

THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF
SAUDI ARABIA
WASHINGTON, DC



سفارة
المملكة العربية السعودية
واشنطن



SAUDI WOMEN IN SPORTS



In the last 3 years
there has been
great progress in
the area of
women and sports

There have been **significant policy changes**



Increased accessibility
to events and programs



Global representation
of Saudi



Hosting of international
sporting events for women



Increase in professional
Saudi athletes



Emergence of women on
national teams in multiple
sports



Appointment of women in
sports leadership roles

Since **2015**, there has
been a significant increase
in the number of women
who are physically active
and playing sport

These materials are distributed by Emily Bir acting through
LS2group on behalf of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia.
Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

Examples of **POLICY SHIFTS**

Licensing for Women's Gyms

In **2017**, the General Sports Authority (GSA) announced the launch of **women's gyms licensing**. Previously, only male gyms were granted official licences.

A platform was developed to issue gyms licenses, which includes online application, licensing manuals and payment features

As of mid-2019,
there are
446
licensed women's gyms
across 13 Saudi regions

Physical Education (PE) for Girls in Schools & Universities

Before 2017, PE was not included in public schools curriculum for girls. In 2017, PE **became mandatory in girl's schools**. Since then the Ministry of Education has taken these steps to implement the decision

- Designed a PE curriculum for girls
- Developed a training program for teachers to deliver sports programs
- Introduced a 4-year PE degree in many universities across the Kingdom

Access to Stadiums

Historically women were prohibited from entering stadiums. In October 2017 the law was amended to **allow women access**. The first sporting event in a stadium where men and women both attended was a football match in Jeddah in January 2018.

Today the GSA
are building
11 NEW STADIUMS
around the country for
the Saudi public
(both men and women)



Examples of INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN SPORTING EVENTS



FAMILY ACTIVITY DAY DECEMBER 2017

A multi-sports program that started in 2017 that allowed the entire family to play sports together (20k -130k participants per event)



FIRST WOMEN-ONLY 5K MARATHON MARCH 2018

More than 1,500 women took part in a race in Riyadh



GIRLS SCHOOL PROGRAM MARCH 2018

A program in several schools in Riyadh and Jeddah to promote physical activity for girls (~5k participants)



EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION 2018

Since the approval of women riding locally in June 2019, the number of female riders registered with the Equestrian Federation has increased from 48 (number recorded in 2018) to 264.



WOMEN CYCLING RACE OCTOBER 2019

Women's cycling races took place in Riyadh in October 2019, and in Jeddah and Khobar in December 2019 to promote women's participation in cycling



WORLDWIDE CANE DAY OCTOBER 2019

Walking event held for the blind and partially blind in Riyadh (~50 male & female participants)



BALL BOY/GIRL PROGRAM DECEMBER 2019

Program to train 30 ball boys and 10 ball girls for the tennis event in Diriyah



Examples of INCREASE IN WOMEN PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES



DALMA MALHAS

2010

Equestrian (individual jumping) Bronze medalist in 2010 Youth Olympics. Rode in Saudi's first mixed gender equestrian event in December 2019



YASMIN AL QAHTANI

2013

First Saudi professional female rock climber and coach



MARIAM FARDOUS

MAY 2015

First Arab to dive in the North Pole and the third woman in the world to do so



LUBNA AL OMAIR

2016

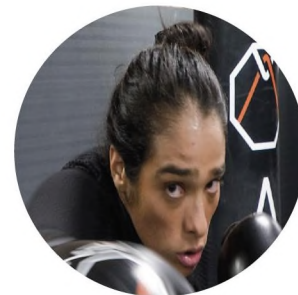
The first Saudi woman to fence for the Kingdom at the 2016 Olympics



SARA ATTAR

2016

The first female track and field Saudi Olympian



RASHA AL KHAMIS

MARCH 2018

First certified Saudi female boxer, who also achieved a Guinness World Record



REEMA JUFFALI

NOVEMBER 2018

First Saudi woman to drive competitively, driving in the support race to the Formula E championship, the I-PACE eTROPHY



AMAL AL SHAHRANI

AUGUST 2019

Saudi Arabia's first female to participate in the Reebok CrossFit Games in USA

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Examples of **INCREASE IN WOMEN'S TEAM SPORTS**



FEMALE DEAF BOWLING TEAM 2016

First deaf sports female team in the sport of bowling established by the Jeddah Deaf Club



FEMALE ICE HOCKEY TEAM 2017

First Saudi professional female ice hockey group from Jeddah seeking to become an official team



ECO-MARATHON TEAM APRIL 2019

First Saudi female team to participate in the Shell Eco-marathon Asia, held in Malaysia



