

**WOMEN THAT CROSSED THE BORDERS IN AREAS OF SPORTS  
(SPORTS, ADMINISTRATION, ARBITRATION)  
THAT USED TO BE MEN ONLY**

Men vs Women. Women vs Men. A constant battle that takes place mainly from the beginning of the 19th century with the aim of equality between the sexes in social, economic and political level. In recent years, women have managed with their worth to gain a significant position in society and to prove that they, in turn, can survive in the world, outside the context of the household and the upbringing of children. So we see women today excelling in areas that were originally considered male-dominated (politics, economics, science, education, sports).

In most areas, many taboos have been overcome in terms of the position, development and treatment that a woman can always have in relation to a man. One area that is still plagued by prejudices and stereotypes, we would say is that of sports. The woman, while she has managed to win participation in many sports, either team or individual, there are still some areas that do not accept women with so much comfort and reliability, such as the Management, either the team or large federations and organizations, and the Arbitration area. Nevertheless, today there are women who have managed to excel in these areas and our goal is to record some of them as well as some of their achievements.

Below we will refer to the fields of Administration and Arbitration, the presence and contribution of women in them, and finally in some, slightly more male-dominated sports, but the woman begins to take small but important steps there as well.

**ADMINISTRATION**

The field of Management in sports could still be characterized as male-dominated in the year 2020. If we do an introspection in the major sports organizations such as FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association), FIBA (Federation Internationale de Basketball), UEFA (Union of European Football Associations), IOC (International Olympic Committee) we will see that the female presence is non-existent, with the sole exception of the 33 members in the 144 that the IOC has in its entirety.

The woman has not managed to gain the confidence for a position in this management context, but there are remarkable examples of women who excelled as group presidents and managed to stand up to the circumstances that such a position requires.

## OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN SPORTS

- **Teresa Rivero:** A Spaniard, where in 1994, at the age of 59, she took over the presidency of Raya Vagecano, at the initiative of her husband. The team experienced glorious moments (2000-2001 Copa Del Rey), remained at the top for 4 consecutive games, won the UEFA Cup and gave its name to the field.
  - Karen Brady: In March 1993, just 23 years old, he took over Birmingham and led them to the Premiere League. In 2010 she became vice-president of West Ham United and was a member of the advisory committee for the organization of the 2018 World Cup in Russia.
  - Gisela Oeri: President of Basel, May 2006. The team won 2 doubles as well as several European appearances. (Her work in the fight against violence was also important)
  - Anastasia Tshila: One of the 2 women who are members of FIFA. Member of the organizing committee in the organization of the World Cup 2010 as well as owner of Tonga Royal Zulu of Africa. This woman has won a prize in African football.
  - Rosella Sensei: 2008-2011, at the age of 37, she was president of Roma. In 2009-2010 she came 2nd and reached the 32 of the Europa League and a year earlier she reached the 16 of the Champions League.
  - Francesca Menarini: President of Bologna when the team was in Series A until the summer of 2010.
  - Olga Smorodskaya: President, in July 2010, of Locomotive Moscow. The team managed to reach the 5th place in the standings.
  - Sevda Carali Siresi: President of Belediyespor. After taking over the technical leadership of the Turkish club, the representation of girls in football and schools increased.
  - Amaya: On May 23, he was elected president of Eibar. Since 2014 he was a member of the management association. The 1st woman president of the association.
  - Maria Victoria / Vindoria Pavon: President of Leganes in 2009. In 2014 she managed to reach the team in the 2nd category and later in the 1st.
  - Alona Barkat: At the age of 46, she bought Hapoel Be'er Sheva in 2005 for \$ 1,800,000, refuting all negative reactions.
  - Sevda Carali Siresi: President of Belediyespor . After taking over the technical leadership of the Turkish club, the representation of girls in football and schools increased.
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As can be seen from the above, the European Associations trust women more in administrative positions and are often justified. However, there is still a female representation in the federations. For example, in 2015, in 28 European countries the percentage of women holding decision-making positions was 14% compared to 86% of men.

Greece was ranked 22nd on this list, because women, while declaring themselves present, have not yet been given the opportunity to show their skills at this level of leadership.

Specifically, in the 44 Federations that exist, 41 have a male president and only 3 women (93% men-7% women). In total, the boards have 538 members, of which 453 are men (84%) and 85 are women (16%).

A remarkable development, however, takes place in another spectrum of the Management, and this is in the part of the technical leadership of the teams. Over the years we see more and more women taking on coaching duties, mostly of course, in women's teams, especially in team sports (Basketball, Football, Volleyball, Polo, Handball).

Although the number of women remains small compared to that of men, it is worth recognizing this change as a step towards the advancement of women in the position of coach.

Below we will refer to some examples of women who, as athletes, managed to rise to the position of coach in Basketball and Football. In the field of Basketball, in Greece, there were and still are several female coaches, but mainly in women's teams and of course in smaller categories.

However, it is worth mentioning the coach Katerina Hatzidaki, where in 2015 she became the first Greek coach in the neighboring country, Turkey, in the Hatay women's team, achieving significant achievements for the team, even at European level. In Turkey, Katerina Hatzidaki is the only female coach in the A category.

In the field of football things are different as we will rarely meet a female coach even in women's teams. Based on this, and the fact that football is the "ultimate" men's sport, we will refer to women who managed to take the position of coach in women's and men's teams, in Greece and abroad.

- Xanthi Konstantinidou: 1st woman who had taken the specialty of football at the dept of Physical Education at Aristotle's University. She took over the technical leadership of the Greek women's soccer team at the 2004 Olympic Games.
- Anthoula Savvidou: In 2016, she becomes the first female coach of men in the Third National, in the team of Achilles Neokaisaria in Katerini, Pieria.
- Chan Yuen-ting: In 2016, in Hong Kong, 27-year-old Chan Yuen-ting took over as coach of the Eastern team and became the first coach in the history of men's football to win a top title.
- Helena Costa: In May 2014, Helena Costa will take over as coach of the French men's team Clermont in Ligue 2. Despite the fact that she left a few days later for personal reasons (due to racism and sexism), taking over this position on her part, was the beginning of a new era for women's coaching.

- Rine Corrine Diacre: After Helenas Costa's departure, Clermont's management gave the reins of coaching to another woman, Corrine Diacre, who was the first woman to be on the bench for a formal game.

## **REFEREES**

In the field of refereeing, things are different for women, people like Australia, Italy, England, France, Brazil, Spain, Switzerland, Greece, etc. We often see the woman in the position of referee, in local matches, but in small categories we also see in longer-range matches, European championships, champions league and cup matches.

In a match, it is easier to see a woman in the refereeing, as a woman can be a match supervisor or assistant referee, have in addition to the main role of the first referee and another more helpful. In this context, we will make a reference to the female referees who managed to overcome the stereotypes and won an important place in the stadiums and on the floor.

**TWOST RESEARCH 2020, ASTERI TEAM**