

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2020**  
**Lausanne, Switzerland**

### **INTERNATIONAL BOWLING FEDERATION (IBF) APPOINT SAUDI ARABIAN PIONEER OF WOMEN'S SPORT AS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

Dr Razan Baker of Saudi Arabia has been appointed the Chairperson of the International Bowling Federation's (IBF) Women in Sport Committee by IBF President HE Sheikh Talal Mohammed Al-Sabah.

Dr Baker currently serves on the Saudi Bowling Federation Board whilst also being the Director of International Communications for the Saudi Olympic Committee alongside working as a sports columnist for the Arab News.

Growing up in a sports mad family, Dr Baker followed her dream to become a sports columnist for the Arab News publication, where she noticed the limited number of sporting role models that young women in Saudi Arabia had to emulate. In order to combat this issue and together with the support and guidance of the President of the Saudi Bowling Federation (SBF), Mr Bader Al-Alshaikh, she has played advocate to Saudi's women bowlers by working to further develop their sporting skills and play a role on the international sporting stage. A break through in this initiative came in 2019 when for the first time in Saudi's women in sport history, the SBF sent a women's team to compete at the World Bowling Women's Championships in Las Vegas. Dr Baker served as their Team Manager.

Over the past two years, the SBF has more than quadrupled its athlete membership numbers. An achievement which has been realised by the outstanding work that the federation has done to support its women in sport initiative.

IBF President, HE Sheikh Talal Mohammed Al-Sabah said "The Saudi Bowling Federation has already achieved so much to pioneer the sport of bowling amongst women within its country. Dr Baker has been a big part of this success and therefore her appointment to lead the IBF's Women in Sport committee was not a difficult decision. Myself and the IBF Executive Board look forward to working with her in the future to champion our female athletes to the next level."

Dr Baker will lead a team of committee members on the Women in Sport Committee where amongst other objectives, they will aim to set strategies that advocate for increased participation of women athletes within bowling and in leadership positions within the IBF and its member federations.

## About IBF

The International Bowling Federation represents member federations and bowlers from across the world. At the heart of what we do, uniting us all, is our mission to connect the world with the greatness of bowling.

Connecting further, faster, for all. Ninepin, academy, para, male, female, young, old; whoever you are, wherever you come from, our sport crosses cultures. Truly inclusive, united by a passion for bowling, we bring the world closer together by innovating our sport with technology and data.

Championing the best of bowling. Guardians of our sport, we show bowling at its best. By removing the complexity and barriers to play, without compromising the integrity of our sport.

IBF is the International governing body for the sport of Tenpin, Ninepin and Para Bowling representing five continental zones and 114 member federations.

IBF was recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1979 as the world governing body for the sport of Bowling and by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) in 2019 for ParaBowling.