



What You May Not Know About Title IX and Athletics

OCT. 13, 1967

President Lyndon B. Johnson Signed Executive Order 11375

MOMENT | In 1965, President Johnson signed Executive Order 11246 which barred federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of race, color, religion and national origin. Executive Order 11375 was an amendment to 11246 to include discrimination based on sex.

IMPACT | Executive Order 11375 laid the groundwork for future gender-equity legislation signed five years later.

DID YOU KNOW?

Syracuse University student Kathrine Switzer wore the number 261 when she ran the Boston Marathon in 1967. She became the first woman to run the Boston Marathon officially, even though it was against the rules. It would be another five years before women would be allowed to compete.

PAUL J. CONNELLY / THE BOSTON GLOBE VIA GETTY IMAGES



In celebration of the 40th anniversary of Title IX, a group was recognized for their impact on women in sports at the 2012 NCAA Women's Final Four in Denver. From left to right, Carolayne Henry, Sonja Hogg, Ann Meyers Drysdale, Christine Brennan, Tamika Catchings, Marcia Greenberger, Kathryn Olson, Dr. Christine Grant, Dr. Bernice Sandler, Greg Christopher, Joni Comstock (NCAA) and Dr. Mark Emmert (NCAA). NCAA PHOTOS

1969

Dr. Bernice Sandler Uses Executive Order 11375 for the Benefit of Women in Higher Education

MOMENT | The University of Maryland refused to grant Bernice Sandler an interview for a tenure-track position in educational counseling; she was told she came on "too strong for a woman."

IMPACT | Sandler researched gender discrimination laws, finding a stipulation in a federal contracts law that prohibited discrimination based on sex. She filed a formal complaint with the Department of Labor against the University of Maryland and 250 other universities receiving federal contracts. Sandler's continued advocacy for women served as a catalyst, as Reps. Patsy Mink and Edith Green drafted Title IX before Sen. Birch Bayh introduced it to Congress in 1971.

1971

Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) Founded

MOMENT | The Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, which initially consisted of 278 member schools, was formed. It developed from the Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, which provided a framework for women's athletics opportunities and sponsored championships.

IMPACT | The association provided institutional membership and elected representation while also designing, sponsoring and sanctioning women's sports and championships. By the end of the 1970s, the AIAW had more members than the NCAA.



Dr. Carole Oglesby was the first president of the AIAW. She is pictured here (left) along with Cathy Hillman and Ginny Hatfield at the U.N. Women USNC L.A. Media Summit on May 21, 2016, in Los Angeles.

PHOTO BY VIVIAN KILLEA / GETTY IMAGES FOR YOUTUBE BRACE LA



Text of Title IX:

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.



JUNE 23, 1972

Title IX Signed into Law

MOMENT | Congress enacted Title IX of the Education Amendments Act, which President Richard Nixon signed into law. The landmark legislation 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."

IMPACT | The piece of legislation prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity.



SEPT. 20, 1973

'The Battle of the Sexes'

MOMENT | Before 30,000 spectators and millions of viewers on television, Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in tennis (6-4, 6-3, 6-3) at the Astrodome in the "Battle of the Sexes."

IMPACT | King empowered women around the country, showed detractors that female athletes are as talented and capable as their male counterparts and, perhaps most importantly, served as the catalyst for women's participation in sports.

DID YOU KNOW?

Before the passing of Title IX, the opportunity for women to even play college athletics was minimal and scholarships were unheard of. Billie Jean King was denied access to an athletics scholarship for tennis at Los Angeles State College (now Cal State LA), despite being one of the greatest tennis players of all time.

Billie Jean King with Bobby Riggs as they get ready for the "Battle of the Sexes" at the Houston Astrodome.

JIM GARRETT / NY DAILY NEWS VIA GETTY IMAGES



Immaculata's Theresa Shank (12) takes a shot against Queens (New York) during the 1973 AIAW national championship game in Flushing, N.Y.

DID YOU KNOW?

The 1973 AIAW Basketball Tournament was an indication that women's sports could be financially successful. More than 3,000 fans watched the final game between Queens (New York) and Immaculata. In 1975, these two teams met again, this time in Madison Square Garden. The first women's basketball game to be played in the arena drew a crowd of more than 12,000 spectators.

In 2019, the Women's Final Four had back-to-back sellout crowds for a total of 40,189 spectators. And women's basketball is not the only sport gaining a following. In 2021, the NCAA DI Women's Volleyball Championship had 1.19M viewers, the most ever for a women's college volleyball game on ESPN networks.

