



HISTORY

From the earliest years of its history well into the 1970s and, apart from a brief boom period around the start of the 1900s, football was almost exclusively a man's sport.

The rough and tumble of the early versions had held no attractions for the fairer sex, and male dominance in most societies had acted to contain what little enthusiasm women may have shown for playing the sport as it became an increasingly important social force in the 1900s. But emancipation gave women more opportunity to express themselves on the football field as in other walks of life, and as the century moved into its final quarter, women's football had clearly come to stay. FIFA did not fail to react to this trend.

FIFA COMPETITIONS

The first Women's World Championship was held in China in November 1991, fulfilling a pledge made by President Joao Havelange at the 1986 Congress in Mexico City. The quality of the football and the enthusiasm with which it was received entirely vindicated FIFA's decision. The US women took the new trophy and set new standards for their female colleagues around the world.

Four years later, at the 2nd Women's World Cup in Sweden, the honours went to the team from Norway. In 1999, the final in the USA smashed all crowd records for a single women's sports event by drawing in 90,185 fans. Following a long and gripping battle, the Americans managed to recapture the cup after a penalty shoot-out against the Chinese.

The reservations of yesteryear, concerning physical risks to women players, are now a thing of the past. The Women's World Cup, featuring 16 teams in the USA, and the Women's Olympic Football Tournament introduced in Atlanta in 1996 featuring eight teams (since increased to ten for Athens 2004), have since firmly taken root in the range of FIFA competitions.

Eleven years after the inaugural FIFA Women's World Cup, Canada played host to the first-ever international FIFA development competition for women. The FIFA U-19 World Championship bore witness to some dazzling football from its young

athletes, including an extremely tense final between neighbouring North American rivals, USA and Canada (2-1 aet to USA). A resounding success, the U-19 will continue to showcase young female talent for many years to come.

Although the 2003 edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup had originally been awarded to China, international events would not have it so and the legacy of the SARS crisis moved the tournament to the North American continent, again held by America. The fourth instalment of the FIFA Women's World Cup, hosted by the USA, saw increased parity, a new champion, goals galore and loads of enthralling football. In a breathtaking golden-goal final in front of 26,137 captivated fans at L.A.'s state-of-the-art Home Depot Center, Germany took home the laurels for the first time in their history, while the brave Swedes were forced to rue what might have been.

PROGRESS

Despite its ever-increasing popularity over the past twenty years, women's football is still very much in its infancy compared to other sporting endeavours. Continuing discrepancies in developmental rates for women's football around the world -- depressingly slow in some places, incredibly fast in others -- are a reflection of how different countries have approached the development of the game, both at the domestic and national team levels.

Football for young girls in many parts of the world is often considered more of a solely recreational activity by coaches and parents and even by club managers and administrators. This is due to a variety of reasons, including existing cultural barriers, social mores and the lack of any financial hope for a future in the game.

In response, FIFA's systematic development work for women's football has become one of its major and most enduring activities. Since beginning this world development programme focused on women's football, hundreds of coaches, players, referees, administrators and doctors have taken advantage of development courses, symposiums, video productions, and other activities organised by FIFA.

**ALL-TIME RECORDS**

T: number of teams - M: number of matches - G: best goalscorer - FP: Fair Play Prize - B: adidas Golden Ball

FIFA Women's World Cup

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>COUNTRY</i>	<i>FINAL</i>		
1991	China PR	Norway - USA 1-2	<i>T: 12 - M: 26</i>	<i>G: AKERS (USA), 10 goals FP: Germany B: JENNINGS (USA)</i>
1995	Sweden	Germany - Norway 0-2	<i>T: 12 - M: 26</i>	<i>G: AARONES (NOR), 6 goals FP: Sweden B: RIISE (NOR)</i>
1999	USA	USA – China PR 0-0 (5-4 pso)	<i>T: 16 - M: 32</i>	<i>G: SISSI (BRA), SUN Wen (CHN), 7 goals/3 assists FP: China PR B: SUN Wen (CHN)</i>
2003	USA	Germany – Sweden 2-1 a.e.t	<i>T: 16 - M: 32</i>	<i>G: PRINZ (GER), 7 goals/5 assists FP: China PR B: PRINZ (GER)</i>

FIFA Women's U-19 World Championship

2002	Canada	Canada - USA 0-1 a.e.t	<i>T: 12 - M: 26</i>	<i>G: SINCLAIR (CAN), 10 goals FP: Japan B: SINCLAIR</i>
2004	Thailand	Germany – China PR 2-0	<i>T: 12 - M: 26</i>	<i>G: TIMKO (CAN), 7 goals FP: USA B: MARTA (BRA)</i>

Women's Olympic Football Tournament

1996	Atlanta	China PR - USA 1-2	<i>T: 8 - M: 16</i>	<i>G: MEDALEN (NOR), 4 goals FP: USA</i>
2000	Sydney	Norway - USA 3-2 a.e.t	<i>T: 8 - M: 16</i>	<i>G: SUN Wen (CHN), 4 goals FP: Germany</i>
2004	Athens	USA – Brazil 2-1 a.e.t	<i>T: 10 - M: 20</i>	<i>G: CRISTIANE (BRA)/ PRINZ (GER), 5 goals each FP: Japan/Sweden</i>

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

FIFA Women's World Cup: RANKINGS 1991-2003

YEAR	COUNTRY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1991	China PR	USA	NOR	SWE	GER	CHN	ITA	DEN	TPE	BRA	NGA	NZL	JPN				
1995*	Sweden	NOR	GER	USA	CHN	SWE	DEN	ENG	JPN	BRA	CAN	NGA	AUS				
1999	USA	USA	CHN	BRA	NOR	RUS	SWE	NGA	GER	ITA	PRK	AUS	CAN	GHA	JPN	DEN	MEX
2003	USA	GER	SWE	USA	CAN	BRA	CHN	NOR	RUS	FRA	JPN	PRK	GHA	AUS	KOR	NGA	ARG

FIFA Olympic Football Tournaments : Women's competitions 1996-2004

YEAR	COUNTRY	1	2	3	4
1996	USA (women)	USA	CHN	NOR	BRA
2000	Australia (women)	NOR	USA	GER	BRA
2004	Greece (women)	USA	BRA	GER	SWE