

New Zealand Olympic Ambassador

Suzannah Bates

Olympian number:

994

Discipline:
Basketball

Position:
Guard

Suzannah (Suzie) Bates was born in Dunedin in 1987. She has always been a sporting all-rounder. For as long as she can remember, she's played both basketball and cricket, excelling at both.

Suzie's natural leadership and sporting abilities stood out when she was at school. As a student at Otago Girls' High School, she received a Manu Pounamu Young Achievers' Award. These annual awards identify leadership potential among students in Otago secondary schools and encourage young Māori to pursue tertiary study. They also provide Māori students with positive role models, including past recipients of the awards who are achieving great things, like Suzie.

In 2006, Suzie became an international athlete. She debuted for the White Ferns, the New Zealand women's cricket team, playing in an ODI (One Day International) match against India. In 2007, she played her first Twenty20 match for the White Ferns, in a game against South Africa.

Quick facts

Favourite food: Salmon with avocado. Chocolate

Favourite movie: *Sister Act*

Favourite music: Alicia Keys and anything I can sing or dance to

Childhood heroes: Michael Jordan and Sachin Tendulkar

Current favourite athlete: Alison Shanks

Most rewarding moment in sport: Knowing that you have given everything you had in training and you are then rewarded in competitions

Talents other than sport: I rate myself in the kitchen and I love to sing but I would not call them talents!

Biggest injury: Broken collarbone and ankle injuries from basketball

Biggest sacrifice: I don't believe I have made sacrifices. I have just made choices to prioritise sport and be as good as I can be.

Job outside sport: I have just graduated from PE school at Otago University so I have been doing part-time coaching to support my cricket.



**New Zealand
Olympic Education**

Suzie was a standout player in the White Ferns' campaign to qualify for the ICC Women's World Cup in 2009, and in the World Cup itself. She helped the team win a place in the final against England, by smashing 168 off 105 balls against Pakistan, breaking the world record. As of 2012, Suzie still holds the record for the highest ever score in a women's ODI match. She also holds the record for the highest innings (183) in the New Zealand women's domestic cricket league.

When she's not playing cricket, Suzie can often be found on the basketball court. Throughout her teens, she represented New Zealand in the national age-group teams. She has also played for Logan Thunder in the Australian Women's National Basketball League, and the Otago Goldrush and Christchurch Sirens.

In 2007, Suzie was selected for the Tall Ferns, the New Zealand women's basketball team, and toured with the team to Japan, China and Taiwan. By joining the Tall Ferns as well as the White Ferns, Suzannah became a 'double international', an athlete who represents New Zealand in two sports.

Already a New Zealand cricket legend, Suzie showed New Zealand that she is a real all-rounder when she played for the Tall Ferns at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. She contributed valuable international experience, as well as lots of energy, skill and passion.

Suzie managed to successfully balance cricket and basketball for most of her early sporting career. However, in 2011, she had a tough decision to make when she was named captain of the White Ferns. The 2012 London Olympic Games were coming up, but her new leadership role meant an extra commitment to New Zealand cricket. She decided that her basketball career had to come second to cricket for the time being, and she put her dream of a second Olympic experience on hold. When interviewed by the *New Zealand Herald* about being named the White Ferns' captain, Suzie said:

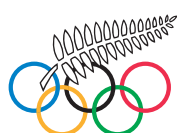
"I've been balancing the two [sports] for the last eight years and I've been very fortunate to be able to have done both. Captaining New Zealand in cricket is something that is not easy to turn down and it does mean that

Career highlights

- 2015** ICC Women's ODI and T20 Cricketer of the Year
- 2011** FIBA Oceania Championship for Women: Basketball
- 2010** ICC Women's World Twenty20 competition: Cricket (Second)
- 2009** FIBA Oceania Championship for Women: Basketball
- 2009** ICC Women's World Twenty20 competition: Cricket (Second)
- 2009** ICC Women's World Cup: Cricket ODI (Second)
- 2008** Beijing Olympic Games: Basketball (Tenth)
- 2007** R. William Jones Cup, Taiwan: Basketball

Honours

- 2007** Junior Māori Sportswoman of the Year – Te Tamahine-a-Papatuanuku, Māori Sports Awards



basketball's in the backseat but I still love both games and, at the moment, the cricket's at the forefront and I'm still committed to that. But it doesn't mean basketball won't still get a chance later down the track."

(Wednesday 14 December, 2011)

On top of juggling domestic and international cricket and basketball, Suzie found time to study part-time at Otago University. In 2012, she graduated with a Bachelor of Physical Education.

Cricket has been Suzie's main focus since 2011, and she was one of the first women to be ever given a contract by New Zealand cricket in 2013. Highlights have included captaining the White Ferns, being named Player of the 2013 Women's World Cup, and the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year in both 2013 and 2015. In 2014 Suzie scored 94 not out against Pakistan in the Women's T20 World Cup, the highest score by a New Zealander in international T20s. Suzie plays for the Otago Sparks in New Zealand, but also county cricket in England, and for the Perth Scorchers in the Australian Womens' Big Bash.

Suzie was named a New Zealand Olympic Ambassador in 2012.