JOHN IACONO / SPORTS ILLUSTRATED / GETTY IMAGES

JULY 1, 1974

Javits Amendment Enacted

MOMENT | Sen. Jacob Javits proposed an alternative to the Tower Amendment.

IMPACT | The Department of Health, Education and Welfare is required to issue Title IX regulations that include "with respect to intercollegiate athletic activities, reasonable provisions considering the nature of particular sports."



Ann Meyers Drysdale poses with Wilt Chamberlain before a game vs. the Soviet Union during the 1976 Summer Olympics. PHOTO BY WALTER IOOSS JR. / SPORTS ILLUSTRATED / GETTY IMAGES

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1974, Ann Meyers Drysdale became the first female recipient of a full four-year athletics scholarship at UCLA. During her four seasons there, she led the Bruins in rebounding, assists, steals and blocked shots, and became the first four-time All-America women's basketball player. In recognition of her leadership in the role of advocate for intercollegiate athletics, she received the NCAA President's Gerald R. Ford Award in 2022.

JULY 21, 1975

Title IX Regulations Issued

MOMENT | The Department of Health, Education and Welfare issued regulations regarding Title IX enforcement, particularly as they apply to athletics.

IMPACT | High schools and colleges that receive federal funds are given three years to comply with the regulations.

FEB. 17, 1976

NCAA Filed Lawsuit Against Title IX

MOMENT | The NCAA challenged the legality of Title IX, claiming no athletics programs receive direct federal funds. The lawsuit, however, was dismissed in 1978.

IMPACT | A year after the case was dismissed, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare published a policy interpretation further explaining and clarifying the piece of legislation.

DEC. 11, 1979

Office of Civil Rights Established and Issued Three-Pronged Test for Compliance

MOMENT | The Office for Civil Rights, which enforces Title IX, issued a policy outlining ways in which institutions can prove they are Title IX compliant.

IMPACT | The three-pronged test provides institutions with three different ways to become Title IX compliant and provided the first real guidance for colleges and universities on how to establish compliance.

EFFECTIVE ACCOMMODATION OF INTERESTS AND ABILITIES (PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES)

THE THREE PRONGS

1. Opportunities for males and females proportional to enrollments.
2. History and continuing practice of program expansion responsive to the developing interests and abilities of the underrepresented sex.
3. Interest and abilities of underrepresented sex have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program.

MAY 20, 1974

John Tower Amendment Rejected

MOMENT | An amendment introduced by Sen. John Tower, which would have modified Title IX and exempted revenue-generating sports such as basketball and football from Title IX compliance, was rejected.

IMPACT | Revenue-generating sports would receive no exemptions, but there could be nondiscriminatory reasons for differences in spending for men's and women's sports.





1980

Alexander v. Yale Established New Precedent Under Title IX

MOMENT | Five Yale students filed a lawsuit against the university, claiming sexual harassment of female students was equivalent to sex discrimination, as it hindered the students' ability to partake in education.

IMPACT | Although the court ruled in favor of Yale, the case set a precedent that remains today. Sexual harassment would be viewed as sex discrimination under Title IX, thus propelling institutions across the country to establish grievance procedures for students to report sexual harassment.



Competitors eye the targets at the 2017 National Collegiate Rifle Championships.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1980, the NCAA conducted its first coed championships in rifle. This became the first official NCAA championship in which women were allowed to compete. It would be another year before NCAA women's championships would begin. Tennessee Tech was crowned the first national rifle champion with a score of 6,201. Today, rifle remains a coed championship, along with fencing and skiing.

The 1980 National Collegiate Rifle Championships winning team from Tennessee Tech.
PHOTO COURTESY OF TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY



1981-82

NCAA Offered Championships for Women's Intercollegiate Athletics

MOMENT | In the 1981-82 academic year, the NCAA crowned Division I national champions for the first time in women's cross country, field hockey, volleyball, swimming and diving, basketball, golf, gymnastics, tennis, outdoor track and field, and softball.

IMPACT | The NCAA became the primary governing body for women's intercollegiate athletics. The Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for women filed an antitrust lawsuit against the NCAA. When the association lost this case, it was forced to close its doors.