FEMALE BOWLING TEAM AUGUST 2019

First female bowling team to represent Saudi Arabia in the World Bowling Women's Championship



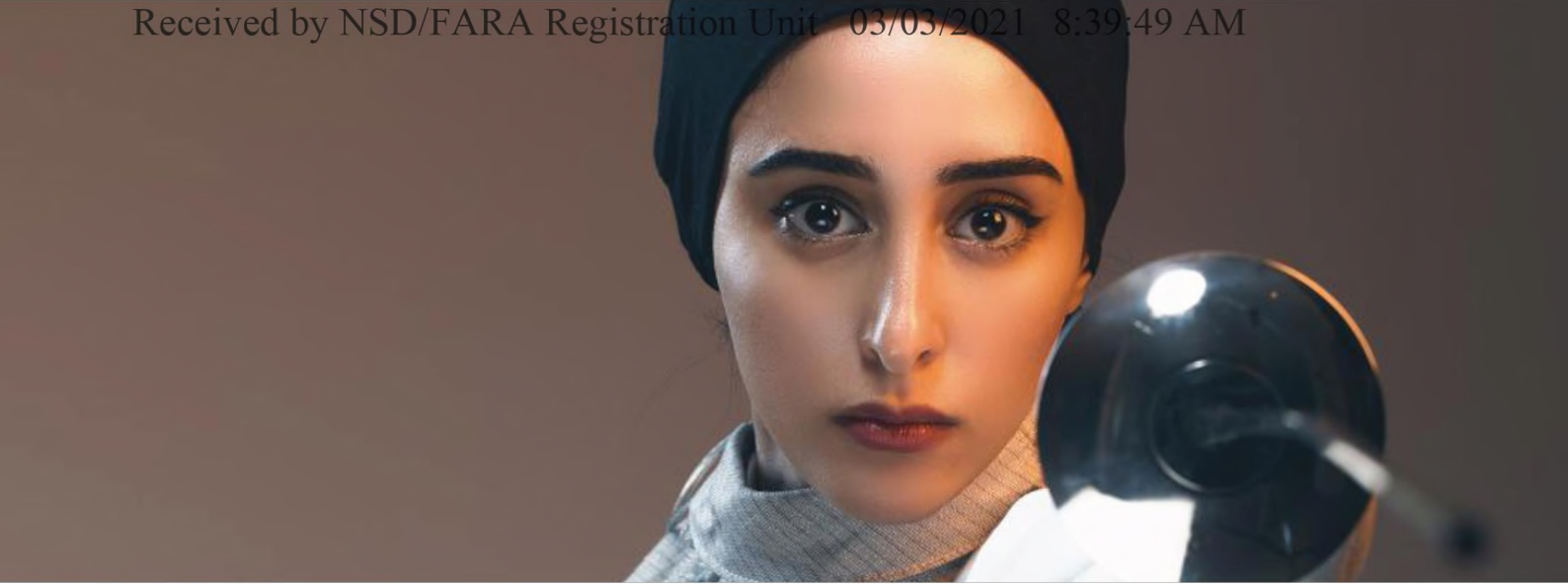
SPECIAL OLYMPICS FLOORBALL TEAM NOVEMBER 2019

First female team with intellectual disability to represent Saudi Arabia in floorball regional competitions



FEMALE PARALYMPIC TEAM NOVEMBER 2019

Female para athletics team for the first time at the Dubai World Para Athletics Grand Prix



Examples of
**INCREASE IN WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP
POSITIONS IN SPORTS FEDERATIONS**



ASEEL AL HAMAD

DECEMBER 2017

First woman board member of the Saudi Arabian Motor Federation and a member of the International Automobile Federation



NOORA AL TURKI

FEBRUARY 2018

First Saudi woman appointed Vice President of the Saudi Arabian Shooting Federation



YASMIN AL QAHTANI

MARCH 2018

First woman appointed as the Executive Director of the Saudi Arabian Climbing and Hiking Federation



