



How to Talk About:
**THE THREAT TO
WOMEN'S SPORTS**

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Five Key Points: About The Threat To Women's Sports

- 1** **Across the country, increasing numbers of males are seeking to compete on women's sports teams.** Many athletic associations today allow athletes to compete according to their gender identity, rather than according to biological sex. And some states allow any male to compete on women's teams if the school offers no male counterpart.
- 2** **Male-bodied athletes have an unfair advantage over athletes with female bodies.** The science is clear: on average males are stronger, bigger, and faster than females. They, therefore, dominate in sports where strength, size, or speed are relevant factors.
- 3** **Allowing males to participate in women's sports takes opportunities away from females.** On teams with limited roster spots, allowing males to take spots on the team means that females lose opportunities to play and, in some cases, scholarships.
- 4** **When male athletes participate in women's sports, female athletes can get hurt.** Because of strength and size differentials, allowing males to participate in certain women's sports places females at risk of physical injury.
- 5** **Allowing male athletes to participate in women's sports undermines Title IX.** Congress passed Title IX in 1972 to expand opportunities for women and girls. Since 1972, the creation of separate single-sex teams for female athletes has led to an explosion in female athletic participation. Eliminating single-sex teams will inevitably erode some of those gains.

Female Athlete Stories



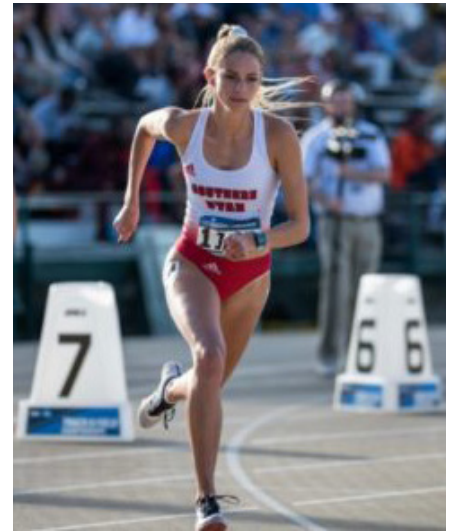
ALANNA SMITH

High School Track Athlete
Speaks Out to Save Girls'
Sports



RILEY GAINES BARKER

12X All-American Swimmer
Works to Protect the
Integrity of Sports



LINNEA SALTZ

The Female College Athlete
Whose Years Of Training
May Now Be In Vain



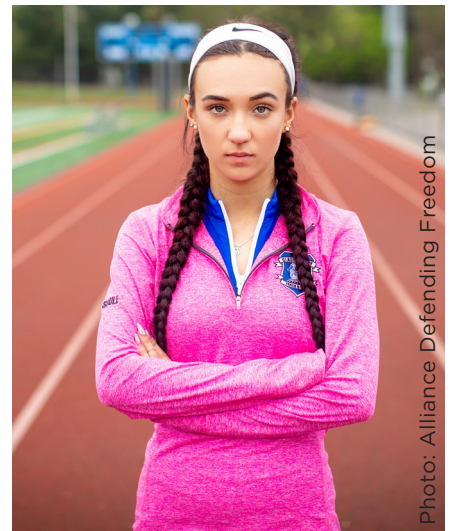
MADISON KENYON AND MARY KATE MARSHALL

Two Idaho Track Stars
Are Fighting the ACLU to
Protect Women's Sports



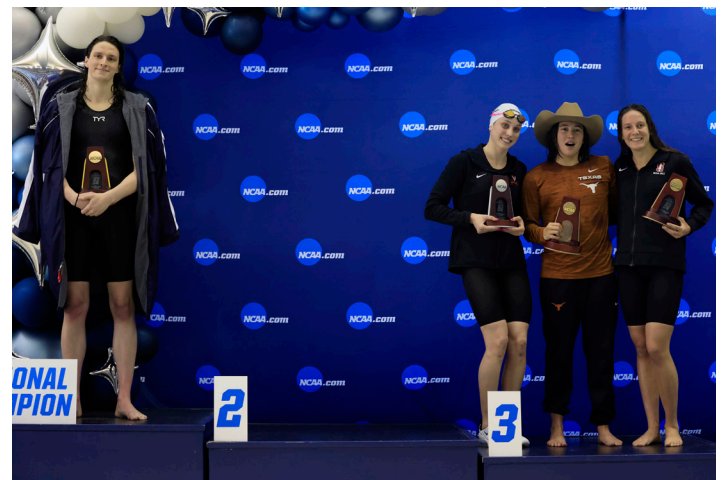
MADISAN DEBOS

College Cross Country Athlete
Eager to Change Rules
After Relay Team Forced to
Compete Against Male



