Title IX: the portion of the Education Amendments of 1972 that prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions that receive any federal funds. In brief, Title IX states:

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

## What does this mean for athletics?

There are three basic parts of Title IX as it applies to athletics:

* Participation: requires that women be provided an equitable opportunity to participate in sports as men (***not necessarily the identical sports but an equal opportunity to play***).
* Scholarships: requires that female athletes receive athletic scholarship dollars proportional to their participation (e.g., if there are 100 male athletes/100 female athletes and a $200,000 scholarship budget, then the budget must be split $100,000 to men/$100,000 to women)
* Other Benefits: requires equal treatment in the provision of (1) equipment and supplies, (2) scheduling of games and practice times, (3) travel and daily allowance, (4) access to tutoring, (5) coaching, (6) locker rooms, (7) practice and competitive facilities, (8) medical and training facilities and services, (9) publicity and promotions, (10) recruitment of student athletes, and (11) support services.

## Does Title IX require identical athletic programs for males and females?

No. Males and females can participate in different sports. Rather, Title IX requires that the athletic programs meet the interests and abilities of each gender.

Under Title IX, one team is not compared to the same team in each sport. The Office for Civil Rights examines the total program afforded to male athletes and the total program afforded to female athletes and whether each program meets the standard of equal treatment.

Title IX does not require that each team get exactly the same services and supplies. Rather, it requires that the men’s program and the women’s program receive the same level of service, facilities and supplies. Variations within the men’s program and within the women’s program are allowed.

## Has Title IX increased female participation over the last 25 years?

Yes. Since the passage of Title IX, increases in athletic participation for both males and females have occurred at both the high school and collegiate levels.

In 1970, only 1 out of every 27 high school girls played varsity sports. Today, that figure is one in 2.5. Female high school participation increased from 294,015 in 1971 to 2,472,043 in 1997. College participation has more than tripled, from 31,000 to 128,208.

Both male and female athletic participation made steep increases immediately after the passage of Title IX at the high school level. Men’s and women’s rises in participation have also followed a similar pattern at the collegiate levels. However, male athletes still receive twice the participation opportunities afforded female athletes.