

# FEMALE SPORTS

INFORMATION SERVICES TEAM

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## DO FEMALES HAVE A RIGHT TO SINGLE-SEX SPORTS?

Prior to the introduction of single-sex female sports virtually all competitive sports were dominated by males, with few having any female participation. This was especially true of contact sports like football where male physical superiority endangered the safety of women and girls.

With the advent of women's rights movement in the 20th century, female-only sports were created to foster female participation in sports despite opposition from patriarchal institutions which sought to restrict women to traditional roles and deemed sporting activities to be "unladylike" and a "distraction" from their "proper role as mothers".

There can be no 'equal opportunity' for females to participate in sports if they are dominated by males and it is unsafe for females to participate in them; hence the creation of equal opportunity laws that facilitated the creation of single-sex sports for females that excluded males on fairness and safety grounds, just as sporting events for children excluded adults and sporting events for people with a disability excluded able bodied people on the same grounds.

The patriarchal opposition to single-sex female sports continues, most strikingly in nations like Afghanistan where women have few rights and are treated like the property of their fathers or husbands, while misogynists and patriarchal groups in the West have weaponized the transgender rights movement



to further their desire to reassert male dominance over women by allowing biological males who identify as transgender women to participate in single-sex female sports, thus displacing females from their own sport, some of which are dominated by male competitors who identify as transgender women. A move welcomed by many sporting groups which are reluctant to create transgender sports due to the costs involved and fear being stigmatized as "transphobic" for excluding male transgender women and girls from female sports, albeit at the expense of fairness and safety for female competitors, many of whom are required to share

toilets, changing rooms and showers with male competitors.

Prominent transgender women like Caitlyn Jenner, a renowned male athlete, have defended single-sex female sports on said grounds, but their voices have largely been drowned out by militant trans rights groups and patriarchal institutions which aggressively pursue their agendas.

Allowing males who identify as transgender women or girls to invade female spaces created to protect females on fairness, safety and dignity grounds promotes misogyny and male supremacy, thus fuels violence against vulnerable women and girls while also undermining public support for transgender people.

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Females have a right to single-sex sports on fairness, safety and dignity grounds.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Restrict single-sex female sports created ensure fair and safe participation in sports for females to biological females.
2. Create transgender and open sporting competitions to accommodate biological males who identify as transgender women or transgender girls (including those who have a gender recognition certificate or have had their sex on a birth certificate changed from male to female).

### PRIMARY SOURCES

*Material Girls: Why Reality Matters for Feminism*, Kathleen Stock, Fleet, 2021.

*Sidelined: Sports, Culture, and Being a Woman in America*, Julie DiCaro, Dutton, 2021.

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*Unfair Play: The Battle For Women's Sport*, Sharon Davies, Swift Press, 2023.

