

World leaders in women's sport

The Sixth ICES Webinar scheduled for October 4th boasts the highest profile line-up of speakers to date. All four contributors are leaders in their fields who have received international recognition and plaudits for their work and contribution to sport; and in particular ensuring sport is inclusive and that women's contributions are maximised. The topic of the Webinar is 'Why are all my coaches men?'. Engaging, educating and empowering female community coaches and the speakers will share their experience, expertise and vision in addressing the question.

The speakers include Narin Hajitas who received the International Olympic Committee Trophy for Asia in recognition of outstanding effort to enhance the participation, development and involvement of women and young girls in the sporting arena. She will be joined by Amanda Bennett and Marion February who are both national level coaches but have also made significant contributions to programming, networking and policy development supporting the empowerment of women in sport. Maria Bobenrith, the Executive Director of Women Win, will also feature during the Webinar.

Women Win is recognised as a leading global organisation using sport as a strategy to advance women's rights. Working with a range of global partners, Women Win develops, implements, monitors and evaluates gender-sensitive sport programmes taking a strong women's rights approach in their work. Referencing Women Win's broad experience Maria will highlight the barriers women face in becoming coaches and leaders in the sport movement and draw on models of good practice to provide advice around organisational values, philosophies and approaches that support engaging, educating and empowering women as coaches and sport leaders.

Narin Hajitas will also feature during the Webinar on behalf of the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC). The JOC are pioneers in this; empowering female coaches, actively encouraging inclusion and urging more women to take part. It is one of the primary directives from JOC President, HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein, who has campaigned tirelessly to remove the obstacles preventing women to take part in sporting activity. Narin will present a case study of the Jordan Olympic Committee's National Coach Certification Programme focusing on how they are working to involve more women as both coaches and facilitators. Narin will draw on her experience in forming the pioneering Al Ahli handball club and more broadly on her work in the JOC's programmes.

A panel discussion will conclude the webinar featuring Amanda Bennett and Marion February. Amanda is truly a leader in her field both as a coach, strategist and policy maker. She was again recognised as one of her country's leading Rugby coaches after coaching the England U20 Women to their second successive Nations Cup title earlier this year. She is also the Chair of the European Women and Sport Association and Acting Head of Governance at UK Sport. Marion February is the South African Football Association (SAFA) national coach instructor and a supporter of Coaching for Hope's various football empowerment projects in the Western Cape, South Africa.

The webinar will begin at 11:30 am UK time on October 4th the session is free and open to all interest sport development agencies. For further information and details on connection contact ices@uksport.gov.uk.