SELINA SOULE

High School Runner Who
Lost to Transgender
Athletes Will Compete In
College



Quiz: Women's Sports

1 Title IX is:

- A.** An athletic clothing company for women
- B.** A law that prohibits sex discrimination in educational programs that receive federal financial assistance
- C.** The ninth step in a 12-step fitness program

2 Since the passage of Title IX in 1972, the percentage of women and girls playing sports has:

- A.** Increased exponentially
- B.** Dropped dramatically
- C.** Stayed about the same

3 In which sport are women's records about the same as the men's records?

- A.** Swimming
- B.** Running
- C.** Weight lifting
- D.** None of the above

4 TRUE or FALSE: Science indicates that males possess a significant athletic advantage over females.

- A.** True
- B.** False

5 TRUE or FALSE: Testosterone suppression eliminates the male athletic advantage over females.

- A.** True
- B.** False

6 The threat to women's sports today comes from:

- A.** The courts
- B.** Congress
- C.** The Executive Branch
- D.** Athletic associations
- E.** Proposed constitutional amendments
- F.** All of the above

7 TRUE OR FALSE: Some activists want to eliminate sex-segregated sports altogether.

- A.** True
- B.** False

Quiz Answers

Q1 ANSWER: B

Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972 states:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Federal **regulations** implementing Title IX require schools, colleges, and universities that receive federal money to “provide equal athletic opportunity for members of **both** sexes.” (emphasis added)

Q2 ANSWER: A

According to the World Economic Forum, since 1972, there has been a 545% increase in the percentage of women playing college sports and a 990% increase in the percentage of women playing high school sports.

Q3 ANSWER: D

Women's athletic records are generally not comparable to men's. A comparison of world records in the 800m freestyle swim competition shows an **8.4%** difference in speed between male and female athletes. In **Olympic weightlifting**, the strongest male record is over a hundred pounds more

than the strongest female record. Although Allyson Felix is arguably the fastest woman in the world, **nearly 300 high school boys** in the United States alone can beat her lifetime best for the 400-meter.

Q4 ANSWER: A

There is at least a **10 to 12%** difference between male and female athletic performance. Scientists regard this difference not simply as a difference in human variation between top athletes and others, but as an average difference between the two biological sexes. While there are, of course, some very talented female athletes who can beat many male athletes, the best female athletes still **stand little chance against the top male athletes** in their sport.

Q5 ANSWER: B

Altering testosterone levels after puberty **does not eliminate the male athletic advantage**. As transgender athlete and doctor **Joanna Harper** has acknowledged, “I’ve been on hormone therapy for 15 years, and I carry more muscle mass than a woman my size, absolutely.” Altering testosterone levels prior to the onset of male puberty may eliminate much of the male athletic advantage, but it does not eliminate all of it.

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Q6 ANSWER: F

At least **19 state athletic associations** allow athletes to compete according to their gender identity without restriction, meaning without surgery or hormone therapy.

In **some states** that have adopted equal rights amendments to their constitutions, public schools are prohibited from barring males from playing on women's sports teams. In Massachusetts, for example, boys are allowed to try out for and compete on girls' high school field hockey teams.

The **NCAA** allows biological males to compete on women's teams once they have completed one calendar year of testosterone suppression treatment and demonstrated that their testosterone levels meet levels set by the governing body for their sport.

In 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *Bostock v. Clayton County* that Title VII's prohibition on workplace sex discrimination prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity. Although that case dealt with employment, not education or athletics, the Biden administration has unilaterally applied that ruling to Title IX, meaning to women's sports. Unfortunately, the reasoning of *Bostock* is so broad that, if

applied to athletics, it may prohibit all separate male and female teams.

In February 2021, the House of Representatives passed **H.R.5**, the so-called Equality Act, which redefines "sex" to include "gender identity." If passed, this law would require schools and athletic associations across the country to open up girls' and women's sports to male-bodied athletes.

The proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution could be interpreted to prohibit all single-sex sports permanently.

Q7 ANSWER: A

Efforts to eliminate single-sex sports are picking up steam. Some activists argue that sex is a "social construct" and that sex segregation in athletic competitions should be prohibited. Others have argued that allowing males and females to compete in separate divisions reinforces pernicious **gender stereotypes** and undermines honest evaluation of athletic ability. Writing in *Newsweek*, **Professor Robyn Ryle** says that "sports remain one of the last strongholds for the cult of gender differences." Ryle claims that sex is not a meaningful category when it comes to competitive sport. Activists like these seek to eliminate single-sex teams altogether.

