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Opportunities for women in sport in Brazil: Expectations after Rio 2016

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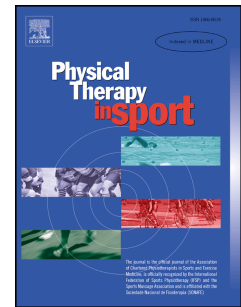
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Introduction

The discussion about gender equality is not a new subject in sport. An explicit reference to the need for work in this area was indicated by the IOC in 2007: "The IOC encourages and supports the promotion of women in sport at all levels and in all structures, with a view to implementing the principle of equality of men and women"¹. There has been a clear advance in participation by women in the Olympic Games since Paris in 1900. The last 20 years has seen an increase in the number of women's events in the Olympic program, in cooperation with the International Federations (IFs) and the National Organizing Committees (NOC). The 2012 Olympic Games in London were the first in which women competed in every sport of the Olympic program, with the addition of women's boxing¹.

Looking at the data from the London Olympic Games, it seems that the gender equality issue apparently does not exist: in total, 10 568 athletes took part in the London Olympic Games. Of these, 4676 were women (44%) and 5892 men (56%)². Even in injury rates there is a similarity (RR=1.10 (0.97 to 1.22), p=0.11): women had 132.8 injuries per 1000 athletes (95% CI 122.4 to 143.3) and men had 121.0 (95% CI 112.1 to 129.9)². However, the number of women participating in elite sport doesn't reflect the participation in all sports areas, neither their local sports structure nor the investment and the income. Traditionally, in Brazil, male soccer teams have the biggest

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