even before Jeff Astle's early death in 2002 was ascribed by a coroner to "industrial disease" from heading heavy footballs.

No one disputes that this research is necessary and overdue. But the danger of always gazing backwards is that we miss what is in front of us. Fresh research suggests the dangers of heading didn't disappear with the arrival of lighter and water-resistant balls, and the risks, particularly to children and teenage girls, may be under-appreciated.

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[View the full news item](#)

**Inside the games reports (21 February 2017)**

**Global Girls' Game sees 38 ice hockey matches played around the world in two days**

Around 1,000 female ice hockey players took part in the second Global Girls' Game, where a number of matches were consecutively played over two days in 38 countries on six continents.

The initiative spread from the traditional ice hockey hotbeds in North America and Europe with two games in Oceania, four in Asia and one each in Africa, Central America and South America.

The Global Girls' Game started on Saturday (February 18) in New Zealand and ended in Toronto in Canada the following day.

Once one match finished, another match in a different country would start.

The participants were largely teenage girls, although ages ranged from six to over 40 in some matches.

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[View the full news item](#)

*Awareness....*

**Inside the games reports (15 February 2017)**

**Olympic Channel launches global digital platform in six additional languages**

The Olympic Channel has today been launched in six additional languages and is now available in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Brazilian Portuguese and Latin American Spanish.

The launch represents the first non-English languages to be added to the global digital platform.

As of today, fans and users have the option to experience the current version of the Olympic Channel in one of seven languages.

In addition to the multi-language user interface, viewers can continue to watch original programming with subtitles in one of 10 languages which has been an available feature since the channel launched in August 2016.

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To experience the Olympic Channel in a language other than English, users can select the option through the language button in the upper right-hand corner of [olympicchannel.com](http://olympicchannel.com).

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Journal of Physical Activity and Health: The Official Journal of the International Society for Physical Activity and Health. Volume 14, Issue 1, January 2017**

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

[View the abstracts](#)

#### **One item is:**

[How Much Walking Should be Advocated for Good Health in Adolescent Girls? Mhairi MacDonald, Samantha G. Fawkner, Ailsa Niven 14\(1\) 10.1123/jpah.2015-0391](#)

[Preview](#) | [Abstract](#) | [PDF \(557 KB\)](#)

*Of general interest...*

#### **BBC News reports (27 January 2017)**

##### **Girls lose faith in their own talents by the age of six**

Girls start to see themselves as less innately talented than boys do when they are only six years old, a group of US researchers has said.

They said the "disheartening" results suggested the problem could snowball to affect future careers.

The study on 400 children, [in the journal Science](#), initially found both five-year-old boys and girls thought their own gender was "brilliant".

But then only one year later, gender differences had emerged.

##### [Girl Power: How can books empower young girls?](#)

The team from Princeton University, New York University and the University of Illinois said it appeared stereotypes were starting to show.

Suspected influences include exposure to media, teachers, parents and other children.

The study put sets of five, six and seven-year-olds through different experiments.

In one, the children were read a story about someone who is "really, really smart" but it is not clear who the story is about.

They then had to guess the protagonist from four pictures - two of men and two of women. At age five, boys pick men and girls pick women around 75% of the time. But fast-forward a



year to age six and boys are still picking men while girls are now slightly more likely to pick men too.

In another scenario, groups of children played a new board game. But for some it was branded as "for children who are really, really smart" and for others it was described as "for children who try really, really hard".

Six and seven-year old girls were as likely as boys to enjoy the game for those who try, but much less likely to say they enjoy the game for smart children.

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[View the full news item](#)

***Editor - I came across this article and thought you would be interested in it...***

**University of Cambridge (2 February 2017)**  
**“A girl without education is nothing in the world”**

Half the children in Africa miss out on school and basic learning as a result of poverty, gender or disability. While major efforts are being made to reverse this situation, Cambridge researchers are working with NGOs on the ground to ask what works, why and how much it costs.

By the time she was 13 years old, Vumilia had supported herself through primary school by collecting and selling firewood. Now she faced an even greater challenge. After weeks of anxiety, Vumilia left home at 4.30 a.m. to walk the 10 km to secondary school; she had no pencils, no uniform and no money to pay her school fees.

Twelve-year-old Husna had no choice but to leave school to work, helping to support her grandmother and siblings on her US\$14 a month working as a housemaid. Husna would wonder what lay ahead of her: “I was imagining that my life would be horrible. Because even if I stopped being a maid, where would I go? What would I do?”