Bloomsburg University Head Coach Jan Hutchinson discusses strategy with her team during the 2003 Division II Field Hockey Championship held at Cushing Field in Lowell, Mass. Bloomsburg defeated UMass Lowell 4-1 to capture their second consecutive national title. TREVOR BROWN JR. / NCAA PHOTOS

DID YOU KNOW?

The first NCAA women's national championship events took place Nov. 21-22, 1981. In 1997, Jan Hutchinson, the former field hockey and softball coach at Bloomsburg, became the first female coach to reach 1,000 wins in all sports combined.

FEB. 28, 1984

Grove City College v. Bell Supreme Court Decision Delivered Blow to Title IX

MOMENT | The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Grove City College v. Bell that Title IX law applied only to the programs within schools that receive direct federal funding, thereby excluding most athletics programs from its jurisdiction.

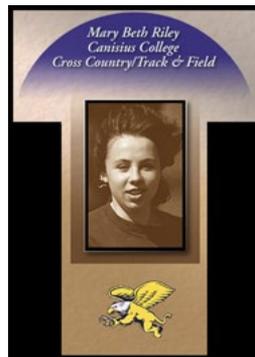
IMPACT | This ruling was a huge setback for Title IX, resulting in some schools subsequently cutting their recently added women's teams and the Office for Civil Rights canceling 23 ongoing investigations.

MARCH 22, 1988

Congress Passed Civil Rights Restoration Act

MOMENT | Congress overrode a veto by President Ronald Reagan and passed the Civil Rights Restoration Act, which overturned the Supreme Court's ruling in Grove City College v. Bell.

IMPACT | The law reversed the decision from 1984 and mandated that any institution receiving federal funds must comply with Title IX in all of its programs and activities, including athletics.



Mary Beth Riley, a track and field student-athlete at Canisius College, received the first NCAA Woman of the Year Award on Nov. 4, 1991. The annual NCAA Woman of the Year Award honors graduating student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate careers in the areas of academic achievement, athletics excellence, community service and leadership.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although it is the application of Title IX to athletics that has gained the greatest public visibility, the law applies to every single aspect of education, including course offerings, counseling and counseling materials, financial assistance, student health and insurance benefits and/or other services, housing, marital and parental status of students, physical education and athletics, education programs and activities, employment, and sexual harassment (ncaa.org).



Bernadette Locke-Mattox coaches the Kentucky Wildcats women's basketball team during a game against the Georgia Bulldogs.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1990, Bernadette Locke-Mattox made history by joining Kentucky's men's basketball coaching staff. She served as assistant coach and was the first woman to coach a men's college basketball team. Locke-Mattox later became Kentucky's women's head coach and in 2004, went to the Connecticut Sun of the WNBA.

1992

NCAA Gender Equity Task Force Assembled

MOMENT | The first gender equity study by the NCAA found that while women made up 55% of undergraduate students, men constituted 70% of student-athletes and received 70% of scholarship funds, and men's programs were allotted 77% of operating budgets and 83% of recruiting money. Upon review of the survey, NCAA Executive Director Richard D. Schultz issued a call to action to be "proactive."

IMPACT | The NCAA thus created the Gender Equity Task Force, which was charged with studying gender equity issues across all divisions of the membership. The Gender Equity Task Force issued recommendations such as beginning the Emerging Sports Program for Women and increasing scholarships available in some sports for female student-athletes that were approved by NCAA membership committees.

HOW THE NCAA DEFINES "GENDER EQUITY"

An athletics program can be considered gender equitable when the participants in both the men's and women's sports programs would accept as fair and equitable the overall program of the other gender. No individual should be discriminated against on the basis of gender, institutionally or nationally, in intercollegiate athletics.
— NCAA Gender Equity Task Force, 1992

APRIL 16, 1993

Federal Court Ruled in Favor of Cohen

MOMENT | In *Cohen v. Brown*, a federal court found that Brown University did not meet any part of the Office for Civil Rights' three-prong test: The number of male and female athletes wasn't substantially proportionate to their respective enrollments, there was no history of expanding participation opportunities, and Brown was not accommodating the interests of its current female student-athletes.

IMPACT | The university was ordered to reinstate the women's gymnastics and volleyball programs; schools must meet at least one requirement of the three-prong test.

OCT. 20, 1994

Congress Passed the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act

MOMENT | Congress passed the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act. <https://ope.ed.gov/athletics>

IMPACT | Federally funded coed institutions were now required to submit annual reports about their athletics programs. For the first time, the public was able to access gender equity data for college athletics programs.