Links

Suzannah Bates' Olympic Museum profile:

<http://imuseum.olympic.org.nz/museum/athlete/profile/28708>

Follow the NZ Olympic Team here:



NZ Olympic Team



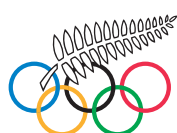
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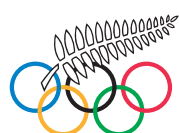
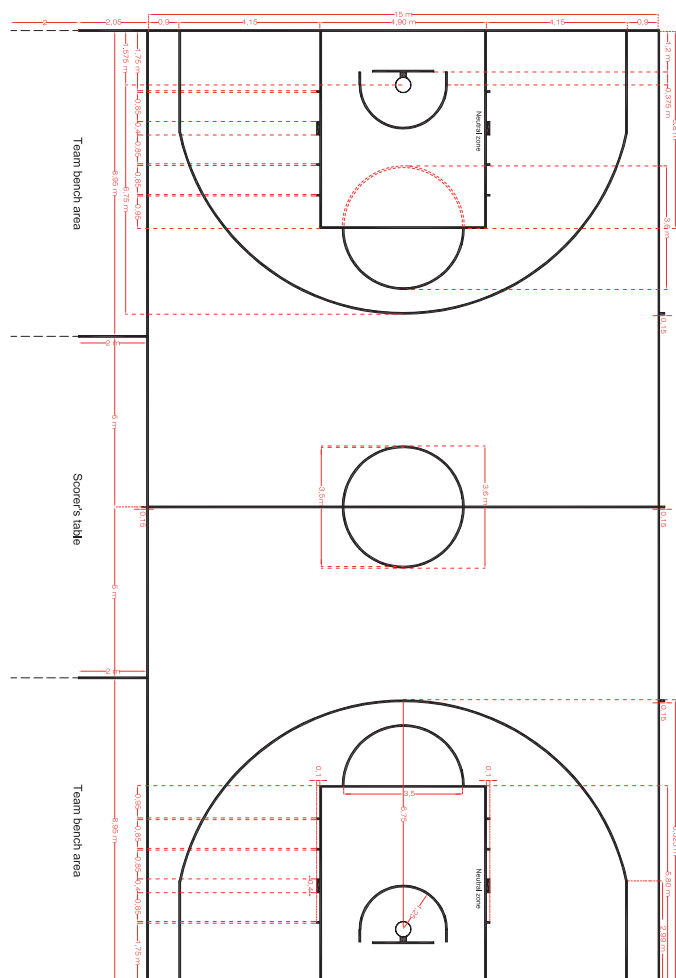
Official Olympic Sport

Basketball

Men's basketball has featured in the Olympic Games since the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. Women's basketball was introduced at the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games. Professional players first competed at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, where the United States men's 'Dream Team' won Gold.

The court

A basketball court is 28 metres long and 15 metres wide. It is divided into two halves and has a free-throw line marked 5.8 metres from each end. At each end, there is a basket mounted on a backboard, 3.5 metres off the ground. A three-point line is marked in an arc 6.75 metres from each basket.



New Zealand
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The basics

Basketball is played by two teams of up to twelve players. Only five players are on the court at one time. Players move the ball up the court by dribbling (one-handed bouncing) it and passing it to teammates. They score points by shooting the ball in the basket. Players score two points if they are standing on or inside the three-point line, and they score three points if they are behind it. The team with the most points win. If the game is a draw, it can go into overtime.

Basketball games are 40 minutes long and split into four 10-minute quarters. Once a team has the ball, they have only 24 seconds to shoot or the ball goes to the other team. The clock stops every time there is a break in play and teams can call one-minute time-outs.

Olympic events

Twelve men's and twelve women's teams can qualify to compete at the Olympic Games. The men's and women's events follow the same competition format:

- Twelve teams are divided into two groups of six. Each team plays against all the other teams in their group. Teams receive two points for each win and one point for each loss.
- The top four teams in each group compete against each other in the knockout stage. The top two teams in each group play each other next.
- The teams that come second in each group play each other for the Bronze Medal.
- The top team from each group play for the Gold Medal. The team that loses earns the Silver Medal.

Important points

Basketball is a non-contact sport. Players need to be careful not to commit fouls or violations.

Fouls are offences committed against an opposition player. If a player commits a foul, the other team gets a free throw in from the sideline. If a player is fouled during a shot at goal, they get shots at goal from the free-throw line. They get two free-throws if the foul happens on or inside the three-point line and three if it happens outside it. Each free-throw that goes in is worth one point.

- **Defensive foul** – a defender blocks, pushes, tips, strikes or holds an offensive player who has the ball
- **Offensive foul** – an offensive player charges into a defender who is standing still.

If a player commits five fouls, they have to leave the court and be replaced by another player.

Violations are when a player breaks the rules. As a result, the ball goes to the other team.

- **Travelling** – a player takes more than 2 steps without bouncing the ball
- **Double dribble** – a player stops dribbling and then starts again or bounces the ball with both hands on the ball
- **Carry** – a player carries the ball with their hand underneath it. Players' hands must always remain on top of the ball.

