# 60 - OLYMPIC WOMEN IN COMBAT: MEMBERSHIP AND STAY

RAPHAEL FERREIRA	
GABRIELA CONCEIQ	ÃO DE SOUZA
UNIVERSIDADE GAMA FILHO – RIO DE JANEIRO	– RJ – BRASIL
gcsouz	a@hotmail.com

#### INTRODUCTION

The present study it has as objective to explicitar the feminine trajectory in the sports dissuaded, since the antiquity until the current days. Having important facts at the beginning and in the end of century XX, resulting in the reality of the current days. The feminine current situation in viris sports is reflected of one recent legalization of sports as wrestling in competitions.

Although the lack of structure and incentive the women comes being capable of you surpass the external difficulties and pressures in the modality, and to each edition of the Olympic Games they reach resulted more expressive in national and international competitions.

Ahead of these perspectives, this study it considers to understand as the women of the Brazilian wrestling team if they had inserted in this sport and if they had motivated to remain in it; to identify and to analyze the reasons of the adhesion and permanence of mulhers that they practise wrestling; to identify and to analyze the difficulties of the athletes of wrestling in remaining in this sport; to identify if exists preconception with regard to practical of wrestling for the women; to understand and to analyze the relations of the women with the men in the training of wrestling.

The present study it is justifiable for showing the process of legalization of the feminine fight as sport of competition in Brazil, increasing the visibility of wrestling, over all in the feminine style, and to stimulate the feminine adhesion to the sport.

In this context we look for to answer the following questions: i) which the motivacionais aspects that justify the adhesion of the women in wrestling? II) which the motivacionais aspects that justify the permanence of the women in wrestling? III) which the difficulties found for the athletes to continue in wrestling? IV) which the relations found between the women and the practicing men of this sport, it is important to increase the visibility of the fights practised for women in Brazil, because it is a olímpica modality that does not need expressive financial investments to start traing. Being of great expense caloric, also needing great concentration and bringing benefits for the health and the society.

#### **HISTORY OF WRESTLING**

In accordance with many studies exist evidence from that the fights if had originated in the world occidental, and other researchers that were in old Greece, where games existed of fight originating the called modality pankration which was a sport that mixed wrestling with boxing. Tha is why some historians clain that this sport is the origin oj the current MMA. Pankration fighters had great prestige in society (Ramos, 1982).

The free style was used in military training in old Greece and the modern greco-roman fight was developed and practiced by the napoleão troops. Currently few martial arts had been preserved. Many traditions have adapted to technological advance – the introduction of weapons made them become obsolete. Many of those who remained, such as archery fencing and boxing, became recreational sports (REID E CROUCHER, 2000)

Currently the United States, Russia and Cuba have the results most expressive in the great international competitions. The greco-roman fight in Brazil was not spread out therefore does not possess a tradition.

#### **RULES OF WRESTLING**

Wrestling is divided into three styles: Free, Female: the goal is to immobilize the opponent's shoulders down for three seconds and can use upper and lower limbs to attack your opponent, and Greco-Roman: the goal is immobilize the opponent with the shoulder in the floor for three seconds, not being allowed to attack the opponent with the legs.

The duration of fighting in Wrestling is divided as shown below (FEPALE, 2011): Freestyle - three rounds of 2 minutes with 30 seconds rest; Greco-Roman style - three rounds with 1 minute 30 seconds 2 times to clinch (totaling 2 minutes per round of fighting) and 30 seconds of rest.

The combat area is known as carpet and presents standardized dimensions. Athletes should use red or blue uniforms. Shoes are specific and is prohibited the use of tennis and normal shoes.

There are defined weight categories for men and women, 7 weight categories for men and only four weight categories for women, there is not Greco-Roman style for women.

#### THE WOMEN IN THE SPORTS AND THE FIGHTS

At the beginning of century XX the government adopted the politics of development of the white population, because according to nationalistic ideas of that moment a strong body could only generate a strong race (GOELLNER, 2008).

