

Developing Women's Football in Asia and Oceania - 1970s to 1990s

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Abstract : Over the past decade, the expansion of women's football as a competitive sport has gained more attention from the media and researchers. However, the practice of the sport is not new, and in Asia and Oceania, women's football has emerged as a common physical activity in many countries since the 1970s. This study recovers the major occurrences that made women's football possible in an international context, also resulting from the main achievements of the feminist movement in most Westernized countries. Using archival research, the author reviews documents that compose the history of the women's game, marked by many imposed barriers imposed by social and gender norms. This materials present how women managed their sport in their respective countries and regions, mostly prompted by a spirit of cooperation and partnerships that allowed the staging of major international events. The findings point out that, despite the layers of gendered boundaries that attempted to contain the expansion of the sport, women from Asia and Oceania made the sport flourish and eventually achieving recognition at the international level.

Keywords : women's football, gender norms, game development, Asia-pacific

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