Women's beach volleyball became the NCAA's 90th championship in 2016. JAMIE SCHWABEROW / NCAA PHOTOS

DID YOU KNOW?

Title IX compliance is assessed through a total program comparison. In other words, the entire men's program is compared to the entire women's program. Title IX does not require the creation of mirror-image programs. Males and females can participate in different sports according to their respective interests and abilities. Thus, broad variations in the type and number of sports opportunities offered to each gender are permitted (ncaa.org).

JAN. 16, 1996

Office for Civil Rights Issued Guidelines on the Three-Prong Test

MOMENT | The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued guidelines elaborating on the three-prong test introduced in its 1979 memo.

IMPACT | The guidelines confirmed that institutions can choose which of the three conditions they plan to meet in order to provide nondiscriminatory participation opportunities for individuals of both sexes, and clarified how Title IX requires the OCR to count those opportunities.



The 1999 Women's World Cup, held at the Rose Bowl. ELSA HADSH / ALLSPORT

JULY 10, 1999

U.S. Women's National Team Captures 1999 Women's World Cup Crown

MOMENT | Before 90,185 spectators at the Rose Bowl – the most-attended women's sports event in history – Brandi Chastain nailed her penalty kick against China in a shootout, sealing the FIFA World Cup for the U.S. women's national team.

IMPACT | The team's incredible run captivated the nation, amplified exposure and drew a media frenzy that placed it on magazine covers and newspaper fronts across the country. For the first time, women's soccer was seen as a commercially viable sport, resulting in the creation of the Women's United Soccer Association in 2000 – the world's first women's soccer league in which all players were paid as professionals. After the 2019 World Cup, discussions for equal pay came to the forefront with a focus on the pay gap between men's and women's teams.



2002

U.S. Department of Education Appointed Commission on Opportunities in Athletics

MOMENT | As Title IX celebrated its 30th anniversary, the U.S. Department of Education appointed a Commission on Opportunities in Athletics at the request of President George W. Bush.

IMPACT | Ultimately, no changes were made to Title IX. The commission was charged to review Title IX, "collect information, analyze issues and obtain broad public input directed at improving the application of current Federal standard for measuring equal opportunity for men and women and boys and girls to participate in athletics under Title IX."

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2016 Divisions I, II and III women's championships all were held at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis in celebration of the 35th anniversary of the NCAA women's basketball championships.



JUNE 11, 2003

Lawsuit Challenged Three-Prong Test

MOMENT | A lawsuit brought against the Department of Education by the National Wrestling Coaches Association challenged the constitutionality of the three-prong test. However, it was dismissed in district court, largely on procedural grounds.

IMPACT | The lawsuit dismissal rejected the notion that Title IX regulations reduced participation opportunities for male student-athletes and resulted in the elimination of men's athletic teams.

DID YOU KNOW?

Title IX is about creating equitable opportunities and providing equitable treatment to female and male student-athletes. Title IX does not require reductions in opportunities for male student-athletes in order to increase opportunities for female student-athletes.

Women are in more broadcasting positions than ever before. Most, if not all, have had a collegiate athletic experience. Maria Taylor (pictured) is a former University of Georgia volleyball and basketball student-athlete. She is currently a sportscaster for NBC Sports. She has also worked for ESPN and the SEC Network. She has covered college football, college volleyball, the NBA, the NFL, and men's and women's college basketball.

JAMIE SCHWABEROW / NCAA PHOTOS



MARCH 17, 2005

Department of Education Issued Policy Clarification on Three-Prong Test

MOMENT | The Department of Education issued a policy clarification, granting schools the right to gauge female students' interest in sports via an email survey of current students.

IMPACT | Institutions were allowed to equate a failure to respond/lack of response from female students with a lack of interest, which inhibited schools from achieving greater gender equity.

APRIL 2010

President Obama Rescinded Policy Clarification

MOMENT | The Obama administration, which emphasized civil rights enforcement on a broad range of topics, rescinded the Prong 3 provision issued in 2005.

IMPACT | Institutions now must demonstrate that they are fully accommodating the interests and abilities of the underrepresented sex in accordance with Prong 3, instead of gauging interest via email surveys.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 31 years of the NCAA awarding titles in the coed sport of rifle, Texas Christian University in 2010 became the first all-women's team to win the team championship, beating Alaska Fairbanks' all-male team.

