
*Women in Sport: Issues and Controversies* is written primarily as a textbook, with each chapter containing summary information about a variety of important issues that affect all women in sport. Major strengths of the book include: 1) the depth and breadth of information covered, 2) the discussion questions and class activities contained at the end of each chapter, and 3) the knowledge base and reputation of each of the authors. In addition to serving as an essential textbook for a course about women in sport, the book is a very interesting read, and it should serve as a resource text for anyone interested in issues related to women’s participation in sport.

The book is divided into seven content areas including: gender issues, herstory, government and policy, physiological perspectives, institutionalization of women’s sports, psychological perspectives, economics of sport, and changing times.

Part I is an overview of “gender issues.” Greendorfer discusses gender role stereotypes and early childhood socialization, while Sabo and Messner provide a scintillating examination of women’s sports and sexual politics. Lastly, Rintala discusses the differences between play and competition, and how each differs by gender.

With Part II the reader can gain a “nice” foundation related to the “herstory” of women in sport. Couturier and Chepko present two general chapters that chronicle the growth and development of women in sport by time periods. On the other hand, Hicks presents a very specific chapter that chronicles the life of Babe Didrikson Zaharias, and Pratt provides a detailed description of the events related to the formation and demise of the All American Girls’ Professional Baseball League.

Included in Part III are two chapters related to the effects of government and policy on the participation of girls and women in sport. Carpenter, with a humorous tone, relates the history of Title IX to the readers through letters home to her big brother. The chapter begins
Book Review

with tales of major discrepancies in budget, travel, and per diem allowances between men and women and it concludes with several success stories related to the impact of Title IX. Lebeau provides information about changes in high school physical education and sport that have resulted from Title IX.

Part IV contains information about the physiological perspectives related to women and sport. Christensen discusses how women’s physiology affects their ability to excel in sport and physical activities. McCarthy discusses important nutritional considerations for female athletes and the potential impact of eating disorders on performance.

In Part V, titled “the institutionalization of women’s sports,” Cohen provides a feminist interpretation of the effect of the media on women’s experiences in sport. Kluka provides insights as to how the Olympic games have contributed to better international relations. Griffin discusses the impact of heterosexism, homophobia, and lesbians in sport on women’s sport and physical activity participation. Corbett provides a comprehensive discussion of minority women in sport.

Part VI contains chapters related to the psychological perspectives unique to women in sport. Mimi Murray and Hilary Matheson summarize important psychological and social challenges for women in sport, while Sue Enquist prescribes a formula for successfully coaching collegiate women athletes.

The economic side of women’s sports is covered in Part VII. In this section, Christine Grant and Charles Darley present a philosophical piece that poses the question: “Equity: What price equality? Mary Hums and Marjorie Snyder provide a provocative look of the growth in the women’s sport industry. Anita Moorman and Mary Hums summarize legal issues facing women in sport.

In the last section of the book, titled “Changing Times,” Chris Shelton discusses international challenges for women in sport. Carole Oglesby completes the section with a piece on future issues for consideration.

In summary, the book is an outstanding resource for anyone teaching a course in “women in sport.” Priced at $25, and available