

Female athletes who lost to trans competitors given green light to sue state athletic association

HARTFORD, Conn. (CITC) —

Four biologically female athletes from Connecticut who previously lost to transgender competitors have the right to sue the state's high school athletics association, according to a new court [ruling](#).

The former high school athletes previously filed a lawsuit against the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) over its policy allowing transgender females to compete in girls' events without receiving surgery or hormone treatment.

Chelsea Mitchell, a track runner and a defendant in the suit, says she has lost countless championships to transgender competitors allowed to compete against her.

"It's been very unfair for me and the other girl competitors to race against them," Mitchell previously [said](#) on Full Measure. "I personally lost four state championships to all New England awards and countless other opportunities because of it."

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The four athletes, represented by legal advocacy group Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), were previously dismissed after their claims

were deemed to be speculative. However, the case was unanimously reinstated Friday by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit and will now be able to proceed in federal court.

In an interview with Crisis in the Classroom (CITC) Friday, Christiana Holcomb, a senior counsel for ADF, applauded the ruling. She claimed to CITC that sex change procedures may not be enough to undo competitive advantages.

"The rule is unfair because Title IX was enacted more than 50 years ago to ensure that female athletes like our clients have their athletic opportunities," Holcomb said. "They get to showcase their talents to be on the podium to earn those college scholarship opportunities because both science and common sense show us that males have inherent athletic advantages over females. They have 10 to 50% performance advantage over comparably fit and trained female athletes. So, it's simply unfair to force young women to compete against male athletes."

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Allowing student-athletes to compete based on gender identity has sparked controversy in recent years. In September, a Maine high schooler faced [backlash](#) for placing in the top five of a girls' cross country race just one year after performing poorly in the male division.

A Pennsylvania school board is currently considering a [policy](#) which would designate gender identity as "irrelevant" when determining which sports teams students may participate on. The policy's proposed language says separating teams based on biological sex promotes safety and provides "increased opportunity for girls."