Catherine also saw a bleak future. After the death of her father, her uncles took her family’s land. Some days Catherine would manage to go to school; on others she would sell food by the roadside. “I would see other children studying and all the time I would just look at their exercise books and try to learn. I was imagining my future as going into a big hole where no one could help me. A girl without education is nothing in the world. Education is everything.”

Vumilia, Husna and Catherine all live in Tanzania in East Africa. With an economy based largely on agriculture, Tanzania has among the lowest rate of secondary school enrolment in Africa. Many girls from poor, rural families can’t afford the cost of going to secondary school and leave home to become ‘house girls’ in urban centres. There, they sometimes experience abuse and exploitation, returning home infected with HIV, or pregnant. Sadly, Catherine’s prediction of a desperate future is all too accurate.

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[View the full article](#)

## Specific countries

### AUSTRALIA

#### **Beyond Sport reports (3 February 2017)**

##### **#ChangeOurGame Campaign to boost women's sport in Australian State**

Women are being urged to "claim their place" in the sporting landscape in a push to drive up the profile of female sport, improve standards and help inspire the next generation.

Elite female athletes will feature on billboards across Victoria as part of the \$7 million #ChangeOurGame campaign launched by the Victorian Government and VicHealth. The money will go towards building the profile of female athletes, increasing viewership, and boosting participation amongst females who do not play organised or competitive sports.

The AFLW, WBBL and WNBL will be involved in the campaign. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy said women were underrepresented in almost all facets of sport participation and management.

"There is pay disparity, we've got women wanting to participate in sport where they don't have the facilities available to them, where the culture has not changed adequately," she said.

"It's about sending that message that sport isn't just for the elite women. Sport is for every woman and every girl.

"There is a place for you in sport and we are going to go out and claim it for you.

Girls no longer have to look up to male stars

Australian cricket captain Meg Lanning said she grew up playing with boys but now there were more opportunities for young girls to participate.

"It's about being inspired by athletes at the top level. My [hero] was Ricky Ponting because that's all I saw when I was growing up," she said.

The campaign comes on the eve of the first round of the inaugural AFLW season this weekend.

[Source of information](#)

#### **Government of South Australia, Office of Recreation and Sport (14 February 2017)**

##### **Girls Can #watchthewomen**

SA Women in Sport believes building women's sport starts with girls like Lilly. They are the future. They believe they can. Lilly shares her love football and her belief that anyone can play sport.

[Watch the short video featuring Lilly on this site](#)

#### **VicHealth (15 February 2017)**

##### **VicHealth supports diverse communities through innovation in sport**

VicHealth's Innovation Challenge: Sport is awarding ten sporting bodies a total of over \$500,000 to get more Victorians moving through sport.

Five exciting new 18 month pilot projects will take traditional sport in a new direction to get less active Victorian communities involved in sport.

**Pilot projects include:**

- **AFL Victoria - Female Indigenous Program**  
An initiative for young indigenous women aged 16-20 years old about providing more opportunities to play AFL through carnivals, competitions and camps across metropolitan and regional Victoria. The program will also offer training and education for these women to develop their communication and decision making skills, resilience and a strong sense of cultural identity.
- **Bushwalking Victoria Club - Escaping Your Comfort Zone**  
**Body positive hiking for plus size women.** This program aims to improve the self-esteem of plus-size women through a specialised hiking program, combined with a supportive friendship group.
- **Cricket Victoria in partnership with Proud2Play – Proud Cricket**  
An education program for Victorian Cricket Clubs to foster a more supportive culture for LGBTIQ young people and increase their participation in cricket.
- **Collingwood Basketball Association – Stay, Play, Lead and Succeed**  
A mentoring program for young people, predominantly of South Sudanese backgrounds, to keep them engaged in club basketball through a leadership development approach.
- **Sport Central in partnership with Golf Victoria – Ballarat District FlexiGolf Pass**  
A new initiative among Ballarat District Golf Clubs to engage local families and golfers in a more convenient and affordable manner, with shorter game formats and casual memberships.

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[View the full press release](#)

**The Hon. Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health , Minister for Sport (19 February 2017)**  
**More action to inspire Australian girls to get active**

The Turnbull Government is taking action to inspire Australia’s young girls and women to get active – with the launch of the next phase of the Girls Make Your Move campaign today.

