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womenssportsfoundation.org

<http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/cgi-bin/iowa/issues/rights/article.html?record=34>

Mythbusting: What Every Female Athlete Should Know!

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Get the facts about the rights of female athletes, their interest in sports and why it's a great idea to play.



DID YOU KNOW that prior to 1970, if a woman wanted to pursue a professional degree in college, chances were she wouldn't be admitted to a law school or medical school program because she was a woman?

There were quotas on the number of women allowed to enter these programs. Men and women thought this was wrong. In 1972, Congress passed Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments Act, a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender at educational institutions that are recipients of federal funds. Popularly called "Title IX", this law opened the door for women to become doctors, lawyers and college athletes. Title IX also applies to elementary, junior high and high schools. Access to education is critically important. Everyone should have a chance to take advantage of every educational program in our schools including athletics. All boys and girls should have a chance to pursue their dreams of what they want to be -- doctor, lawyer or a pitcher for the NY Yankees -- and not be told "no" because of their gender, ethnicity, color or their skin, etc.

Title IX is a federal law that requires high schools and colleges that receive federal funds to not discriminate on the basis of gender in the provision of any educational activity -- including athletics. Female athletes should be treated as well as male athletes.

What does Title IX require?

Title IX requires proportional participation opportunities. The percentage of female athletes in the athletic program (numbers of athletes, not numbers of teams) needs to match the percentage of girls in your student body. The only defenses to not having this number of participants is your schools demonstrating that (1) it is gradually adding women's sports over time to try to expand participation (it has to show that it has actually added teams rather than just saying it will) or (2) it has already accommodated the interest and ability of all girls (no girls want to play another sport, in that school or its recruiting district).

Title IX requires that college female athletes receive scholarship

dollars proportional to their sports participation. **DID YOU KNOW** that, at the college level, male athletes still receive \$133 million more scholarship dollars than female athletes every year? However, the scholarship situation is improving and you may have an opportunity to get an athletic scholarship if you know how. Visit our website to find out what schools offer scholarships in your sport.

Title IX requires that male and female athletes receive the same benefits of athletic participation:

- equipment, uniforms, supplies
- access to weight room and training room
- equal practice facilities
- same size and quality locker rooms and competition facilities
- equal access to practice and games during prime time
- same quality coaches as boys' teams
- opportunity to play the same quality opponents
- the same awards and awards banquets
- cheerleaders and band performances at girls' games too, etc.