

Why Women Category is Necessary

Why we need the under 26 women category

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Background information

- 4 junior teams
- U16, U21, U26, U26W
- U26W first EC was in 2004
- 9 championships
- Between 6-14 teams in EC
 - Usually between 9-11
 - Best year was 2009

Year	Number of teams
2004	11
2005	10
2007	12
2009	14
2011	10
2013	9
2015	6
2017	10
2019	9

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Statistics

- 21 different nations
- No new nations since 2011

	2004	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	Total
Ireland	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Netherlands	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Italy	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Hungary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Norway	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
France	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Turkey	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Germany	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Sweden	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
England	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Czech Rep.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Austria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Israel	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Latvia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Denmark	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Slovenia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Belgium	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Ireland	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Russia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Romania	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Bulgaria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Total	11	10	12	14	10	9	6	10	9	91

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My own experiences

- Wroclaw 2013
 - I was 11, my partner 22
 - All teams together, 14 players
 - Laundry room
- Remember the experiences
- Stokke 2019
 - One of the first two girls
 - 17 years old



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Including girls

- Nice beginning
- Shyer and quieter
- Inspire girls to keep playing
 - Both if you are in a team or not
- Stokke 2019
 - 8 of 9 teams also in U26/U21
 - Hungary
- Promoting bridge is easier
- Women's team still playing



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Downsides of girls teams

- Federations need to pick girls for open teams
- Attitude towards girls
- 12.5% were girls in U26 in 2002
- 14% were girls in U26 in 2019
- Open championships
 - 2018 European championship 2 girls-pairs in U26O, over 20 in U26W
 - 2019 World championship all pairs/teams in U26W



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Summary

- Demolishing the U26W category would exclude a lot of players
 - Fewer people at championships
 - Less media attention
- Federations needs to pick the best players
- In an ideal world we might not need it
 - Need to find other solutions to fix the differences
 - In a few years we might not need it anymore

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