One in five girls told us that the Girls Make Your Move education campaign inspired them to be more active. This is a great result and we want to keep this momentum going.

The \$7 million second phase of the Girls Make Your Move advertising and promotion campaign targeted at girls aged 12 to 19 years begins today across social media, television, cinema advertising and more.

A new Girls Make Your Move Facebook page has been created. It complements the campaign’s highly successful Instagram site @girlsmakeyourmove which posts daily tips and motivational messages to further inspire young women to keep active.

I’m really pleased to see that the Turnbull Government’s campaign continues to gain traction among young women and encourages girls to participate in organised sport or physical activity.

Getting the message out to young women that there is a sport or activity that they will love is important.

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[View the full press release](#)

## **VicHealth (21 February 2017)**

### **Active transport and independent travel important for children**

A new study published today in Health and Place has provided novel information on patterns of children's active transport and independent travel that could be used to help children and adolescents be more physically active in the future.

The study by the Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition (IPAN) at Deakin University, in partnership with VicHealth, looked at changes over two years in 184 children with an average age of 12 years. Significantly, those who took part in the survey came from socioeconomically disadvantaged areas in both urban and rural areas of Victoria.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **CANADA**

### **Inside the games reports (7 February 2017)**

#### **Charest takes up Canadian Chef de Mission post for Pyeongchang 2018**

Isabelle Charest has been appointed as Canada's Chef de Mission for the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics.

The former short track speed skater will take up the post having acted as the Canadian Olympic Committees (COC's) Chef de Mission for the Lillehammer 2016 Youth Olympics and as the assistant to Curt Harnett at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Both Charest and Harnett have also worked together at the Toronto 2015 Pan American Games.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **COLOMBIA**

### **Inside the games reports (7 February 2017)**

#### **Colombia to host most lucrative women's squash tournament in South America**

Floridablanca in Colombia will host the most lucrative women's squash tournament ever played in South America next month.

The Ciudad de Floridablanca tournament will offer a prize purse of \$70,000 (£56,000/€65,000) with the Professional Squash Association (PSA) W70 event attracting a top field.

Matches will be played in a special glass court on the Parque el Santisim, underneath a statue of Christ the Redeemer.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **IRELAND**

### **Inside the games reports (9 February 2017)**

#### **Keane elected President of Olympic Council of Ireland to replace Hickey**

Sarah Keane has been elected as the new President of the Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI) to replace Patrick Hickey at an Extraordinary General Assembly here today [Dublin].

The Swim Ireland chief executive, 43, received 29 of 43 votes cast to become the first new leader of the organisation in 28 years.

Interim head William O'Brien came second with 12 while Basketball Ireland chief executive Bernard O'Byrne received just two.

In another blow for one of the longest serving OCI Board members, Football Association of Ireland deputy chief executive Sarah O'Shea was elected honorary general secretary.

She received 28 votes in comparison with 15 for incumbent candidate Dermot Henihan.

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[View the full news item](#)

## JAPAN

*The pressure increases....*

### **Inside the games reports (20 February 2017)**

#### **Tokyo 2020 golf club warned by IOC vice president to welcome female members**

International Olympic Committee (IOC) vice president John Coates has warned the Kasumigaseki Country Club, the venue for golf at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, that it must allow women to have full membership or organisers will be forced to find another venue.

Fierce criticism has been pointed towards the private club, which does not allow women to become full members and also limits the days they can play there.

It has led to calls for the venue in Saitama prefecture to be switched to an alternative location such as the Wakasu Golf Links.

The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee have also written to the club's Board of Directors, urging them to make changes as it does not sit in line with the Olympic Charter.

Yuriko Koike, the Governor of Tokyo, has also criticised the rules.

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[View the full news item](#)

## PAKISTAN

### **Rugby.com.au (17 February 2017)**

#### **Pakistan women making history**

Pakistan's women's rugby team will make their international debut at the Asian Women's Rugby Sevens in Laos this weekend, determined to succeed despite a lack of funding.

Pakistan's participation in the tournament, which includes sides from India, South Korea, Sri Lanka and the Philippines, is a "great honour", rugby official Syed Moazzam Ali Shah told AFP Thursday.

Coach Shakil Ahmad said he was confident the young team, formed last year, would play among the top four at the tournament.

