

## WAKO Women in Sport Committee workshop

Format: online

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### **Themes:**

- How to involve more women in all structures in sport: Using ROLE-models and ambassadors are the safest ways to show **it is possible** women to improve and get advance in their carrier.
- Development of women engaged in sports in the post-Covid environment through **webinars and educational seminars** with sharing best practices and caring out statistics and exact measuring of the success.
- Support to the former female athletes to be back to sport they love as technical officials, establishment of the **Women in sport award**, promoting female sport ambassadors.

### **Five focuses:**

participation, leadership, safe sport, gender balance portrayal in medias and funding.

### **Barriers in female positioning in sport:**

What are the biggest barriers faced by women in technical official roles?

- Lack of opportunity to develop,
- Two or three careers she runs,
- Prejudice,
- Demanding requirements at engagement
- Lack of role models
- ethnic background (minorities, nations with strong patriarchal culture, poor and marginalized communities)

Women continue to be **underrepresented in decision-making** in sport organizations. We need more efforts to eliminate the structural, systematic and societal barriers that hold women and girls in the back.

Sport should appoint young female leaders and apply affirmative action to empower young women in sport.

### SEVERAL POSITIVE FACTS FROM TODAY'S SPORT ENVIRONMENT:

1. following his recent election as the President of the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Azizi Khadem pledged to support women's football in his country.

2. The World Games Birmingham 2022 Board made a significant positive change in appointing the new members from various minorities background, striving for equality.
3. At least 11 women are set to be added to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Board following comments from the new Board female president Seiko Hashimoto that 40% of the Board should be female.
4. Umut Shayakhmetova has been elected as the first female vice-president of the National Olympic Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021.
5. FIFA, UEFA, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF) are among the latest governing bodies to join a **four-day boycott of social media** to protest against unacceptable online abuse and gender based discrimination (30<sup>th</sup> April-3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021) which appears as massive abusive messages sent through social media on daily basis. Sports organizations must have zero-tolerance to the abuse of athletes in social media, where perpetrators feel safe in their anonymity and in the knowledge that they will not be held accountable.
6. Rugby Africa has strengthened its support for gender equality by launching the **Women's Rugby Advisory Committee** on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021: The aim is to achieve a minimum representation that includes 30 percent of women in leadership roles and to have 40 per cent of the registered players to be female by 2025.
7. Lithuania NOC President Daina Gudzinevičiūtė highlights efforts to increase number of female officials and the number of women working within sport, with highlighting a series of projects to combat a shortage of female officials in the organization.
8. Australian basketball player Liz Cambage has threatened boycotting of the women's national team ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in protest of a lack of racial diversity in a recent photoshoot of the Olympic team, where every person at the official photo of the national team was white. Cambage wrote: "How am I meant to represent a country that doesn't even represent me" before adding the hashtag #whitewashedaustralia.
9. **The International Chess Federation (FIDE)** has announced a program how to use chess to support social development, to use chess to support children in impoverished communities, refugee camps and those in prison, along with working with organisations which help to combat problems associated with memory loss and aging.
10. **The International Ski Federation** declared that they must "take a clear position" on issues including climate change and human rights, according to Presidential candidate Urs Lehmann. The Swiss-Ski leader is one of four candidates standing for FIS President, and Lehmann's manifesto includes a pledge to produce "a definitive and comprehensive

corporate social responsibility policy that addresses climate change, environmental protection, gender disparity, human rights".

11. **The International Tennis Federation** hosted a global forum on gender equality in sport “**Advantage All**” and the strategy has the working program “Change the System”, with the key issues related to inequalities in leadership positions and decision making roles in sport. “See It To Be It” is another project focused on the portrayal and perception of women’s sports and female athletes in the media and on social media.

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