

King's Christian Collegiate Model United Nations

Women's Sports Foundation



WLSF

**Lilli Karabela
February 24, 2024**

Dear King'sMUN 2024 delegates,

We are truly honoured, as this year's Co-Secretary Generals of King'sMUN, to welcome you to our 10th annual conference. The Secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible, in-person conference with a variety of creative committees, experienced chairs, and an overall successful day of debate.

Model United Nations, a reenactment of the function of the United Nations, is designed for students to come together to debate, discuss, and develop creative resolutions to some of the world's most pressing issues that plague our world today. In most committees, students take on the positions of various countries, characters, or political figures to create solutions for both real and fictional issues and crises. We also offer unique committees that explore historical, future, and fictional issues.

In our personal experience with MUN we have developed many valuable skills that we will take with us throughout our lives, such as confidence in public speaking, leadership, and creative problem-solving. Furthermore, MUN promotes lifelong connections, as we are constantly meeting delegates who share similar passions to us in committee sessions. We truly believe that your participation in MUN will guide you throughout your high school journey and beyond.

At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something of interest for everyone. From very current pressing issues (ie. UNSC and the African Union) and issues in sports (ie. International Cricket Council and WSF) to fictional, yet real, controversies (ie. Barbieland) and issues set in the past (ie. The Manhattan Project). We strive to ensure that there is appeal for a variety of delegates. Whether you have no experience or have been to a multitude of conferences, there is a place at King'sMUN for you!

Once again, we are thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back to King'sMUN. We hope that you engage in fruitful debate and have an amazing time at King'sMUN 2024.

Sincerely,

Serena Kalsi and Georgia Apostolopoulos

Co-Secretary Generals

King'sMUN 2024

Background

The Women's Sports Foundation (WSF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing girls' and women's lives through sports and physical activity. It was founded in 1974 by tennis legend Billie Jean King and other female athletes and activists such as Donna de Varona and Julie Heldman. (Women's Sports Foundation, 2024)

Purpose

The foundation was made to speak up for gender equality in sports, promote the involvement of girls and women in all levels of athletics, and provide opportunities for them to participate and advance in their sports.

They do research in order to understand the challenges and barriers that girls and women face in sports. They use this research to develop programs and initiatives to destroy these barriers, promoting more significant participation and success for female athletes (Women's Sports Foundation, 2024).

What Do They Do?

- Boost the recognition of their female sports programs and competitive female athletes so they're on par with the recognition men's sports have had for a long time.
- Provide financial aid to female athletes if needed
- Speak up for equal opportunities and fair treatment in sports.
- Study and understand how to improve women's sports participation and support.
- Make a real difference by promoting and supporting women's sports.
- Work with others to make sports more inclusive and accessible for everyone.
- Building a future where every girl and woman can play and be active in sports

About Billie Jean King

Billie Jean King was an incredible tennis player who won multiple famous tournaments, such as the Grand Slam, and she was extremely passionate about ensuring that female and male athletes received fair treatment in sports. “King’s efforts turned women’s tennis into a major professional sport. Outraged at the disparity between men’s and women’s prizes at major tournaments, King spearheaded the drive for equal prize money and equal treatment of women” (WomenOfTheHall, 2021). She started groups to support women's tennis and sports in general, which is now the Women's Sports Foundation. She has won multiple awards for her skills and work for equality and even has a tennis center named after her. So, in conclusion, she's a tennis legend who fought for fairness for everyone.



Topic #1: Access to sports for girls and women

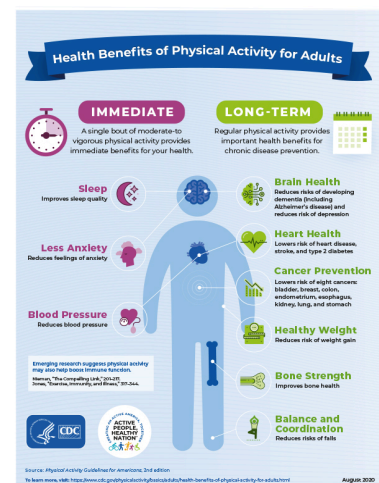


Playing sports is essential for the brain development of kids. It not only works out the physical aspect but also the mental aspect. Their brains will get stronger and healthier in response to the exercise. Sports are essential for helping to improve things such as problem-solving, decision-making, communication, and handling emotions.

