

## 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 Look at the quote from the first paragraph.

*'Other women's sports have also grown to become major spectator sports, including women's volleyball, which debuted in the Olympic Games in 1964.'*

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

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2 Look at the extract from the second paragraph:

*'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.'*

Find **two** out of the four named tennis Grand Slam events women have competed in.

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

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

3 Complete the table with facts from the text below:

*'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.'*

When women's basketball appeared in the Olympics:	
When the WNBA was set up:	

4 Look at the extract from the last paragraph.

*'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.'*

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.

*'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.'*

(a) Women's sports leagues...

were very popular

were rich

often did not have enough money

*'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.'*

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

some countries still don't allow women to compete

women don't like flying

women can play any sport they choose

6 Look at the extract from the last paragraph:

*'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.'*

Which **group** advocates for **women and equality** in sport?

7

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

*'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.'*

	True	False
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.		

# Answers

1 Look at the quote from the first paragraph.

*'Other women's sports have also grown to become major spectator sports, including women's volleyball, which debuted in the Olympic Games in 1964.'*

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

**Volleyball.**

2 Look at the extract from the second paragraph:

*'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.'*

Find **two** out of the four named tennis Grand Slam events women have competed in.

**Any two of the following:**

**The Australian Open.**

**The French Open.**

**The US Open.**

**Wimbledon.**

3 Complete the table with facts from the text below:

*'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.'*

When women's basketball appeared in the Olympics:	<b>1976</b>
When the WNBA was set up:	<b>1996</b>

4 Look at the extract from the last paragraph.

*'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.'*

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.

*'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.'*

(a) Women's sports leagues...

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*'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.'*

Which **group** advocates for **women and equality** in sport?

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

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

*'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.'*

	True	False
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.	✓	