But he called on the Pakistani government to allocate more funds for rugby to enable "us to facilitate all players, including girls", saying the team relies on handouts from the World Rugby Association.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **RUSSIA**

### **Inside the games reports (7 February 2017)**

#### **Isinbayeva named as an ambassador for Winter World Military Games**

Double Olympic pole vault champion Yelena Isinbayeva has been chosen as an official ambassador for the Winter World Military Games being held in Sochi this month.

As part of her role at the Games which are due to run from February 22 to 28, the 34-year-old Russian, who was appointed as head of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) in December, will be the flagbearer for her country at the Opening Ceremony.

The pole vault women's world record holder is an officer in the Russian Army, reaching the rank of captain in 2008.

She is a member of CSKA Moscow, the central sports club for the country's armed forces, having signed a five year deal with them in 2015.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **Australasian Leisure Management (15 February 2017)**

#### **Saudi Arabia to start granting licences for female gym operations**

After years of expectation, Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Sports is to begin issuing licences for women's gyms at the end of this month.

Three Saudi Government ministries are set to take part in the licencing process - the labour, rural affairs and commerce ministries – with licences to be issued to facilities that contribute to weight loss and fitness, such as swimming, running and bodybuilding. Licenses will not be issued for gyms that offer competitive activities, such as football, volleyball, basketball and tennis.

The General Authority of Sports (GSA) reportedly aims to open gyms in every district and neighbourhood and will be holding workshops and seminars to motivate women to invest in gyms.

Previously religious authorities have objected to women's fitness and recreational activities, although some facilities have operated unofficially.

The move constitutes progress in a country that has yet to introduce sport in public girl's schools and has no public facilities for women's sport.

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[View the full news item](#)

## UK

*Just highlighting the funding that is 'on offer'....*

### **British Universities and Colleges Sport (2 February 2017)**

#### **Expressions of interest open for This Girl Can funding**

BUCS is inviting universities to submit expressions of interest for funding from Sport England to support focused on-campus activation for inactive female students.

BUCS has recently secured £50,000 funding from Sport England to support the delivery of focused activity to engage inactive, under-represented female students in sport and physical activity at universities across England.

Now, as Sport England launch another media drive for [This Girl Can](#) this spring, including the release of a new advertising campaign later this month, BUCS is inviting universities across England to submit expressions of interest for up to £5000 of funding from Sport

England, to drive an increase in confidence, resilience and belonging for female students across the HE sector through physical activity.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **County Sport Partnership Network (26 January 2017)**

#### **This Girl Can activated across the CSP Network**

County sport partnerships (CSPs) are delighted to be activating Sport England's 'This Girl Can' Campaign designed to give girls and women the confidence and belief they need to be more active. CSPs are using their insight and talking to local communities to help ensure appropriate physical activity opportunities that respond to women's needs and overcome their fears are available.

A key element of the campaign is to change the way sport and physical activity is delivered to women so CSPs are working with local providers to ensure they understand how best to engage and inspire women to join their sessions and stay involved.

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Some examples of how CSPs are activating the campaign are below:

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[View the examples](#)

### **Lawn Tennis Association (1 February 2017)**

#### **LTA teams up with Judy Murray to launch She Rallies initiative**

The LTA is proudly teaming up with Judy Murray to launch She Rallies, a new initiative to get more women and girls involved in tennis.

Spearheaded by Judy and her passion for the game, She Rallies is part of the LTA's commitment to growing tennis from the grassroots up by encouraging more girls to take up the sport.

The programme kicks off this weekend with a first-of-its kind female coaches' conference on Friday, February 3. Attendees will have the chance to hear from performance coach Emma Doyle, award-winning journalist Sue Mott, sports psychologist Dr Leanne Rimmer, Caroline McHugh, founder and CEO of IDOLOGY, and Judy herself, with plenty of ideas and networking opportunities on offer to help coaches grow the game.

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[View the full news item](#)

*Some more information....*

### **Lawn Tennis Association (8 February 2017)**

#### **New She Rallies ambassadors hail weekend a success**

Growing the game among women and girls was on the agenda as Judy Murray teamed up with the LTA to deliver the first series of She Rallies events last weekend.

Kicking off with the first-of-its-kind female coaching conference, followed by two days of bespoke training for a team of new ambassadors, the weekend was a huge hit with all involved.

