

## Year 5

# Issues in Sport: Let Women Compete 3

## Retrieval 2b

Other women's sports have also grown to become major spectator sports, including women's volleyball, which debuted in the Olympic Games in 1964. Women's basketball followed in 1976. In 1996, the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) was set up. Other professional women's sports leagues had existed in the past, but none lasted. The WNBA survived early struggles to break that trend. In 2013, the league had 12 teams spread across the United States. The WNBA relied heavily on the NBA for support in its early years, but in 2013, six of the 12 WNBA teams were independently owned.

Individual women's sports have seen progress as well. Women have long competed in four Grand Slam events in tennis: the Australian Open, French Open, US Open and Wimbledon. The US Open began offering equal prize money to the men's and women's singles champion in 1973. When Wimbledon did the same in 2007, all four Grand Slams had equal prize money.

The efforts to create stable women's sports leagues have had setbacks, though. Many women's professional leagues have tried and failed – usually because they ran out of money. The National Women's Football League debuted in the United States in 2013. It was the third attempt at a professional women's football league in the country in 12 years.

In addition, women shone at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, which were the first in which each country sent at least one female athlete. In fact, women made up 44 per cent of all Olympians in 2012. By comparison, women made up just 24 per cent of Olympians in 1984.

However, more work needs to be done according to women's sports advocates. In some countries, women are still banned or shunned from playing sports. In addition, male athletes around the world are often treated better than female athletes. For example, Japan's men's football team flew in business class to England for the 2012 Olympics. But that country's female team, which ended up winning a silver medal at the Games, had to sit in economy class on the same flight.

Women have made great advances in sports since the 1970s. World championship and professional opportunities exist in many women's sports. Groups such as The Women's Sports Foundation in the UK are working to ensure the push towards equality continues. This includes getting more women into coaching, refereeing, administration and other roles within sports.

# Questions

1 Which was the next women's sport to be included in the Olympics in 1964?

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2 Look in the second paragraph.

Find **four** tennis Grand Slam events women have competed in.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

3 Complete the table below with facts from the text.

When women's basketball appeared in the Olympics:	
How many teams the WNBA had in 2013:	
The percentage women made up of all participants in the 1984 Olympics:	
When the US Open offered equal prize money to men and women:	

4 Look at the last paragraph.

Name **two** ways the Women's Sports Foundation helps push for equality for women.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5 Choose the best group of words to fit the sentences.

Draw a circle around your choice.

(a) Women's sports leagues...

often  
succeeded

were  
rich

often had  
financial difficulties

were very  
popular

(b) Women's sports advocates say more work still needs to be done because...

some countries still  
don't allow women to  
compete

women athletes are  
treated better than men

women are not winning  
medals at the Olympics

women don't  
like flying

6 Look at the paragraph beginning 'Women have made great advances in sports since the 1970s...'

Which group advocates for women and equality in sport?

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7 Look at the whole text.

Number the following 1-4 to put the events in chronological order based on the **year** they occurred.

The women's football league debuted in the United States.

Wimbledon offered equal prize money to men and women.

Women's volleyball debuted at the Olympic Games.

The London Olympic Games took place.

8

Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	<b>True</b>	<b>False</b>
Japan's men's football team flew first class to the United States.		
Women made up 40% of the athletes in the 2012 Olympic Games.		
The number of women making up the total of Olympians increased from 1984 to 2012.		
The National Women's Football league took three tries to succeed.		

# Answers

1 Which was the next women's sport to be included in the Olympics in 1964?

**Volleyball.**

2 Look in the second paragraph.

Find **four** tennis Grand Slam events women have competed in.

**The Australian Open.**

**The French Open.**

**The US Open.**

**Wimbledon.**

3 Complete the table below with facts from the text.

When women's basketball appeared in the Olympics:	<b>1976</b>
How many teams the WNBA had in 2013:	<b>12</b>
The percentage women made up of all participants in the 1984 Olympics:	<b>24%</b>
When the US Open offered equal prize money to men and women:	<b>1973</b>

4 Look at the last paragraph.

Name **two** ways the Women's Sports Foundation helps push for equality for women.

**Any two of the following:**

**Getting more women into coaching.**

**Getting more women into refereeing.**

**Getting more women into administration.**

**Getting more women into other roles within sports.**

5 Choose the best group of words to fit the sentences.

Draw a circle around your choice.

(a) Women's sports leagues...

often  
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(b) Women's sports advocates say more work still needs to be done because...

**some countries still  
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6 Look at the paragraph beginning 'Women have made great advances in sports since the 1970s...'

Which group advocates for women and equality in sport?

**The Women's Sports Foundation (in the UK).**

7 Look at the whole text.

Number the following 1-4 to put the events in chronological order based on the **year** they occurred.

4 The women's football league debuted in the United States.

2 Wimbledon offered equal prize money to men and women.

1 Women's volleyball debuted at the Olympic Games.

3 The London Olympic Games took place.

8 Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Japan's men's football team flew first class to the United States.		✓
Women made up 40% of the athletes in the 2012 Olympic Games.		✓
The number of women making up the total of Olympians increased from 1984 to 2012.	✓	
The National Women's Football league took three tries to succeed.	✓	