Misperceptions v. Facts

1. MISPERCEPTION: This isn't a big problem.

FACT: Since 2017, males have won at least 24 women's sports titles. This does not include second, third, and other placings, nor does it include numerous unreported cases at the middle school, high school, and D3 levels. This number will inevitably grow as the number of trans-identifying students grows.

FACT: It is not only trans-identified athletes who are seeking to play women's sports. Across the country, boys are seeking spots on traditionally female athletic teams that do not offer a male counterpart. For example, in Massachusetts, numerous male athletes have been allowed to compete on varsity field hockey teams (since schools do not typically offer men's field hockey teams).

2. MISPERCEPTION: Allowing biological males to participate in women's sports won't disadvantage women and girls.

FACT: On teams with limited roster spots, allowing biological males to participate will take spots, playing time, and scholarships away from women and girls.

FACT: In head-to-head competitions, allowing biological males to compete

in women's divisions will limit female athletes' chances of success.

FACT: Allowing biological males to play women's sports will, in some cases, place female athletes at risk of injury.

3. MISPERCEPTION: Sex segregation is not necessary in athletic competition.

FACT: Without separate single-sex teams, males will dominate competitive sports where size, strength, and speed are

factors, depriving female athletes of equal athletic opportunities.

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4. MISPERCEPTION: Preventing trans-identified athletes from competing in women's sports is discriminatory.

FACT: Competitive sports are not supposed to be inclusive. Varsity teams are selective; colleges recruit athletes to fill their rosters. Not everyone gets to participate in these activities.

FACT: In order to qualify for a women's team, athletes need to be female. It is not discriminatory to require that athletes meet that basic qualification any more than it is discriminatory to require that athletes be enrolled in the school that offers the team.

5. MISPERCEPTION: Trans-identified athletes lose any competitive advantage over females once they start suppressing testosterone.

FACT: Biological males maintain many physical advantages over females after fully transitioning. A [2020 study](#) found

that one year of testosterone suppression resulted in only modest physical changes in athletes who were born male.

6. MISPERCEPTION: *Bostock* won't adversely impact women's sports.

FACT: Although the *Bostock* decision should be limited to employment law, the Biden administration and several courts have taken the liberty of applying it to Title IX and women's sports. *Bostock* adopts a but-for test to determine if sex discrimination has occurred. In the sports'

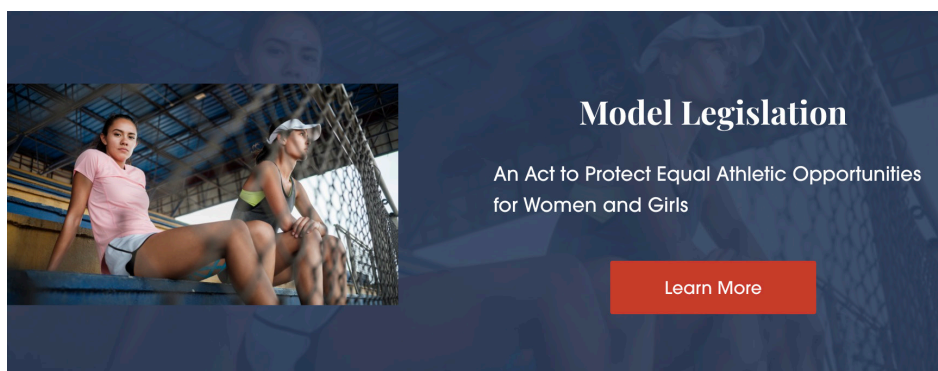
context almost every decision to keep a male athlete off a women's roster would be different *but-for* the biological sex of the athlete. Applying this but-for test to sports would, therefore, eliminate single-sex teams for women.

What You Can Do

SIGN THE PETITION



SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROTECT WOMEN'S SPORTS



CONTACT USA SWIMMING



SIGN THE WOMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS



Social Media Kit



Post the below messages, videos, and graphics to social media and make your voice heard.

Tag us so we can RT/Share your post:

- @IWV (Twitter)
- @IndependentWomensVoice (Facebook)
- @IndependentWomensVoice (Instagram)

Hashtags to include: #SaveWomensSports #OurBodiesOurSports

VISUALS: Include these visuals with any Twitter, Facebook or Instagram posts.

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