Brazil currently remains a country with male chauvinist talk about women's participation in sports. But in the 30s, began a period of greater visibility of women in high performance sport, being represented by the swimmer Maria Lenk the Olympics in Los Angeles, being the first Brazilian and South American to compete in the Olympics. Tennis champion Maria Bueno, jumping from Aida Santos, teams of female volleyball and basketball were also quite prominent until the late 70th and gaining notoriety with great victories around the world.

During the 1930s there were several discussionsabout physical activity in Brazil, not only for men overgiving greater importance to women.

In 1937, one of the published articles suggested the classification of physical activity into three categories:

a) opposed and abolished: how foot-ball, wrestling, weight lifting etc...

b) The supervision carried out by competent coaching and medical athletics slight, the croos-country on short trips, rowing etc. skating.

c)encouraged, because they constitute a powerful means of development and improvement of physiological qualities, physical and moral: swimming, tennis, basket-ball, golf, hockey etc..

Even finding it difficult due to the hegemonic discourse of the ban, women were against these ideas and joined the

practice of sports, finding a large number of fans in Rio de Janeiro.

According to (Borges, 2006) nowadays women's football is a growing practice in the poorest social class. They affirm that they continue training because they like it sport. It is believed that this behavior happens unconsciously by the resilience to stay in areas dominated by men, as part of a broader process of social emancipation of women. Noting that according to (Goellner, 2003) in the early twentieth century exercise was considered apowerful shaping tool and agent of the bodysort of body and health of the white population would increase with its systematic practice.

Getúlio Vargas was the chairman at the time that nourished a great admiration for the ideals of Adolf Hitler, justifying these interventions on race purification. In this period the population was composed of 60% black and the remaining vast majority of immigrants in Europe. The government considered the current share of blacks in the country as inferior beings, scholars of the time reported that despite being one of the most beautiful country in the world, was sentenced to encouraging miscegenation government interventions.

#### **WOMEN IN STRUGGLE**

As previously judo and fighting sports that were eliminated or were thwarted by women according to the decree law 3,199 in the 1940s.

Therefore it is believed that the act of the technical director of the Confederation of Judo to beat this decree law, forming the first Brazilian national judo was the first step toward legalization of women's judo and also the fight in Brazil.

Joaquim Mamede de Carvalho e Silva inscribed four femele judokas in South American championship in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1979, being three his daughters and fourth daughter of another teacher judoka judo. All athletes were written with the name of men. For the director was the action of some members of the federation and confederation of not allowing women in competitions since female participation in training was very large and their five daughters were also practitioners.

Brazilian Judo also represented by men, had not yet rated among the countries of South America, by reason of being the only country not allowed to practice the sport for women. Two months later in a competition in Uruguay in the months December to repeal prohibitive decision, thus allowing the so-called manly sports for women.

According Votre (2008), this revocation also resulted in a gradual increase in the practice of sports such as Muay-Thai, which was previously only practiced, but there could be no competition in the genre. In Thailand the country of origin of this struggle, women could not even watch the tournaments, because they had the belief it would bring bad luck to the contestants. Just as occurred in ancient Greece.

## WOMEN IN OLYMPIC FIGHT

In 1979 was created the first federation specialized in wrestling in Rio de Janeiro. Before that the sport was run by the confederation of Brazilian boxing.

In 1988, they created the Confederation of Fights (CBL), and subsequently Professor Ernesto Prado Gama led a breakaway and created the Brazilian Confederation of Lutte Amateur (CBLOA). A year later came the Brazilian Confederation of Associated Wrestling (CBLA).

In this mode, according to CBLA in our country due to the large number of interchange and commitment of athletes and officials of federations and confederations shall not be surprise the country to reach the Olympic podium in the next Olympic cycle.

The athlete Joice Silva, also Brazilian athlete was able to get two bronze medals in the Pan-American form of 2005 and 2006. In August 2006, Brazil won the historic first medal at the Junior World Championship Fighting Olympic athlete with Aline Ferreira, who was crowned runner-up is putting forward the traditional countries such as Russia and the United States (CBLA).

Already in the Pan-American Games in Rio in 2007, Rosangela Conceicao won a bronze medal and became the first Brazilian woman to win a medal at the Pan American games in the sport. In 2008 the Olympic Games in Beijing, Rosangela Conceição could not continue in the competition, but we have got another historic achievement being the first Brazilian to participate in the Olympic Games. In this edition Rosangela won the favorite wrestler whose won five times world championship.

In 2011 Gilda Maria also won the unprecedented gold medal in Cerro Pelado tournament in Cuba becoming the first athlete to win this traditional Brazilian international competition.

This brief history of women's wrestling is significant when we take into consideration the time of this sport activities on the international scene just seven years of Olympic Games.

#### THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STUDY

The research presented here is characterized by qualitative and descriptive. In addition, a detailed literature about female participation in sports and fights. The Fight Olympic women's style of high performance features only 4 (four) categories of weight for this reason we chose to interview the four athletes of the Brazilian team of wrestling.

The survey instrument used was adapted from the master's thesis developed at the University Gama Filho by Souza and Mourão (2008) which tells the history of judo fighters of the Brazilian team from 1979 to 1992, trying to understand the reasons for membership, permanence and the difficulties faced by them in judo.

Since this is a form of struggle that has the same process of exclusion and prohibition in sport, we adapted the script of the interview to achieve the objectives of this research, and turned it into a questionnaire.

After presenting and signing the consent form, a questionnaire was separated into four blocks: the first, we made an identification of the athlete, trying to understand the social origins of the athlete, in the second block of questions, we sought to identify the reasons for adherence to Fight Olympic, on the third block, identify the reasons for these athletes stay in the last block and try to understand the relationships with mens athletes in Olympic Fight.

## REASONS FOR ADHERENCE ANDE PERNABEBCE OF WOMEN IN WRESTLING

Below we present the analysis of data collectedthrough questionnaires. This analysis will be guidedin the discussion of data collected in the literature related to information provided.

To achieve the goal of this research applied thisquestionnaire to four athletes of the Brazilian women's team wrestling. The first part of qustionáriorefers to identifying these women and the social and cultural context in which they live in the sport.

The athletes have on average 30 years of age, the informant two with 37 years old age, informants 3 and 4 with 28 years old and an informant with 27 years old.

Two fighters reside in Rio de Janeiro (informants 1 and 3), the other residing in Sao Paulo. The localtraining of these athletes are in the cities where they live, however, the athletes perform in Rio de Janeirotraining in the headquarters of the Brazilian Confederation of Associated Wrestling.

By applying the questionnaire found variations in thegrounds of membership of the athletes. However, the two went out to practice jiu-jitsu Fight Olympic judo and two left to continue his career as an athlete in wrestling.

According to the testimony of one of the athletes who left the jiu-jitsu, there was the need for bettertechnical performance: "I wanted to do something to complement my techniques fall" (informant 4). Already two athletes who have left judo, 2 and 1 informants reported wrestlig join because there are few athletes in this sport as an informant says: "I was doing jiu-jitsu in FAETEC, my teacher learned of theneed for women and child on the team range I took it. Informant in the case of two:" In 2003 I was invited by a coach to train fight and did not stop."

However, the third informant reported admire the fighters, and is motivated by the desire to come to practice the sport. Informant 3: "I always watched the training of fighting that were before the jiu-jitsu. One day the teacher struggles to train and did not stop."

Analyzing the reports of four fighters noted that allmigrated to fight through the intervention of Olympicathletes closer or other coaches. According Mourao and Souza (2008) that addressed the history of legalization of combat sports in the country, startingand successfully through foresight of the thentechnical director of the Brazilian Judo Confederation prohibitive breaking the law in force at the time this act was crucial for current situation offemale combat sports in the country. The membership can be explained by the constant assaults and attempts to female emancipation through social and sporting environments ever to attend visited before.

Goellner (2003) explains the fact that in the early twentieth century the constant intervention in thewhite female population for sports activities in order to strengthen the body, generating strong and purebeings. However the woman was assigned the roleto be beautiful, motherly, feminine, healthy, bold, persistent, dedicated, as the government had with the main element of modernization of the country

Research by Borges (2006) seeks answers toquestions on women's soccer, and where women continue in practice to simply enjoy the sport, which was also observed even if implicitly in the reports of the four fighters. With great pressure to help with household chores and prejudices with soccer, it was noted that the drop was minimal. As membershipand remain quite remarkable.

Despite being considered along with the sportathletics oldest of the modern Olympic Games, and Athens (2004) have been the first female participation in the Olympics, none of the above studies justify the fact that the small number of adepts in the fighting since women's participation in competitions Brazil were permitted from 1979, as similar to judo. However, the reports of the four informants about the financial difficulties encountered is common among women fighters and the players analyzed in the study of Borges (2006), leaving crisp in both situations the resilience of practitioners. Importantly, the project is aims to train people to use the current contents to the appropriateuse of free time for leisure. Different reality found in the training of high performance in Olympic Fight, whose goal is to train athletes.

Being an elite sport, the athletes have four main motivations for participating in training remain major international competitions such as Pan American, World and Olympic Games. These goals set by the fighters emerged thanks to the repeal of the law in 1979 forbidding 3199 as noted in the study of Mourão and Souza (2008).

For Borges (2006) that addresses women's issues in soccer, says that resilience holds them in place as a resource for the conquest of areas previously reserved for men. If there is a similar situation of athletes wrestling, type of sport that was for practiced only by men.

The continuous training of quality control have as predominant physical strength, as a result the change in the physical structure is large, withgradually increasing muscle mass. But this approach was not being investigated in this study. May be the subject of future research, also answer to a small number of practitioners in the sport, for fear of being stereotyped with body.

With the questionnaires, are explicit arguments of all the informants that the financial assistance providedby the federal government has changed a lotcompared to the profile structure of the trainingteam, becoming a powerful foundation for staying in the sport. If we compare the period of the early twentieth century, where every activity was made by the elites and not had any kind of financial incentive, the reality has changed, the athletes of today can eatmore appropriately according to the daily commute to and strenuous the training without difficulty. A sport with high calorie food requiring different for a good result in high yield can also be the focus of future research, since there is great lack of articles focused on this issue.

With the accounts given in the questionnaires, it was observed that in places of training the female audience is much smaller than the male. It may beindicative of a reflection of the male-dominated society, various types of external pressures, the recent legalization of sports before practiced only by men, to be a manly sport where the use of force is akey factor to achieve success, among other factors .But it was never an impediment to the growth of the sport, especially in his performances at international competitions.

According to Lima and Votre (2008) that studies on the issues of Muay Thai, where they deal with situations where women could not even watch the competition because it was believed to bring bad luck to the fighters, a fact similar to what happened in Greece with old sparring competition in Thailand, until recently, could only practice mode separate from men. In Brazil, these prohibitions have never had sufficient strength to join a gym or club topractice, as discussed with the practitioners to wrestling.

Analyzing the answers of the questionnaires, we see that the high performance athletes from wrestling did not suffer prejudice when adhered to this practice, which is against what the authors listed for dialoguedescribed in this study (SOUZAAND MOURAO, 2008; LIMA and VOTRE, 2008, BORGES et al, 2006). So the reasons for membership and retention of women insport are related to the need for personal achievement in the international sports scene, evenwhen taking into account the financial support ofgovernment to his performances are getting better, this reality does not exist two decades ago.

We realize that the context of women's work is notaccording to what was happening with the judokas of the twentieth century, nor with several other realities of the sport, however, there is need for further research to understand the slow growth of so-calledmanly sports fans to.

## CONCLUSION

The study addressed the lived realities of women in sport at different times of XX and XXI century. Some connections of historical events over the years that culminated in the reality experienced byathletes today, especially in matters of membership, permanence and resilience of women in wrestling. Despite being an old form and have your starting point in Ancient Greece, common situations are studied women admirers and practitioners in Thailand Muay-Thai, who admired the fighting inGreece, who play soccer and wrestling practitioners in Brazil.

In the early twentieth century there were some interventions, at the end of 1979 some legalization of sports discouraged by law reflected the reality experienced by fighters today.

Current research makes explicit that the fight against female statistics, because it is a sport with financial incentives,

with a small but growing number of women, change in physical structure due to the need for physical strength and this is the essential element in high yield. The authors cited in the research note that all practitioners of sports that were previously not allowed, suffered some kind of external pressure from both family and society in general. However, as noted, the wrestling informants report that did not suffer any prejudice. Is this the moment of reflection for the social sciencesbegin to perceive traces of an egalitarian perception between men and women in so-called manly sports?

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Raphael Ferreira de Carvalho rph\_ferreira@hotmail.com Rua Ibiá, 517/bl.6/404 Bairro Madureira Rio de Janeiro – RJ – Brasil CEP: 21540-070 Celular: (21) 7543-3772

# OLYMPIC FIGHT IN WOMEN: ADHERENCE AND RETENTION SUMMARY

The present study is to show the process of legalization of women's fight as a competitive sportin Brazil, increasing visibility in wrestling, particularly feminine style, and encourage adherence to the feminine sport. Given these perspectives, this study proposes to understand how women of the Brazilian wrestling inserted themselves in this sport and are motivated to stay there. The research presented here is characterized by qualitative and descriptive. In addition a detailed literature about female participation in sports and fights. The wrestling women's style of high performancefeatures only 4 (four) categories of weight for this reason we chose to interview the four athletes of the Brazilian Olympic Fight, which are considered the elite informants. The survey instrument used wasadapted from the master's thesis developed by the University Gama Filho Souza and Mourao (2008) which tells the history of judo fighters for the Brazilian team from 1979 to 1992, trying to understand what were the reasons for membership, retention and the difficulties faced by them in judo. They also compared the situations of admirers andpractitioners of other sports men said. Despite the difficulties encountered in the daily struggle of women, the changes in the body and the number ofmen in training, there was no record of prejudice. Very different to the situation described by the references cited herein. **KEYWORDS:** Olympic Fight, Fight, Women

FEMMES AU COMBAT OLYMPIQUE: COMPOSITION ET SEJOUR RÉSUMÉ

La présente étude est de montrer le processus de légalisation de la lutte des femmes en tant que sport de compétition au Brésil, en augmentant la visibilité dans la lutte olympique, style particulièrement féminine, et encourager le respect pour le sport féminin. Compte tenu de ces perspectives, cette étude se propose de comprendre comment les femmes de la lutte olympique brésilien se sont insérés dans ce sport et sont motivés à y rester. La recherche présentée ici est caractérisée par qualitative et descriptive. En outre, une documentation détaillée sur la participation des femmes dans les sports et les combats. Le style du combat olympique de femmes de la haute performance ne comporte que quatre (4) catégories de poids pour cette raison nous avons choisi d'interviewer les quatre athlètes de la lutte olympique brésilien, qui sont considérés comme des informateurs élite. L'instrument d'enquête utilisé a été adapté de la thèse du maître développé par le Filho Université Gama Souza et Mourao (2008) qui raconte l'histoire des combattants de judo pour l'équipe brésilienne de 1979 à 1992, en essayant de comprendre quelles étaient les raisons de l'adhésion, la rétention et les difficultés rencontrées par eux dans le judo. Ils ont également comparé les situations des admirateurs et des praticiens des hommes d'autres sports dit. Malgré les difficultés rencontrées dans la lutte quotidienne des femmes, les changements dans le corps et le nombre d'hommes dans la formation, il n'y avait aucune trace de préjugé. Très différent de la situation décrite par les références citées ici.

