

Dear Elected Officials,

As a parent of athletes and a former high school athlete, I am extremely disturbed by the lack of protection for biological females in sports. I played as one of the only girls on many boys' teams since I was four years old – soccer, flag football, baseball, basketball. In high school I played varsity soccer, basketball, cross country and tennis; I attended four high schools due to unfortunate timing of military moves.

My favorite sport was soccer except for my sophomore season where my school did not have a girls' team. Another girl and I tried out for and made the boys' varsity soccer team. That season was the longest, most frustrating season I ever played. This season was so mentally exhausting that the next time I was in this situation (my senior year of high school) I chose not to try out because that high school only had a boys' team.

Every practice, every game and every soccer conversation held the pressure of a try out. Often, the other girl and I were the target of a foul outside the referee's line of sight, inappropriate contact at games, and the choruses of '*go home little girl*' comments from players and parents. After earning our spots on the team, our teammates felt obligated to defend us. It was not fair to the other girl and me to be in the spotlight nor was it fair for our teammates to defend a cause outside of healthy play of the game.

The foundation of athletic competition is sportsmanship which means nothing without upholding the fairness of competition. We are girls who wanted to play varsity girls' soccer and because there was not a girls' team, we were afforded the opportunity to try out for the next higher level of competition. We did not seek out a lesser competitive team; it would have been unsportsmanlike. In order for competition to be fair or meaningful no one can have a more significant advantage or disadvantage to someone else.

We could not acknowledge it at the time; the facts remained, although the other female player and I had very high soccer IQs, we were less muscular, did not kick as hard and were not as fast but our bruises certainly were bigger. Gregory

Brown, Ph.D. stated in his white paper, entitled “Concerning Male Physiological and Performance Advantages in Athletic Competition”,

Similarly gifted and trained males have physical advantages over females—from greater height and weight and larger, longer, and stronger bones to larger muscles and higher rates of metabolizing and releasing energy. These innate physiological traits result in greater muscle strength; stronger throwing, hitting, and kicking; higher jumping; and faster running speeds for males, all of which create an athletic edge over females.

We had the determination and hearts of competitive equals but we had to pretend we were the same and keep our guard up because if we let them know how much we hurt or acknowledged our differences then we sacrificed what little headway we made at appearing their physical equals. Trans individuals may have the competitive hearts and determination of biological women; however, their physical differences give them an unfair advantage and deny a spot on the team from biological women. Those spots on the team that could mean a chance at being seen at state competition, position on the podium, a spot on the all-county team, or even visibility for a scholarship.

We fought every tryout, practice, game and sports conversation for our right to play. Thankfully, there are women’s sports for our girls because we as a society recognized that biologically and physically men and women are different. Title IX regulations require schools to provide *equal opportunity* based on sex. The Oxford Languages Dictionary defines sex as “either of the two main categories (male and female) into which humans and most other living things are divided on the basis of their reproductive functions.” The spirit and definition of Title IX is about affording women the equal opportunity to play and be seen in a fair competition. When people who were born male are given the green light to take positions on biological female teams, fewer biological females are able to compete; therefore, this is not in keeping with the Title IX premise of equal opportunity.

Being in the other locker room was isolating for us. These were 2-locker room schools and on game days we used the women’s restroom as the other

locker room was for the opponents. To be very clear, at absolutely no time did we ever feel that we should have been in the same locker room as the boys. Our anatomies are different, the physical changes going on in our bodies were/are fundamentally different. That season with the varsity boys' team helps me empathize with the feeling of isolation biological males who are trans may feel about their identities on boys' teams; however, playing on the girls' team is not the solution.

Do not be disillusioned; actual biology is the fairest, safest, most mentally enriching and most equitable differentiation in sports. Please create additional categories outside of boys and girls so that trans children have their own fair opportunities to meaningfully compete in sports. They deserve a right to honorable competition with equally advantaged, trans individuals. Allowing non-biological females to compete in girls' sports is unhealthy mentally, is unethical, and pretends to give balanced competition. Please do not sacrifice that which so many generations of women worked so hard to achieve: the level playing ground of girls' teams for our biological girls.

Please do two things. First, vote in favor of SB0381. And second to preserve fairness of competition and opportunities seek to add Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams for Trans Athletes.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kasbeer-Betty

Exerts from Sportsmanship sources:

Good sportsmanship is about making sure the game is fair and the outcome just and meaningful.

<https://www.wenzelcoaching.com/blog/good-sportsmanship-and-the-meaning-of-competition-why-following-the-rules-matters/>

In athletics, where the overriding goal is 'honorable victory', sportsmanship requires 'fairness'. The type of fairness in question is formal fairness – 'equality before the law' (Keating, 1965, 34). An equal and impartial application of the rules, as dictated by formal fairness, purportedly helps to ensure that competition fulfills its purpose as a test of athletic excellence and that victory correctly tracks athletic superiority (Keating, 1965, 34).

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/sport/#TopiPhilSpor>

Tips for Showing Good Sportsmanship

2. **Play fair.** Cheating at a game is poor sportsmanship. Fair play means having a level playing field. Every athlete or competitor has an equal opportunity to win, and no one has a more significant advantage or disadvantage over someone else. If you want to win at a game, everyone must start with the same conditions as the opposing team or player, and follow the rules of the game. Deviating outside of these guidelines may cause others to see you as a poor sport (including your team members), and no one will want to play with you in the next game.

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-show-good-sportsmanship>