RAZAN AL BAKER

MARCH 2018

A member of the board of directors at the Saudi Arabian Bowling Federation



AMAL BAATIA

MAY 2018

Board member of the Saudi Arabian Fitness and Wellness Federation



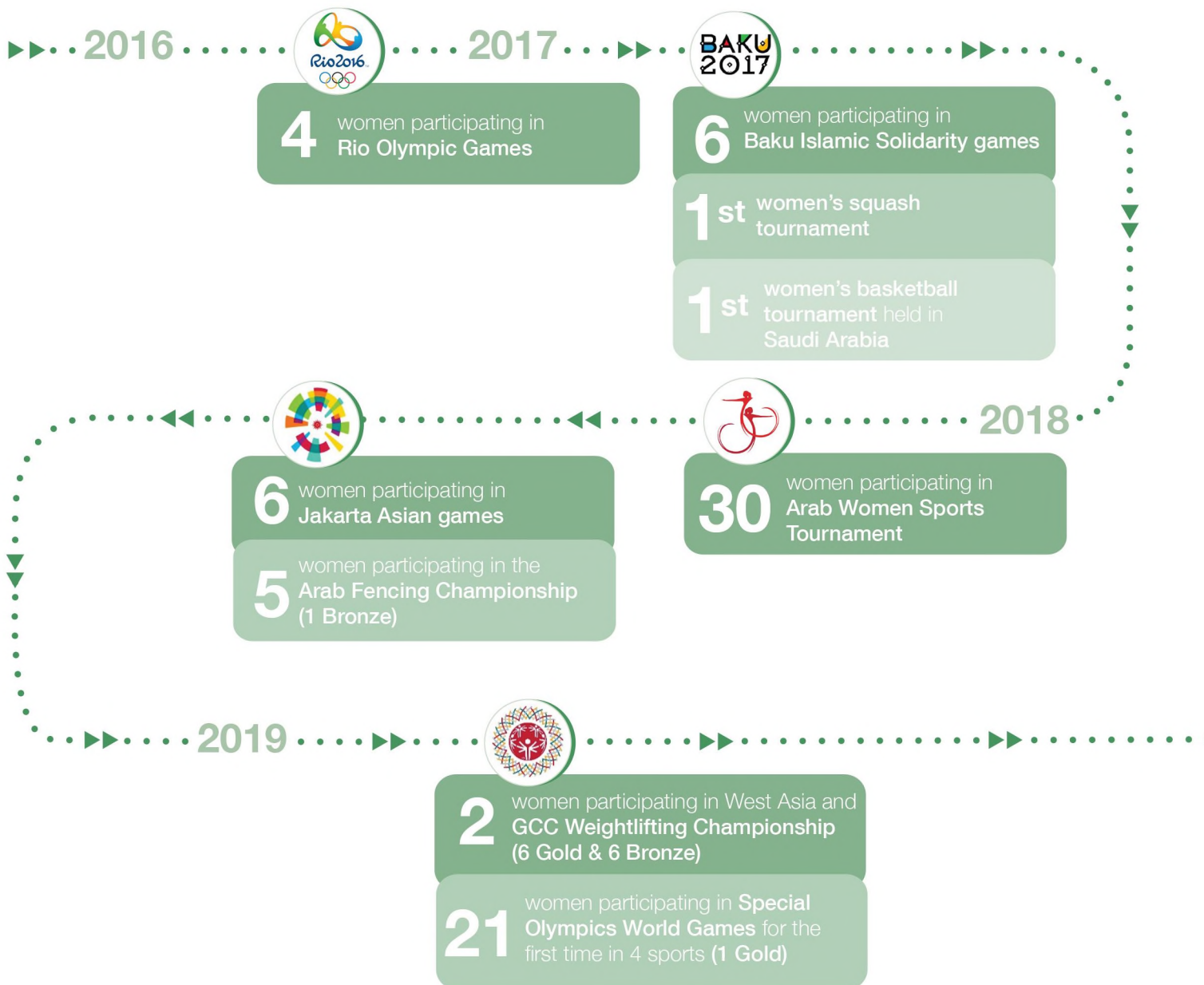
ADWA AL ARIFI

OCTOBER 2018

First woman board member and Head of CSR committee at the Saudi Arabian Football Federation



Saudi Arabia has seen an increase in female participation in local, regional, and international competitions



2019



1st

Saudi women football national team participating in the **Gulf Championship (Futsal)**



1st

time women and men compete together at the second edition of the **Diriyah Equestrian Festival**

Olympic medalist Dalma Malhas participated in this event. Doing well in this official International Equestrian Federation (FEI) sanctioned tournament ensures qualifying points for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Dalma is the Saudi most likely to qualify.



1st

Saudi woman competes in the Jaguar I-PACE eTROPHY, supporting race of the **Diriyah E-Prix**

2020



Saudi Arabia will be hosting the **'LADIES EUROPEAN GOLF TOUR'** as part of its efforts to expand hosting of international events to include female sporting events

Overview

- The Ladies European Tour is a professional golf tour for women which operates tournaments across five continents globally
- Most of the players on the tour are European, with members from more than 40 different countries
- Saudi Arabia will host its first Ladies European Tour golf tournament in March 2020
- The announcement was made on 31 October 2019 by the President of the Saudi Arabian Golf Federation, at the Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh

Impact

- This event aims to develop golf in the Kingdom and promote women's participation
- It is expected to contribute positively to the sports, tourism, and entertainment sectors in Saudi Arabia



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