



Title IX Coordinator Training Online Course

Class Six: Athletics Equity and Applying the August 2020 Regulations

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PLEASE NOTE: Training Course Only. Does Not Constitute Legal Advice.

Class Overview



- Athletic Equity
- Pay Equity
- The Regs
- Trans Athletes

Athletic Equity

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**Sources of Law, Title IX
Enforcement, and the impact of
Pandemics
(NCAA does NOT enforce Title IX)**

Schoolhouse Rock:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEPd98CbbMk>

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Role of the NCAA:

- Support the membership as established by the [NCAA Constitution](#)
- Four membership DEI committees
 - Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity
 - Committee on Women's Athletics
 - Gender Equity Task Force
 - Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee
- [NCAA Inclusion Statement](#)
 - “The NCAA will provide or enable programming and education . . . “
 - Annual Inclusion Forum

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EADA Equity in Athletics
Data Analysis

The tools you need for Equity in Athletics analysis

- Get Data for One School**
Search for a school to view general information and EADA statistical data for the most recent year.
- Compare Data for Multiple Schools**
Select up to four schools to see a side-by-side comparison of data for the most recent year.
- Download Custom Data**
Select the EADA statistical data you are interested in for one or more years and download data for a customized group of schools.
- Generate Trend Data**
Select a subject area and a question that you are interested in, and then see the answer for a selected year, build a table, and see a graph that shows the trend over time. You can customize your results by various institutional characteristics such as athletic sanctioning body, public or private, and state.
- Download Data**
Download the complete data file for all institutions from a single data collection. Files will include all data submitted by all institutions in the selected survey year.

PART 1: ATHLETIC EQUITY

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Athletic Equity Compliance: Three Separate and Independent Areas of Compliance



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Activities counted as Sports for purposes of Title IX

- NCAA Championship sports are presumed to be countable.
- For non-NCAA sports, a review may consider the following, among other factors:

PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION —

Is the program provided a budget, support services, access to coaching, equitable eligibility for athletics scholarships and awards, and are the student-athletes recruited in a manner consistent with established varsity sports?

TEAM PREPARATION AND COMPETITION —

Does the team practice and compete in a manner consistent with established varsity sport programs? Included in this review, among other factors, are the following considerations:

- Are there standardized rules of play and competition criteria for the sport?
- Are the support services provided based on the competitive needs of the program?
- Is post-season play determined by regular season performance?
- Is team selection based on athletics ability?

Dear Colleague Letter: Athletic Activities Counted for Title IX Compliance (OCR 2008), <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-20080917.html> .

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Title IX Countable Participation Opportunity

OCR defines a Title IX Participant as one:

1. who is receiving the institutionally sponsored support normally provided to athletes competing at the institution involved (e.g., coaching, equipment, medical and training room services) on a regular basis during a sport's season; **and**
2. who is participating in organized practice sessions and other team meetings and activities on a regular basis during a sport's season; **and**
3. who is listed on the eligibility or squad lists maintained for each sport; **or**
4. who, because of injury, cannot meet 1, 2, or 3 above but continues to receive financial aid on the basis of athletic ability.

Per guidance, "OCR considers a sport's season to commence on the date of a team's first intercollegiate competitive event and to conclude on the date of the team's final intercollegiate competitive event."

Dear Colleague Letter, *Clarification of Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Guidance: the Three-Part Test*, OFFICE FOR CIV. RIGHTS, U.S. DEP'T OF EDUC. (Jan. 16, 1996)) available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/clarific.html>.

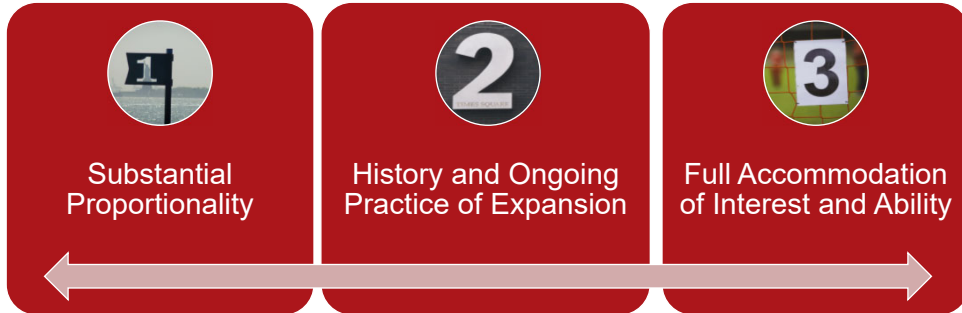
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What about . . .



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Equitable Participation: The Three Part Test



Prong 1.

Male and female intercollegiate participation is provided in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective full-time undergraduate enrollment, or

Prong 2.

The institution has a history and continuing practice of program expansion responsive to the developing interests and abilities of the members of the underrepresented gender, or

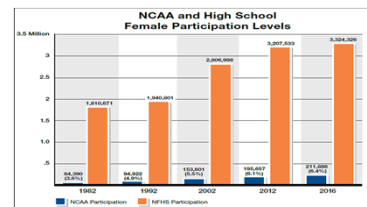
Prong 3.

The interests and abilities of the members of the underrepresented gender are fully and effectively accommodated by the present program.

Dear Colleague Letter, *Clarification of Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Guidance: the Three-Part Test*, OFFICE FOR CIV. RIGHTS, U.S. DEP'T OF EDUC. (Jan. 16, 1996)) available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/clarific.html>.

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Sport Cuts that Involve the Underrepresented Sex: Typically Require Prong 1 Compliance Post Program Elimination



ENFORCEMENT —

OCR: Investigation. Letter of Findings. 302 Resolution Agreement. Referral to DOJ.

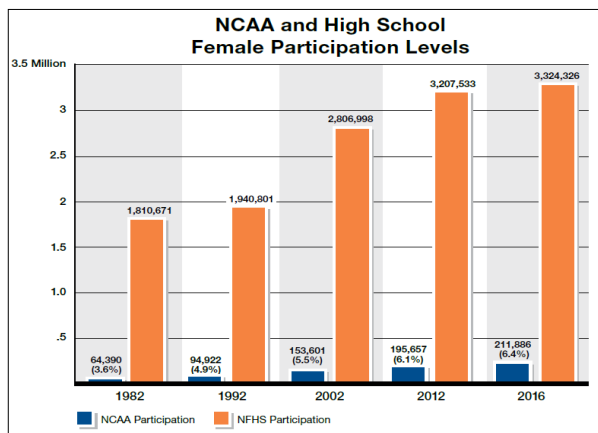
Court: No Administrative Exhaustion. No Cap on Damages. Injunctive Relief. Class Actions. Attorneys Fees.

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OCR Substantial Proportionality

- Amicus Brief (United States) in the Michigan State University (MSU) Case:
 - OCR “has not specified a magic number at which substantial proportionality is achieved.” *Equity In Athletics, Inc. v. Department of Educ.*, 639 F.3d 91, 110 (4th Cir. 2011), cert. denied 565 U.S. 1111 (2012); see also *Biediger*, 691 F.3d at 106 (explaining that the Second Circuit did not “understand the 1996 Clarification to create a statistical safe harbor at [2%] or any other percentage”).
 - What matters *** is whether the participation gap is large enough to sustain a *viable* team. As the 1996 Clarification explains, where “it is likely that a viable sport could be added,” an institution will not satisfy the first prong. (1996 Clarification).
 - Here, the district court failed to conduct the necessary fact-intensive inquiry to determine whether a participation gap of at least 15 athletes (if not more) could sustain a *viable* women’s team.
 - **If [the school] can field a viable team of eight female tennis players, for example, it will not have satisfied [the substantial proportionality standard].**

Prong 3: Accommodating Interest & Abilities



Does the current line up of sports effectively accommodate the athletic interests and abilities of the underrepresented sex?

What is the underrepresented sex?

Is there:

- unmet interest in a particular sport;
- sufficient ability to sustain a team in the sport; and
- a reasonable expectation of competition in the normal competitive area?

How much interest/ability/competition is enough?

What is the relevant pool to be assessed?

Final Participation Question: Are there Equitable Levels of Competition?

The competitive schedules for men's and women's teams, on a program-wide basis, afford proportionately similar numbers of male and female athletes equivalently advanced competitive opportunities;

OR

There exists a history and continuing practice of upgrading the competitive opportunities available to the historically disadvantaged sex as warranted by developing abilities among the athletes of that sex.

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Athletics-Based Financial Aid/Scholarship Equity

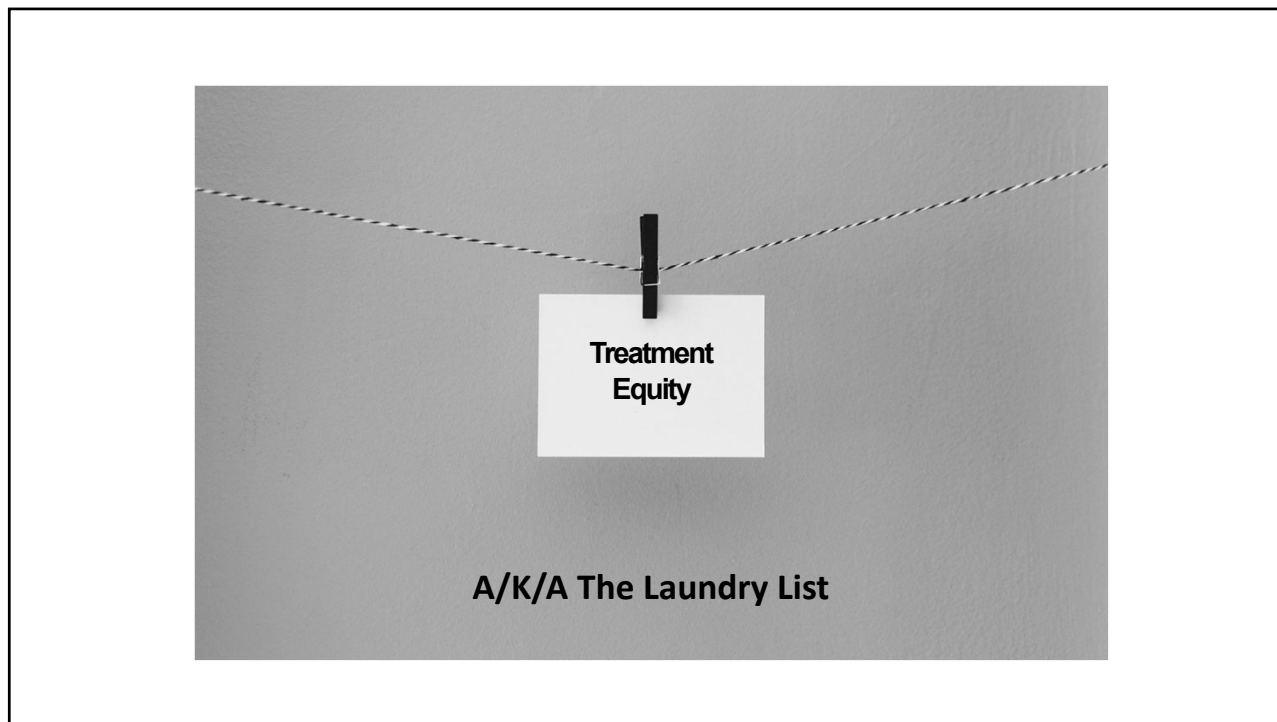


"If any unexplained disparity in the scholarship budget for athletes of either gender is 1% or less for the entire budget for athletic scholarships, there will be a strong presumption that such a disparity is reasonable and based on legitimate and nondiscriminatory factors. Conversely, there will be a strong presumption that an unexplained disparity of more than 1% is in violation of the "substantially proportionate" requirement.

We would like to clarify that use of statistical tests is not appropriate in these circumstances."

Dear Colleague Letter – [Bowling Green](#) (July 23, 1998)

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Non-Exhaustive Areas of Review	Men's Program Overall	>/</=	Women's Program Overall
Equipment and Supplies (Apparel and Equipment)			
Scheduling (Practice, Competition)			
Travel (Mode, Housing, Food)			
Tutors/Academic Services (Personnel, Services)			
Coaches (Quantity, Quality, Compensation*)			
Facilities/Spaces (Practice, Competition, Locker Room)			
Medical (Personnel, Experience, Availability)			
Housing & Dining (Home)			
Publicity/Communications (Sports Information & Marketing)			
Support Services (Administrative, Office, Support)			
Recruiting (Financial & Other Support)			

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Sources of Funding

It's not a dollar to dollar analysis. Focus on goods and services. Where differences exist, OCR may focus on funding.

Private donations are institutional dollars and goods and services provided through private funding still count. In other words, those goods and services are included in the equity analysis.

See, e.g., Chalenor v. Univ. of North Dakota, 142 F. Supp. 2d 1154 (D.N.D. 2000)



Are the Disparities Significant? OCR v Judicial Review



Difference, on the Basis of Sex

- in benefits or services that has a . . .
- negative impact on athletes of one sex . . .
- when compared with benefits or services available to athletes of the other sex.

