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DIVISION OF GIRLS AND WOMEN'S SPORTS 1958

The history of the newest division of the AAHPER, which reads like a Who's Who in Physical Education for Women in the USA, apparently begins in 1899. In that year, at the Conference on Physical Training held in Springfield, Massachusetts a committee of women was appointed to study the many diverse modifications in girls' basketball rules which had evolved since Dr. Naismith created the game. This group remained active until 1905 when it became an organized committee.

In 1917 the president of the American Physical Education Association appointed a Committee on Women's Athletics to aid in developing rules for the various women's sports. We still cherish their ideals, namely, to make health, play and recreation the primary reason for the existence of any sport or skill.

In 1923 Mrs. Herbert Hoover, honorary vice-president of the National Amateur Athletic Federation called a meeting, of leading women in the physical education profession, in Washington, D. C. and the Women's Division of the NAAF was formed. Their expressed purpose was to establish standards governing the conduct of sound and wholesome athletics for girls and women.

From 1917 to 1930 a number of committees were established to assist in guiding the development and practice governing other sports for girls. By 1932 these groups officially became the National Section on Women's Athletics of the APEA with the Committee on Women's Athletics becoming the Women's Athletic Rules and Editorial Committee of the Section.

In 1940 the Women's Division of the NAAF merged with the NSWA. This move eliminated overlapping and tended to increase the strength of the NSWA in personnel and leadership. In 1950 Dr. Rachel Bryant was made Consultant in Physical Education and Women's Athletics and has continued to work closely with the section.

In 1953 the Section name was changed to the National Section for Girls and Women's Sports. Though this organization has always upheld desirable practices for girls, as well as women's sports, the public was unaware of this.

The NSGWS now has multi-functional services. The 1957 report, of the Consultant, to the Executive Council reports the sale for the year of 131507 guides, 5383 scorebooks, 276 film strips and 4963 special publications with an income of over \$80,000.

The NSGWS was given an unprecedented honor when recognized by the American Academy of Physical Education award for distinguished service at the Chicago Convention in 1957.

After two invitations from the Board of Directors of the AAHPER the NSGWS Legislative Board petitioned for tentative divisional status. In May 1957 the Board of Directors of the AAHPER granted temporary divisional status to NSGWS.

The Committee on Women's Athletics appointed in 1899 has become, at least temporarily, the Division of Girls and Women's Sports --- A Permanent Division of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation.