

# Boxing

- Boxing is the 25<sup>th</sup> biggest participation sport for women but is yet to show consistent growth
- Current participants, however, are hugely satisfied with their sport and are very likely to have formalised their involvement through club membership or receiving coaching

All charts are based on those adults (16 and over) who said they had taken part in boxing at least once in the last four weeks (Active People Survey 2 2007-08), unless stated otherwise. See Note 1.

## Women who box – overview

### Trends in women's boxing participation

Took part at least once a week (moderate intensity)

APS1 (2005-06) 0.13%

APS2 (2007-08) 0.09%

APS3 (2008-09) 0.08%

A significant decrease in female participation

Took part at least once in the last four weeks (any intensity)

APS1 (2005-06) 0.18%

APS2 (2007-08) 0.13%

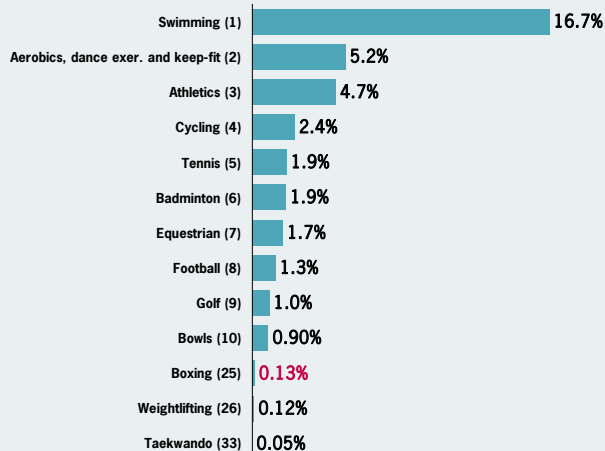
APS3 (2008-09) \*

Base: All female respondents (APS1 = 212,568, APS2 = 113,056, APS3 = 114,051). \* Data currently unavailable

### Participation overview

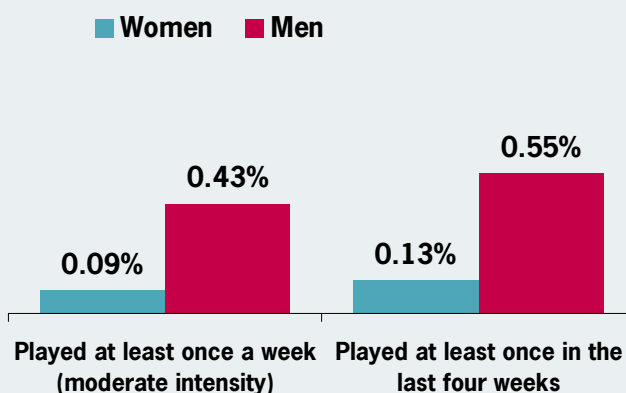
- Boxing is the 25<sup>th</sup> biggest participation sport for women
- Unfortunately, boxing has seen a significant fall in women's participation (both weekly and monthly)
- Boxing remains predominantly a male sport, with approximately four times as many men as women taking part
- 27,000 women have boxed in the last four weeks, compared to 111,000 men

### How does boxing fare? Women's participation in other Sport England funded sports (2007-08)



Base: All female respondents. Figure for cycling is respondents who took part in at least four recreational cycles in the last four weeks at moderate intensity

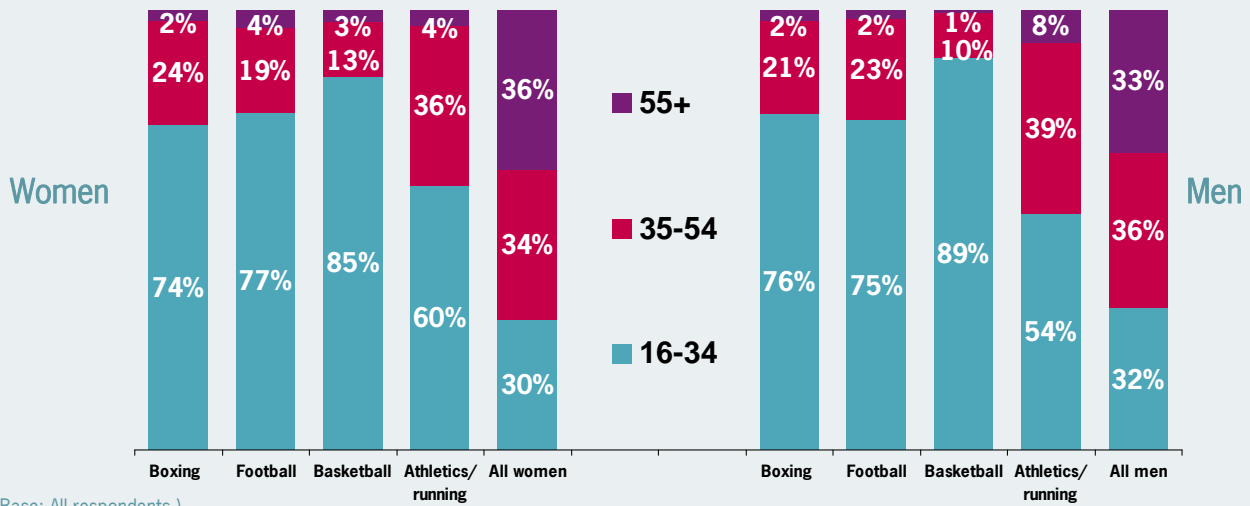
### Proportion of people who box by gender (2007-08)



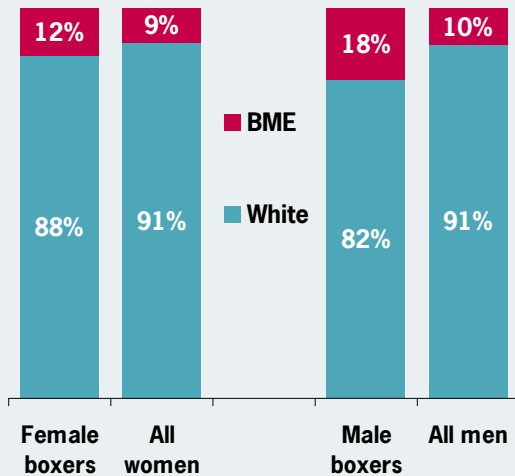
Base: All respondents (women = 113,056, men = 78,269)

# Demographic profile of boxers

Age profile of men and women who box v. other sports (2007-08)



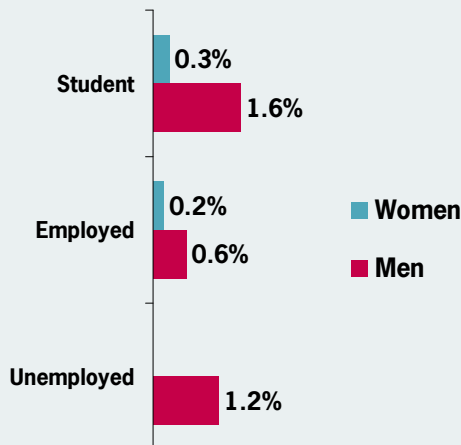
Profile of people who box by gender and ethnicity (2007-08)



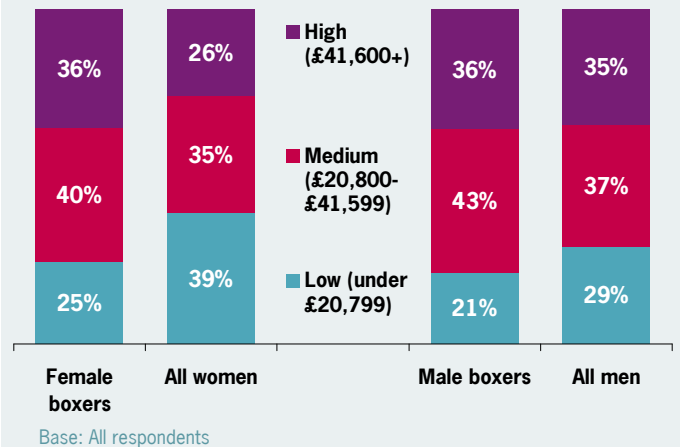
## Participation - demographics

- Boxing has a similar age profile as many team sports, with three quarters of those taking part being under the age of 34
- However, women's boxing in particular seems to be reaching the BME population, with proportionally more female BME participants than in the general population
- The student population offers a route in for boxing – already students are more likely to box than women in full-time employment

Proportion of people who box by gender and working status (2007-08)

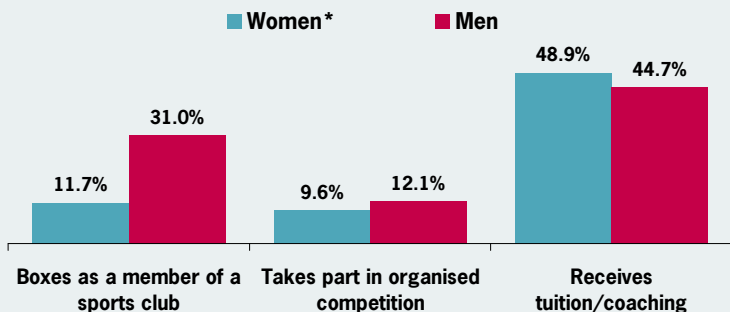


Profile of people who box by gender and household income level (2007-08)



# Organised participation

People who take part in boxing as a member of a sports club, take part in organised competition and receives tuition by gender (2007-08)



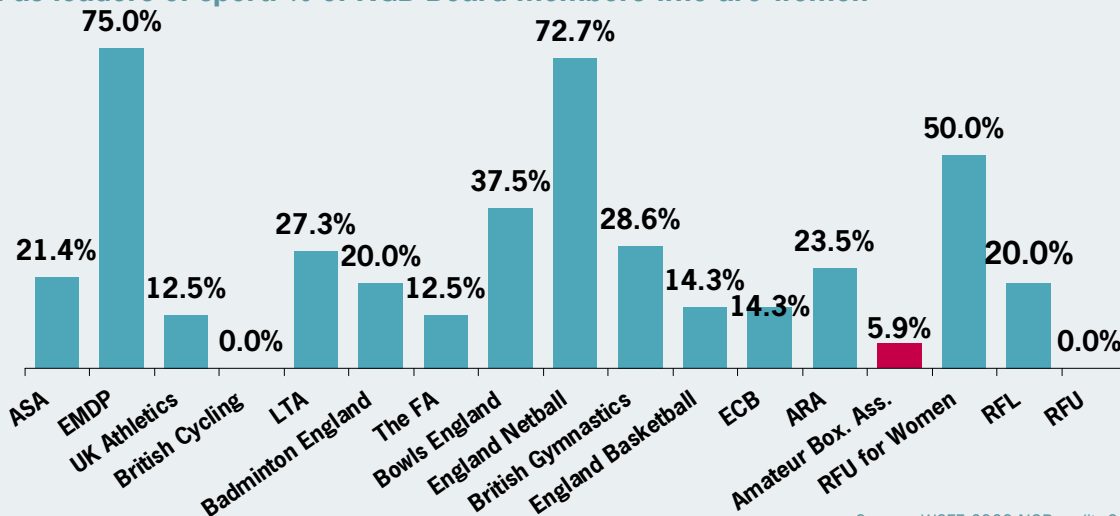
Base: All respondents who box at least once in the last four weeks. See Note 2. \* Read data with caution due to small number of respondents

## Organised participation

- Boxing has a traditional club structure and women coming into the sport have bucked the trend – just one in eight take part as a member of a club
- The numbers receiving tuition are also encouraging, but very few women have chosen to take the step into organised competition (though this is mirrored in their male counterparts)

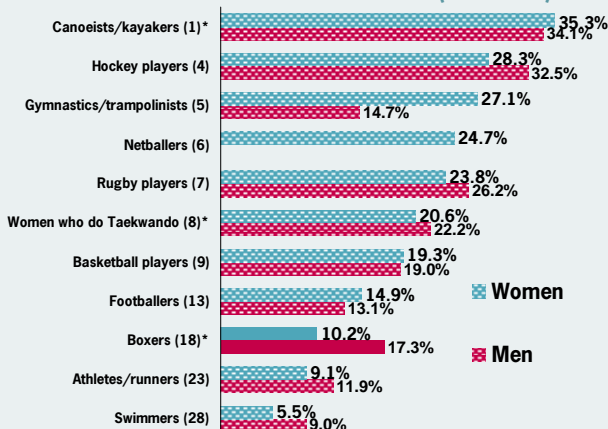
# Women as leaders and volunteers

Women as leaders of sport: % of NGB Board members who are women



Source: WSFF 2009 NGB audit. See Note 3

Women and men as volunteers (2007-08)