She Rallies is an initiative to strengthen and grow the female tennis workforce with the ultimate goal of attracting and retaining more women and girls in the sport.

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A total of 26 She Rallies ambassadors have been appointed - two to four from each LTA region. These women were selected by their respective LTA Head of Regions and LTA County Associations.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Volleyball England (27 January 2017)**

#### **Women in Volleyball - Rachel Laybourne**

With the launch of the 2017 version of Sport England's This Girl Can campaign, the spotlight is once again being shone on how to get more women exercising regularly. This means highlighting the benefits of being active and creating the environment within which this can happen. However, it also means identifying role models who can inspire and enthuse others into doing more.

As part of our Women in Volleyball series, we're going to highlight a few examples of women who have taken full advantage of the opportunities afforded to them by volleyball. It's not so much 'this girl can' as 'this girl already did'. These are their stories.

A year after representing Great Britain in the 2012 Olympics, Rachel Laybourne officially retired from competitive volleyball. Intent on moving into coaching, Rachel was determined to do whatever she could to improve women's volleyball in this country. Four years on, she's certainly doing her bit, coaching the U-16 and U-18 girls at Boswells Academy, Team Essex Juniors in the NVL and the England U-19 squad.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Leeds Beckett University (7 February 2017)**

#### **Researcher presents findings on how to get kids moving**

A researcher from Leeds Beckett has presented findings from a study, which explored how UK children spend their leisure time, at an international conference.

Helen Ingle, a Senior Lecturer in Health Promotion in the School of Health & Community Studies, presented findings from the Getting Kids Moving study at the second Children's Physical Activity and Sport Conference (CIAPSE 2) held in Jyväskylä, Finland in January 2017.

In her presentation, Helen outlined the research findings which provide recommendations for families, policy-makers and schools for helping children and families to be more physically active. The study was commissioned by Ferferro and involved focus groups with children



from schools across England and Wales as well as an online questionnaire for parents.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Women in Sport (7 February 2017)**

#### **Women's Sport Week returns in 2017 to celebrate a fantastic Summer of Women's Sport**

Positioned at the start of a packed summer of elite women's sport, Women's Sport Week will this year take place between 19- 25 June.

This year sees a host of international women's sporting events taking place, including the Women's Cricket and Rugby World Cups (taking place in the UK and Ireland) and the

Women's European Football and Hockey championships, ensuring 2017 is set to be one of the greatest years yet for elite women's sport.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Kick it Out reports (8 February 2017)**

#### **American sports scholarships on offer for aspiring women footballers aged 15-21**

Women between the ages of 15-21 are being offered the prospect of going to study at American universities by demonstrating their football skills in an assessment match at Brunel Sports Centre on Saturday 25 February.

The event is being organised by United Sports USA, an American sports scholarship consultancy, which supports students and families aiming to secure sporting and academic scholarships within the US college system.

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To find out more about US football scholarships and register for the game please apply at [www.unitedsportsusa.com](http://www.unitedsportsusa.com) or call at 0141 332 0690.

[View the full news item](#)

### **England Athletics (10 February 2017)**

#### **Celebrating International Women's Day**

Will you #BeBoldForChange on International Women's Day 2017 and beyond by taking ground breaking action that truly drives the greatest change for women by joining some of the celebration events organised by England Athletics?

From Monday 6th to Sunday 12th March, workshops and flying coach visits have been organised for women and men to join forces to influence change through collaboration and support and unleash each individual's potential in coaching.

7 March: [Psychology seminar: motivating your athletes](#): Leeds

7 March: [Celebrating women in athletics with Paula Dunn](#): Manchester

8 March: [Mock Assessment Workshop](#): Gateshead

9 March: [Pre and Post Natal running Workshop](#): Sheffield

10 March: [Celebrate women in coaching with Mara Yamauchi](#): Oxford

12 March: [Celebrate women in coaching with Helen Clitheroe](#): Preston

12 March: [Celebrate women in coaching - physical preparation](#): Uxbridge  
12 March: [Celebrate women in coaching - physical preparation](#): Birmingham

### [Source of information](#)

#### **England Athletics (10 February 2017) Women in Coaching - Charlotte Fisher**

Charlotte Fisher has used athletics to vehicle her career to be a successful head coach at Taunton AC and National Coach Mentor with England Athletics. She has given us an insight into her journey as an athlete and coach.