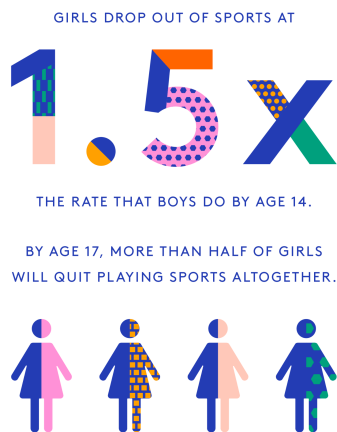
Being active in sports also helps kids stay healthy and allows them to feel more confident. Playing sports acts as a workout for the brain. It aids in their brain

growth and development as they grow up. When kids play sports, it's not just about running around.

Not only are sports healthy for developing the brain of children, but they are also super beneficial in adults. It promotes better health by reducing the risk of chronic diseases such as heart conditions and diabetes while maintaining muscle strength and a



healthy weight. It enhances mental well-being by boosting mood, reducing stress, and improving sleep quality. Participating in physical activity also helps enhance memory and focus. Participation in activities also helps form social connections, allowing new friendships and reducing feelings of isolation.



The challenge of limited access to sports for females forces girls and women to search for other places to play and stay active. But this can come with extra costs or even finding that these sports options don't exist for females. On top of that, there are other reasons stopping girls and women from playing sports, like safety concerns, transportation issues, and social pressures. These obstacles add up, making it challenging for females to join in sports or stay physically active. Plus, the shortage of good sports facilities nearby makes it even harder for girls and women to get involved in sports. These barriers result in females missing out on sports and exercise opportunities.

What Delegates Are Trying to Solve

At this conference, delegates are focused on addressing the issue of access to sports for women and girls. Their goal is to advocate for solutions that guarantee equal opportunities and resources, such as facilities, transportation, and social pressures, ensuring that female athletes have the same access as their male counterparts. Moreover, they're encouraged to investigate the root causes of these problems and brainstorm solutions. Delegates will explore various approaches and work together to develop a strategy to resolve this challenge.

Further Questions

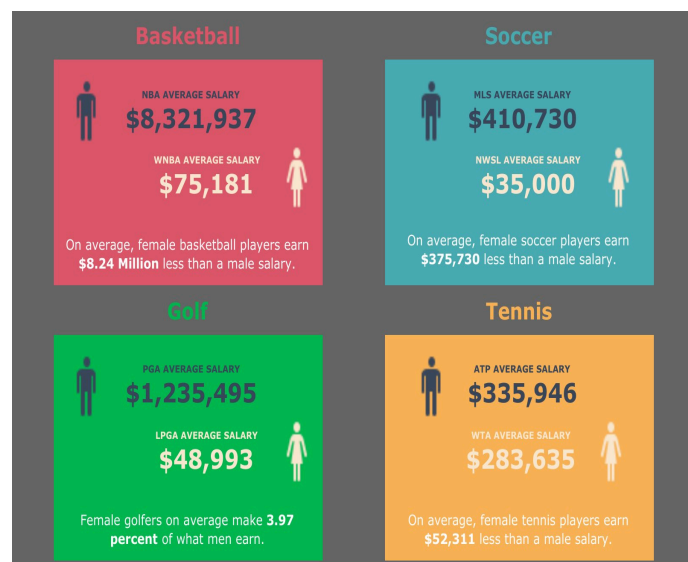
1. How can communities ensure that sports programs cater to girls' and boys' diverse needs, interests, and physical differences?
2. What are the primary obstacles preventing girls and young women from engaging in sports? How can these barriers be overcome to encourage more inclusive participation?
3. How influential are female athletes and role models in encouraging young girls to participate in sports? What measures can be taken to increase the visibility and accessibility of these role models?