Base: All respondents who play the sport at least once a week. Selected popular sports for women + similar sports to rugby. Figure in brackets is the sport's ranking out of 29 sports for volunteering. See Note 4. \* Read data with caution due to small number of respondents

## Women as leaders and volunteers

- If the Amateur Boxing Association is to properly represent its audience then it needs to consider reforming its governance – just 6% of its board members are female
- Boxers are also less likely to volunteer for sport – and women even less likely than men. In a sport where the club membership ethic is so strong, this is surprising

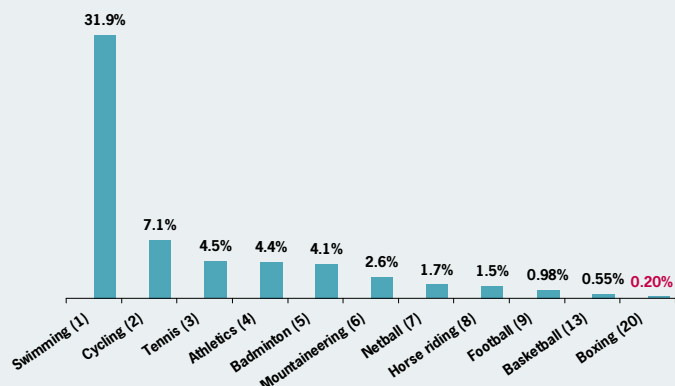
# Women's demand for boxing

## Satisfaction of female boxers compared with average for all women who do sport/activity



Source: Sport England's Satisfaction with the quality of the sporting experience survey (2009).  
Base: Female respondents (16+) who rated their satisfaction as 8-10 on a 1 to 10 scale. Figures in brackets are satisfaction percentages for all sportswomen. See Note 5

## What sports do women want to do more of?



Base: All female respondents who said they wanted to do more sport and physical activity

## To sum up...

Women's boxing is a fairly new sport (it only started as a sport in England for women officially in 1996) and is yet to show consistent growth. However, it has the potential to appeal to a broad spectrum of women and is already reaching the BME audience. Also, the hugely positive satisfaction scores are testament to how women participants enjoy their boxing.

Boxing's challenge is to begin to grow the number of participants, whilst retaining the elements that make it so enjoyable for existing participants. Progress is in place: the performance pathway was completed in 2009 and the sport has started to develop opportunities and improve provision through its national women's strategy.

Higher female representation at board level would also help to speak to women and enable the sport to deliver boxing that suits the needs of women.

### Notes

1 Source for all data is the Active People Survey 2 (2007-08) unless otherwise stated. 16 year olds and over in England only. Sports used in comparison are the 46 Sport England funded sports except where data are not available or sample sizes too small. Using a gym is not included in this series of factsheets.

2 Club membership is based on those who have been a member of a sports club to participate in boxing in the past four weeks. These figures may not correspond with National Governing Body's (NGB) affiliation figures. Organised competition is defined as 'having taken part in any organised competition in boxing in the last 12 months'. Received tuition is defined as 'having received tuition from an instructor or coach to improve your performance in boxing in the last 12 months'.

3 In 2009 WSFF undertook an audit of all 46 Sport England funded NGBs. NGBs were asked to provide demographic data about board members, affiliated coaches and members. Proportions will include chief executives who attend board meetings but who may not have voting rights. Sports chosen for comparison are the top participation sports for women + sports similar to boxing.

4 Volunteering is defined as 'volunteering to support sport for at least one hour a week'. Sports chosen for comparison are selected top participation sports for women + sports similar to boxing.

5 Survey respondents were asked to rate their perceived satisfaction for 75 questions across ten themes. Figures in brackets are aggregate satisfaction percentages of the individual theme questions. Domains ranked in order of satisfaction for all women.

To convert overall percentages to population numbers use the following figures:

Survey	Male 16+	Female 16+
APS 1	19,756,900	20,954,000
APS 2	20,170,100	21,266,200
APS 3	20,368,300	21,408,400

Source: Office for National Statistics England Mid-year Population Estimates, 2005, 2007 and 2008

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