Disparity:

- So Substantial as to Deny Equal Opportunity to Athletes of One Sex.

Disparities that are not Substantial. . .

- Evidence to be Evaluated on a case by case basis.

See, e.g., Policy Interpretation, 44 Fed. Reg at 71,417 (1979).

Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation is intentional discrimination on the basis of sex.

One who witnesses and complains about discrimination is protected from adverse action they encounter because of the complaints.

Recognition that coaches, teachers, administrators and students are in the best position to witness and alert schools

See, e.g., *Jackson v. Birmingham Bd. of Educ.*, 544 U.S. 167 (2005)



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Compensation and Pay Equity

- **Title IX Program Review:**
Coaches of women's sports as compared to coaches of men's sports, and usually only when coaching inequities are otherwise identified.
- **Title IX Employment/EPA:**
Female coaches' salaries compared to male coaches' salaries.
 - Equal Pay for Equal Work
 - Non-Discriminatory Justifications
- **OFCCP Audits/Title VII/State Law**
- **Documenting & Auditing Compensation Systems/Approaches**



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NCAA Transgender Student-Athlete Participation

- NCAA has had a **policy** for a decade.

Policy currently under review by NCAA membership committees:

- Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport
- Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity

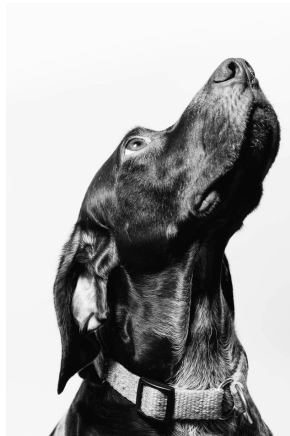
- NCAA **Summit** on Gender Identity and Student-Athlete Participation (Oct. 2020)



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What is the Role of the Title IX Office Around Athletic Equity?



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Athletics: Application of the 2020 Title IX Regulations

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Application (per the preamble):

- “[T]he Department declines to address other topics . . . such as pregnancy, parenting, or athletics under Title IX, coverage of Title IX to fraternities and sororities, whether speech codes discriminate based on sex, funding intended to protect women or young adults on campus, funding cuts to girls’ programs by recipients, or forms of harassment other than sexual harassment.”
- These complaints “may be referred” to the recipient’s Title IX Coordinator to review under the grievance procedures required by these Regulations.
- “[T]he handling of non-sexual harassment sex discrimination complaints brought by students and employees (for instance, complaints of sex-based different treatment in athletics . . .) remains the same as under current regulations (*i.e.*, recipients must have in place grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of such complaints).”

See Title IX Regulations, 85 FR 30026 at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/05/19/2020-10512/nondiscrimination-on-the-basis-of-sex-in-education-programs-or-activities-receiving-federal>

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Infusing Equity: Consider a Supplemental Policy

Sample Language:

This policy supplements the overall school policy prohibiting sexual harassment, [provide link] which also applies to all members of the athletics department, both staff and student-athletes.

School U. values the educational aspect of athletics and as such offers opportunities to compete in a [NAIA/NCAA] Division [I, II or III] varsity athletics program and is a member of the [name] conference[s], club level and intramural programs. School U. believes that its student-athletes should be provided gender equitable participation opportunities, receive gender equitable athletic scholarships, and be afforded gender equitable treatment overall.

To report an athletics gender equity concern or to a request for varsity status for an athletic team not currently offered at the varsity level, please contact School U's Title IX Coordinator, titleix@schoolu.edu, Office 405, University Hall, 8-4490.

No Retaliation Policy:

Employees and/or students who ask questions, seek advice or report a suspected violation of this policy are protected by School U's no retaliation policy. Retaliation will not be tolerated. If you suspect that you or another employee may be the victim of retaliation, you should contact TIX immediately. Those who violate the No Retaliation policy are subject to discipline.

IMPORTANT: Consider how complaints would be managed and findings would be implemented.

Notice:

- Reporting in Athletics
 - Title IX Coordinator in Athletics?
 - Officials with Authority to address Sexual Harassment?
 - Who else is required to report?
 - Confidential? By licensure?
 - Limited confidentiality? Why?



Athletics:

Supportive Measures

- Can not punish, discipline, or unreasonably burden the respondent.
- Denials must be documented.