TCU rifle coach Karen Monez with the 2010 championship trophy. MICHAEL CLEMENTS / NCAA PHOTOS





APRIL 2015

NCAA Gender and Equity Task Force Reconvened

MOMENT | Twenty-two years after it was assembled, the NCAA Gender and Equity Task Force reconvened with a group of 11 commissioners, college presidents and athletics directors to engage with equity issues.

IMPACT | An ongoing task force was formed to serve as an advisory group, identify issues and solutions in collegiate athletics pertaining to women, develop resources for the membership and collaborate with the Committee on Women's Athletics to make formal recommendations within the NCAA governance structure.

The NCAA Board of Governors approved recommendations from the Gender Equity Task Force in 2017. One of the success stories of these recommendations occurred when Division I legislated that its member schools had to attest to doing a diversity, equity and inclusion review once every four years.



DID YOU KNOW?

Vanderbilt's placekicker Sarah Fuller becomes the first woman at a Power Five school to score with an extra-point kick against Tennessee on Dec. 12, 2020. MATTHEW MAXEY / GETTY IMAGES

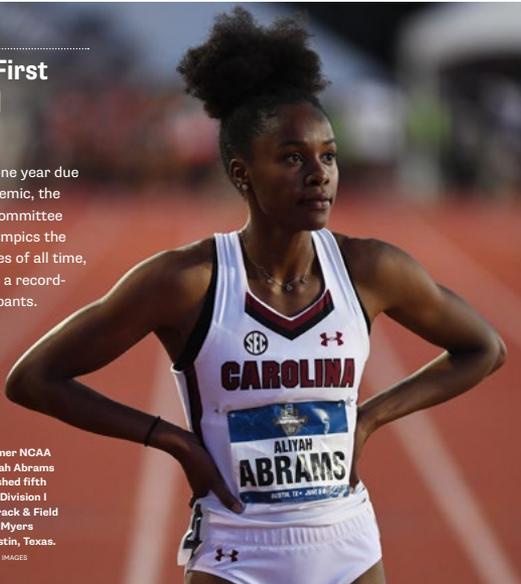
JULY 23, 2021

Tokyo 2020 - First 'Gender-Equal Games'

After being postponed one year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the International Olympic Committee has called the Tokyo Olympics the most gender equal games of all time, with women comprising a record-breaking 49% of participants.

Tokyo 2020 included many former NCAA student-athletes including Aliyah Abrams of South Carolina. Abrams finished fifth individually in the 400m at the Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field Championships held at Mike A. Myers Stadium on June 6, 2019, in Austin, Texas.

JAMIE SCHWABEROW / NCAA PHOTOS VIA GETTY IMAGES



SPRING 2021

NCAA Calls for External Gender Equity Review of Championships

Following student-athletes calling attention to gender equity issues at the 2021 Division I women's basketball championship, the NCAA hired an external law firm to conduct an equity review of NCAA basketball championships (Phase I completed Aug. 2) and then an equity review of all championships (Phase II completed Oct. 25). The NCAA is committed to implementing many of the recommendations with a renewed focus on equity.



DID YOU KNOW?

The 2021 Women's Final Four Tournament featured two Black female head coaches for the first time in the history of the championship. South Carolina's Dawn Staley, left, and Arizona's Adia Barnes, right, coached their way to the final weekend.

DAWN STALEY PHOTO: JUSTIN TAFOYA / NCAA PHOTOS; ADIA BARNES PHOTO: EVERT NELSON / NCAA PHOTOS



Former Women's Sports Foundation CEO Dr. Deborah Antoine speaks during the foundation's 45th Anniversary of Title IX celebration at the New York Historical Society on June 22, 2017, in New York City. DVA DRABURIL / GETTY IMAGES

JUNE 23, 2022

50th Anniversary of Title IX

MOMENT | Several events will take place to commemorate the anniversary of Title IX. This will include celebrations at NCAA championships throughout the year. In the spring of 2022, the Title IX at 50 report will be released and will highlight important information regarding the status of women in intercollegiate athletics.

IMPACT | Girls high school participation is greater than 10 times what it was when Title IX passed - growing from 294,015 participants in 1972 to just under 3.5 million as of 2019. The numbers reflect tremendous growth and serve as a catalyst for continued action to increase participation opportunities for female student-athletes, resource allocation for women's athletics programs and leadership opportunities for women in athletics departments and conference offices.



<https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2017/10/10/in-at-50-years.aspx?l=423>