MOTS-CLÉS: lutte olympique, lutte, lutte féminine

#### MUJERES EN LUCHA OLIMPICA: MIEMBROS Y ESTANCIA RESUMEN

El presente estudio es mostrar el proceso de legalización de la lucha de las mujeres como un deporte competitivo en Brasil, aumentar la visibilidad en la lucha olímpica, estilo particularmente femenino, y fomentar la adhesión al deporte femenino. Teniendo en cuenta estas perspectivas, el presente estudio se propone comprender cómo las mujeres de la lucha olímpica brasileña se inserta en este deporte y se sienten motivados a permanecer allí. La investigación que aquí se presenta se caracteriza por la cualitativa y descriptiva. Además, una literatura detallada sobre la participación femenina en los deportes y peleas. El estilo de la lucha olímpica femenina de alto rendimiento cuenta con sólo 4 (cuatro) categorías de peso por esta razón se optó por entrevistar a los cuatro atletas de la lucha olímpica brasileña, que se consideran los informantes de la élite. La encuesta utilizada fue adaptada de la tesis de maestría desarrollados por la Filho Universidad Gama y Mourao Souza (2008), que narra la historia de los luchadores de judo de la selección brasileña desde 1979 hasta 1992, tratando de entender cuáles fueron las razones para la membresía, la retención y las dificultades que enfrentan las mujeres en el judo. También compararon la situación de los admiradores y practicantes de otros deportes de los hombres. A pesar de las dificultades encontradas en la lucha diaria de las mujeres, los cambios en el cuerpo y el número de hombres en la formación, no había ningún registro de los prejuicios. Muy diferente a la situación descrita por las referencias citadas en este documento. **PALABRAS CLAVE:** Lucha Olímpica, Lucha, Lucha Olímpica de las mujeres

## AS MULHERES NA LUTA OLÍMPICA: ADESÃO E PERMANÊNCIA RESUMO

O presente estudo vem mostrar o processo de legalização da Luta feminina como esporte de competição no Brasil, aumentar a visibilidade na Luta Olímpica, sobretudo no estilo feminino, e estimular a adesão feminina ao esporte. Diante destas perspectivas, este estudo propõe compreender como as mulheres da seleção brasileira de Luta Olímpica se inseriram neste esporte e se motivam para permanecer nele. A pesquisa aqui apresentada se caracteriza por ser qualitativa e descritiva. Além disso, será realizado um levantamento bibliográfico acerca da participação feminina nos esportes e nas lutas. A Luta Olímpica estilo feminino de alto rendimento apresenta apenas 4 (quatro) categorias de peso, por esta razão optamos por entrevistar as 4 atletas da seleção brasileira de Luta Olímpica, sendo estas consideradas informantes de elite. O instrumento de pesquisa utilizado foi adaptado da dissertação de mestrado desenvolvida na Universidade Gama Filho por Souza e Mourão (2008) que relata a historiografia das lutadoras de judô da seleção brasileira de 1979 a 1992, buscando compreender quais foram os motivos de adesão, permanência e as dificuldades enfrentadas por elas no judô. São também comparadas as situações de praticantes e admiradoras de outros esportes ditos masculinos. Apesar das dificuldades encontradas no cotidiano das mulheres da luta, nas mudanças no corpo e no número de homens no treinamento, não houve registro de preconceito. Muito diferente da situação analisada pelas referências aqui citadas.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Luta Olímpica; Lutas; Luta Feminina