Emergency Removals

- A school may remove an individual from one or more education programs or activities in situations where the person poses an immediate threat to the physical health and safety of any individual before an investigation into sexual harassment allegations concludes (or where no grievance process is pending).
 - The school makes an individualized assessment that “an imminent threat to the physical health or safety of any person, *arising from* sexual harassment allegations, justifies removal,” **and**
 - The school provides an opportunity to challenge its determination.
- An emergency removal cannot be imposed simply *because* an individual has been accused of sexual harassment.
- The Regulations do not prohibit a school from addressing violations of a school’s code of conduct, policies, or laws, **provided the conduct does not constitute Title IX sexual harassment or is not “arising from” Title IX misconduct allegations.**

Findings, Sanctions, & Appeals

Training:

- Annual Per NCAA Requirements
- All Staff
 - Administration
 - Team Doctors/ATC
 - Support Staff
 - Coaches
 - GAs and Paid Student Workers
- Student-Athletes
- Cross Campus Engagement
- Reporting Protocols
- Complaint Avenues
- In Person and Safe
- Protocols for Outside Speakers
- Importance of Face Time
- Retention/Time of Day/Time of Year
- Sport Examples
 - Consider Student Involvement/Investment
- Culture of Sport/Supervisor
- Confidential Resources
- Support for Complainants and Respondents
- Spotlight/Speed/Updates/Engagement
- Head Coach Culture of Compliance

Complying with NCAA Requirements: Policy and Attestation

- NCAA Board of Governors adopted a Policy on Campus Sexual Violence on Aug. 8, 2017.
- Requires annual attestations signed by the Director of Athletics, Title IX, and President (CEO).
- April 30, 2020 BOG revisions to the Policy expanded its reach and attestation content, effective Spring 2023.
- Policy and FAQ are on the NCAA Website
- Task Force
- In the meantime:
 - Consider Discussions with Title IX, General Counsel, and others on campus.
 - Explore Compliance Position.
 - Consider Intersection with the new Regulations around Permissive Dismissals and Confidentiality.
 - Forward Comments to Regional Conference or NCAA Office.



Attestation:



1. The athletics department is informed on, integrated in, and compliant with institutional policies and processes regarding sexual violence prevention and proper adjudication and resolution of acts of sexual and interpersonal violence.
2. The institutional policies and processes regarding sexual violence prevention and adjudication, and the name and contact information for the campus Title IX coordinator, are readily available within the department of athletics, and are provided to student-athletes.
3. All student-athletes, coaches and staff have been educated each year on sexual violence prevention, intervention and response, to the extent allowable by state law and collective bargaining agreements.

FAQs:

- **When did the policy begin?** August 2017. The most recent amendments are effective in the 2022-23 academic year. The annual attestation period runs from March 1 – May 15 each year.
- **What is the deadline for completing the annual education for coaches, student-athletes and athletics staff?** For the 2020-21 academic year, education should be completed prior to the May 15, 2021 deadline so that presidents or chancellors, athletics directors and campus Title IX coordinators can attest to their compliance by the May 15 deadline. The attestation form will be available electronically in the NCAA Learning Portal and on ncaa.org/csvpolicy beginning March 1, 2021 and must be completed by May 15, 2021. This is a firm deadline.
- **How do I upload my completed form?** Each school's director of athletics must upload the final form in the NCAA Learning portal.
- **What type of education meets the expectations of the policy?** The policy allows member schools to determine the types and manner of education provided. The [NCAA Sexual Violence Prevention Tool Kit](#) can assist member schools in this effort. The tool kit provides checklists for campus collaboration and educational resources created specifically for student-athletes. Those resources include the online curriculum myPlaybook, which includes a course on sexual violence prevention.
- **What happens after the deadline?** A list of schools that have and have not attested to the requirements of the policy will be presented in a report to the Board of Governors at their August meeting each year. Once approved, the lists will be published on ncaa.org.
- **Which athletics staff members are expected to complete the education requirement?** While the policy does not provide a specific definition of staff for purposes of the educational prong and provides institutions the discretion to determine how far to extend their educational efforts (e.g. whether to include temporary workers, consultants or contractors), there is an expectation that all education will meet the requirements of local, state and federal law. All coaches including part-time, volunteer and assistant coaches, as well as athletics administrators full-time and temporary, and participating student-athletes are expected to complete the education.
- **If I have additional questions about the policy where should I go?** Questions may be sent to questions@ncaa.org. This inbox will only answer questions related to the policy and attestation process.

Questions?

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Note

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