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[View the full article](#)

#### **Culture, Media and Sport Committee (12 February 2017) Sport authorities must show 'zero tolerance' to homophobic abuse**

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee report says fans who display homophobic attitudes at matches should face immediate, lengthy bans on attending games. It says the sports authorities must adopt a zero tolerance approach to homophobic abuse at all levels of sport.

[Read the report conclusions and recommendations](#)

[Read the full report: Homophobia in Sport](#)

Football clubs in particular are not doing enough and should take a tougher approach, issuing immediate one to two year bans in the first instance to indicate clearly that homophobic behaviour will not be tolerated. Match officials should have a clear duty to report and document any kind of abuse at all levels: this should apply to not just officials in the professional leagues who hear abuse from spectators but should filter down to youth level, for example, if officials hear homophobic terms used by parents.

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#### **Youth sports not 'supportive and safe' for LGB participants**

The Committee notes a particular problem in schools and youth sports, with serious concerns over the effects of low participation among LGB youth on their mental and physical health and well-being. The 'Out on the Fields' study—the first international study into homophobia in sport—found that 73% of survey participants did not believe that youth sports were a 'supportive and safe' place for LGB participants. In the long-term, it is very likely that a number of sports have been robbed of talent, and young players and athletes may feel that they have to choose between coming out or continuing to participate in their sport.

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[View the full news item](#)

#### **Volleyball England (15 February 2017) The top seven reasons why women don't play sport**

With the 2017 version of the This Girl Can campaign now featuring on billboard sites up and down the country, we thought it worth considering the things which most commonly stop women from getting involved in sport. Guest writer Kate Wyver gave us her top seven:

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[View the full article](#)

### **Sport England (24 February 2017)**

#### **This Girl Can returns to our screens: Nationwide campaign to get women and girls moving, regardless of shape, size and ability, returns to inspire more women**

The new advert – which launches online at midday and hits television screens during the ad break of Coronation Street tonight – sees a range of new and returning faces, new messages and hard-hitting mantras to prompt a change in attitudes and help boost women's confidence.

Staying true to its [original formula](#) of showing real women and girls playing sport and getting active, the message is clear: it's OK to sweat, it's OK to jiggle, it's OK not to be brilliant (or to be brilliant) and it's normal for life to get in the way sometimes.

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[View the full news item and watch the new film](#)

### **Inside the games reports (22 February 2017)**

#### **Paralympic bronze medallist appointed chair of British Athletes Commission**

The British Athletes Commission (BAC) has appointed Paralympic bronze medal-winning rower Victoria Aggar as its new chair.

Aggar, who was part of Britain's mixed coxed four team that came third at Beijing 2008, worked as athlete services manager at the British Paralympic Association from 2012 to 2016 and also represents British athletes on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Athlete Committee.

She is also a non-executive director at the English Institute of Sport.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **Inside the games reports (24 February 2017)**

#### **Phelps elected vice-chair of British Olympic Association**

Annamarie Phelps has been unanimously elected to replace Sir Hugh Robertson as vice-chair of the British Olympic Association (BOA).

Phelps, the current chairman of World Rowing and vice-chair of the British Paralympic Association (BPA), succeeds Sir Hugh, who became BOA chairman in November of last year.

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[View the full news item](#)

*An event to note....*

### **Leeds Beckett University Conference - Gender, Physical Education and Active Lifestyles**

#### **11 September 2017, Headingley Campus, Leeds Beckett University**

This one day conference will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the publication of Emeritus Professor Scraton's book, *Shaping up to Womanhood: Gender and Girls' Physical Education*.

[View more details](#)

*Publications of interest....*

**Active Inspiration: The AttrActive Project. Women in Sport, February 2017 (11 pages)**

This paper details the process used and lessons learned from The AttrActive Project as an example of how we can engage girls in transforming sport and physical activity.

[Download a copy](#)

**Engaging less-active girls Aged 8-10 in physical activity. Action Research Report. Youth Sport Trust, no date - February 2017? (14 pages)**

Public Health England commissioned the Youth Sport Trust and Loughborough University to conduct action research, informed by the findings of a literature review, which considered what works to increase physical activity and decrease sedentary behaviour in girls aged 8-10 years. The research builds on the findings of 'The Tipping Point'<sup>1</sup> report as well as the principles set out in 'what works in schools and colleges to increase physical activity'<sup>2</sup>. This report outlines the action research methodology and highlights the key findings from the literature review. It provides suggestions for schools to consider when seeking to engage less-active 8-10 year old girls in physical activity. It is complemented by a practical toolkit for school leaders, teachers and support staff, which aims to translate the key findings into practice.

