

# Women in Sports

- Understand why Title IX was adopted.
- Explain its successes in the past 35 years.
- Discuss inequalities that still exist in sports between the sexes.

# Why is it Important?

- Sports teaches social rules (loyalty, hierarchy, etc.). If only men are allowed to play sports, women miss out on learning how to function in a society still dominated by male rules.
- Title IX has tried to remedy this, but women are still not equal in the world of sports.

# Schooling: Title IX

- **“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance.”**
- Part of the Educational Amendments (1972) to the Civil Rights Act (1964).
- Title IX, prohibits discrimination based on sex in federally-funded education, **INCLUDING** in athletics programs.
- Applies to all educational institutions that receive federal funding.
- Still not equal, though!

# Is It True?

Since men are usually stronger than women, they are naturally better at sports.



# False.

- Males are generally more powerful (speed + strength) because they are able to develop more muscle mass relative to body weight due to the male hormone androgen.
- Few sports require absolute strength or power (like weightlifting or shot putting).
- Most require skill (accuracy + coordination).
- Females have better fine motor skills.
- BUT, usually men play against men and women play against women or they compete in a co-ed game.

# Is It True?

Athletic participation has benefits beyond the playing field.



# True!

- Stronger immune system.
- Helps in fighting the “Battle of the Bulge.”
- Improves self-esteem and self-image.
- Less likely to become involved with drugs.
- More likely to graduate from high school, earn higher grades.

# Is It True?

Under Title IX,  
revenue-production  
is not an excuse for  
treating male  
athletes better than  
female athletes.



# True!

- 64% of Division I and II football teams lose revenue.
- If discrimination based on economics is ok because of gender, that would set a precedent for discrimination based on other factors like race.

# Is It True?

If a girl can try out for football, boys can try out for field hockey.

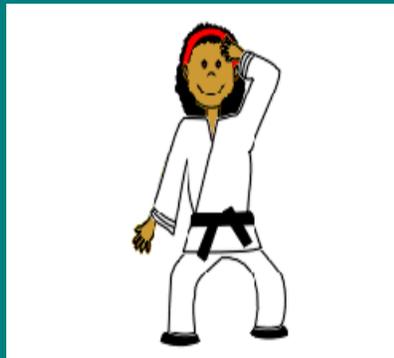


# True, but false.

- Girls must be allowed to try out for a team if there is no team for their sex.
- They do not have to be on the team, though, for a reason other than gender as long as boys are held to the same standards (strength, size, etc.)
- Boys are part of the “overrepresented sex” so if there are more boys playing sports than girls, they can’t take a spot away from the “underrepresented sex.”

# Is It True?

The biggest reason that there are not more women in sports is that they didn't play sports when they were kids.



# Kinda.

- If a girl does not participate in sports by the time she is 10, chances are less than 10% that she will be participating when she is 25. (so yes...)
- The biggest reason, though, is that women have fewer chances to play sports growing up. There are more opportunities (teams) for boys than for girls.
- BUT, adults women are more likely to participate in sports and fitness. They also buy more athletic shoes and apparel than men.

# Is It True?

No woman has ever beaten a man at a competitive, elite level of athletics. The physical differences in strength and endurance are too significant.

# False!

- In 1973, tennis champion Billie Jean King beat Bobby Riggs in the “Battle of the Sexes” tennis match at the Astrodome.
- FACT: Riggs was 20 years older than King and came out of retirement for the match.
- FACT: He was still pegged to be the third best senior tennis player.

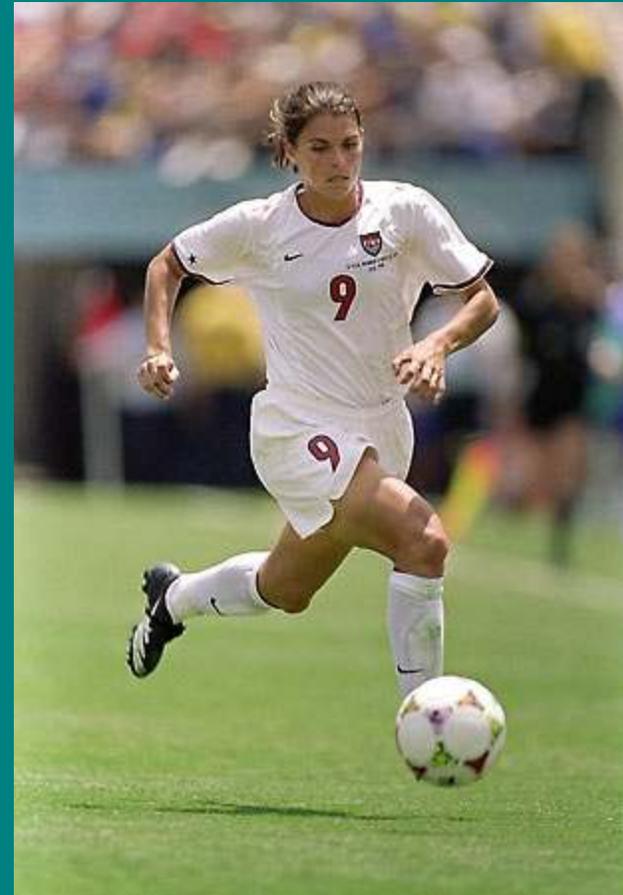
# Is It True?

Ok, women might be competitive in elite play, but internationally men are still athletically superior.



# False!

- In 2004, Mia Hamm scored her 151<sup>st</sup> goal in international play. She has held the record for most international goals (men and women) since 1999.



# Is It True?

Only within the past few decades have women been able to physically compete with men.



# FALSE!

- In 1926, Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim across the English Channel. She beat the previous record by 2 hours.
- Other women including Mercedes Gleitze (1927) followed.
- In 1972, 15 year old Lynne Cox became the youngest person to swim the channel. She broke the men's and women's records in 1972, and then broke her own record in 1973.

# Is It True?

Women who don't play sports are at a disadvantage in the business world.

# It's a theory.

- American business -- male model of organizational structure and relationships.
- Males learn the interactions from sport.
- Women who don't know the written and unwritten rules of sport are at a disadvantage in understanding models of organization based on sport.
- Rules include:
  1. Teams are chosen based on people's strengths and competencies rather than like or dislike.
  2. Successful players practice the illusion of confidence.
  3. Errors are expected of people who are trying to do new things, but don't make the same mistake twice.
  4. Loyalty to your teammates is very important.
  5. "I will" equals "I can"
  6. Whoever is your boss in a hierarchical organization gives the orders and the players follow the head coach's instructions.
  7. Winning and Losing Has Nothing to Do With Your Worth as a Person.

# Sources

- <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schooladventures/womenofthecentury/phenomenalwomen/sports.html>
- <http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org>
- <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/10/31/60minutes/main527678.shtml>
- <http://www.feminist.org>

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# Discussion

- How are boys and girls socialized differently?
- What impact does that have on children growing up?
- How does it affect schooling?

# Gender in Childhood

- Baby studies
- Ratio of boys to girls with ADHD is 3:1
- Unintentional gender discrimination in teaching
- Who is in the textbook?
- Genderization of subjects
- The “Problem of Boys”