Topic #2: Equality in pay

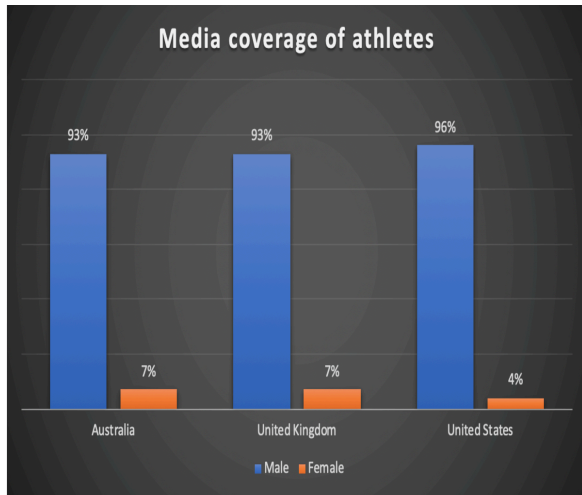
The difference in pay and resources between males and females goes beyond just their salaries. It is prominent in many aspects, such as the facilities they train in and the overall budget to support their athletes.

For instance, women athletes often might not have access to the same quality of training facilities as their male counterparts. They might have fewer resources, like equipment, coaching staff, or even training times at top-notch facilities. This inequality affects their preparation and ability to compete at their highest level.

The financial support and investment in women's sports are often significantly lower than men's. This affects everything from promotion and marketing to sponsorship deals and media coverage. As a result, female athletes might struggle to get the same level of recognition and financial backing as their fellow male athletes, impacting their careers, opportunities for growth, and salaries as their sport is not generating enough revenue due to lower investment levels



This graph, which data was taken in 2020 shows a massive contrast in the compensation between male and female sports leagues. This only focuses on the earnings received by athletes as part of their participation in the league, not including additional income from sponsorships.



This graph is from 2019. It demonstrates the difference between the media coverage in these countries and the coverage of female and male athletes.

What Delegates Are Trying to Solve

At this conference, delegates aim to address the issue of pay equality between men and women in sports. They advocate for solutions to ensure female athletes receive equal opportunities, media coverage, salaries, and investments. Additionally, they are encouraged to delve into the underlying causes of these disparities and brainstorm solutions. Delegates will explore different options and collaborate on a strategy to tackle this problem.

Related SDG'S



SDG target 8.5- By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

This SDG aims for fair employment and pay, ensuring equality for women and people with disabilities. In sports and about, the topic of equality of pay between male and female athletes it means ensuring female athletes have equal opportunities and pay as males for similar

accomplishments. This goal targets fairness, removing obstacles causing unequal pay in sports.

SDG target 5. b- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

Regarding the equality of pay between female and male athletes, technology can help make the gap smaller between males and females. For example, digital platforms and social media can allow female athletes to be seen, providing them with a broader audience and increasing their marketability and presence on social media. Because more significant presence on social media can attract sponsors and opportunities, ultimately contributing to better pay and recognition for female athletes, narrowing the pay gap.

In conclusion, using technology in sports can be a powerful tool for promoting the empowerment of women athletes by improving their visibility and ultimately contributing to closing the pay gap between male and female athletes.



Further Questions

1. Beyond immediate changes, what sustainable long-term solutions can be implemented to continually address and stop pay disparities between female and male athletes in many sports?
2. What factors contribute to the pay gap between female and male athletes in various sports? How can these disparities be addressed to ensure that there is fair compensation?
3. How do unequal media coverage and sponsorship opportunities affect the earnings of female athletes compared to their male peers? What strategies can create more equal exposure in the media and sponsorship deals?

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