Although the project specifically set out to trial methods for engaging less-active girls, many of the suggestions can be applied more widely, to both girls and boys.

[Download a copy](#)

**Toolkit for engaging less-active girls aged 8-10 in physical activity. Youth Sport Trust, no date - February 2017? (24 pages)**

The government has set out an aspiration for 30 minutes of the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity for children to be met within school time<sup>3</sup>. This toolkit provides practical ideas to help primary schools consider how they might enhance their physical activity provision for pupils to achieve this aspiration. Specifically, it shares ideas for how primary schools can engage less-active girls in physical activity. The content draws on the findings of an action research project.

[Download a copy](#)

**Sporting Futures: First annual report. Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 9 February 2017 (40 pages)**

Sporting Future set out a new government vision to redefine what success looks like in sport by concentrating on five key outcomes - physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. This first annual report sets out the steps we have taken so far towards making sure absolutely everyone can benefit from the power of sport.

Progress has been made against the three major outputs described in Sporting Future - engagement in sport as a participant, volunteer and spectator; maximising international and domestic sporting success and the impact of major events; and supporting a more productive, sustainable and responsible sport sector across the board.

[Download a copy](#)

*In case you know someone with sport photography ambitions in the UK...*

### **Women's Sport Trust reports - Getty Images taking applications for its first ever female sports photographer internship**

- Successful applicant will work with industry-leading sports team and photographers at Getty Images' London office
- Applications are open to all aspiring female sports photographers until 31st March 2017

[View more details](#)

## **USA**

### **Inside the games reports (29 January 2017)**

#### **Olympic gold medallist Finch named MLB youth softball ambassador**

Olympic gold medallist Jennie Finch has been named as a youth softball ambassador for Major League Baseball (MLB).

Finch, who is also an ambassador for the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), will support MLB's youth programmes with initiatives and strategies that are designed to grow softball at amateur and youth levels.

**In addition to her duties as an ambassador of softball, she will also support an effort to promote girl's baseball.**

Finch led the United States' women's softball team to Olympic gold at Athens 2004 and silver at Beijing 2008.

She continues to work with the WBSC for the sport as a global athlete ambassador.

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[View the full news item](#)

*Good to occasionally include personal experiences....*

### **Good Sports (1 February 2017)**

#### **How I Learned To Love My Body As A Female Athlete: Society can no longer tell me what is and isn't beautiful by Victoria Garrick**

*Editor's note: To help celebrate [National Girls & Women in Sports Day](#) we asked University of Southern California athlete Victoria Garrick for her take on being a female athlete in 2017.*

For so long, society has told women how we are supposed to act: Poised. Sweet. Quiet.

For so long, society has told women how we are supposed to be: Gentle. Delicate. Soft.

For so long, society has told women how we are supposed to look: Skinny. Sexy. Beautiful.

For so long, society never told women that we could be strong.

The idea of what it means to be a beautiful woman has changed for me many times. In 2011, when I was 13, I thought beautiful meant weighing the same as the Victoria's Secret models I

googled. In 2013, at 15, I thought beautiful meant having the hashtag-famous “thigh gap.” In 2016, at the age of 18, I thought beautiful meant not having to edit your pictures on Instagram.

Graduating high school, I was a lean girl happy with my appearance. Of course, I had fallen victim to believing in society’s standards a couple of times and maybe read too many tabloid magazines, but overall I was content with myself. This changed when I became a college athlete.

When I committed to the USC Women’s Indoor Volleyball team, I was overjoyed at the opportunity and prepared to learn, but I was not prepared for the significant changes my body was about to endure. After I started lifting and practicing with a Division I team, my body began to change quickly before my eyes. All of a sudden, I was burning close to 1,300

calories a practice, lifting heavy weights, and eating around 4,000 calories each day. This was a huge change from the routine I had grown accustomed to in high school.

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[View the full article](#)

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Society of Health and Physical Educators America**

**Recess in schools - increasing physical activity**

They have produced evidence-based strategies for planning and providing recess in schools to increase physical activity participation and improve academic achievement (e.g., performance, behaviour attention).

[View more details](#)

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