25 PRIORITIES FOR MAINSTREAMING GENDER EQUALITY IN SPORT

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Without prejudice to the measures provided in relevant international legal instruments and in reports issued by various bodies, Sport & Citizenship lists the following 25 measures that it identifies as current priorities, in terms of the promotion of equality between men and women in sport:

1. To strengthen the protection of women’s rights with regard to pregnancy and maternity, for example by combating unlawful terminations of contract by sport employers;

2. To combat homophobia with regard to and the segregation of women athletes, who publicly assume sexuality, in defense of the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation;

3. To avoid systematic or exclusive recourse to the “femininity test”, in accordance with ethical, legal, philosophical and sexual demands;

4. To adopt programs in sport to empower girls and women against possible sexual harassment and abuse;

5. To take steps to stop religious factors from preventing or creating barriers to the participation of women in sport competitions and/or women attending such events;

6. To avoid changes of the technical rules governing sports, when the sole aim is to take abusive advantage of women’s bodies (i.e. not to change dress codes in order to reveal certain parts of the female body);

7. To condemn "sexist" advertising, when it has sport as its theme or context;

8. To increase the number of sports and sporting disciplines in which women participate, in the context of programs/schedules of sporting events;

9. To combat the premature and intensive overloading of the training of girls and women in sport;

10. To fight for non-discrimination against women in terms of the timing of training/games;

11. To work towards equality and equity between men and women in the giving of monetary prizes in semi-professional and professional sport competitions;
12. To strengthen the training and certification of women in order to qualify them for the exercise of activities as athletes, coaches, referees, manager, and with the view to promote gender equality in managing positions in sport;

13. To work towards a minimum level of representation of women in collegial sports bodies in order to achieve gender balance, i.e. via grants and minimum/proportional quotas, in order to enable women to occupy positions of responsibility in the decision-making bodies;

14. To compensate women who are volunteers in sport governing bodies

15. To implement mechanisms to support women in training and competitions, in order to enable them to reconcile their sport activities (or their work as coaches, referees, managers, etc.) with family life/childcare;

16. To take steps to prevent and suppress substance abuse and substance-linked illness in sport, which affect women in particular;

17. To encourage sports activity for disabled girls and women;

18. To design and manage sport facilities, taking the specific needs of women into account, if needed

19. To classify intolerant behaviour by sports actors and spectators as an offence;

20. To promote mixed gender participation in sporting events;

21. To grant tax benefits to those who make donations to projects that promote women’s sport;

22. To increase the financial, material and human support provided to organisers and promoters of sports events that encourage participation and achievement of good results by sportswomen and/or women’s teams;

23. To promote the public recognition of significant sports results achieved by women in all areas and at any level;

24. To support awareness-campaigns, including a survey regarding the potential of women’s sport for the media industry;

25. To promote inclusive language in sport;