

U.S. Department of Education to Investigate Title IX Violations in Athletics

The Department Will Review Athletics Policies at Additional Schools

February 6, 2025

Pursuant to President Trump's [Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports](#) Executive Order, the U.S. Department of Education today announced investigations into two educational institutions and an athletic association where violations of Title IX have been reported.

"President Trump's Executive Order 'Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports' is a promise to women and girls: this administration will not tolerate the mistreatment of female athletes. The Department is taking swift action to investigate three entities for suspected Title IX violations: San Jose State University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association. The previous administration trampled the rights of American women and girls—and ignored the indignities to which they were subjected in bathrooms and locker rooms—to promote a radical transgender ideology. That regime ended on January 20, 2025," said **Craig Trainor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.**

"I'm deeply grateful to the Department of Education for addressing Title IX violations concerning female athletes with such seriousness. As a former University of Pennsylvania swimmer who was forced to

compete against and share a locker room with a male athlete, I look forward to them holding accountable the higher education institutions that promoted this," said **Paula Scanlan, former University of Pennsylvania Women's Swimming and Diving athlete.**

The Department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is launching directed investigations into the following entities for apparent Title IX violations:

- San Jose State University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

Additionally, OCR is actively reviewing athletic participation policies at a number of schools to evaluate their alignment with Title IX protections for female athletes.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education [notified](#) K-12 schools and higher education institutions of a return to enforcing Title IX protections on the basis of biological sex. Yesterday's Executive Order ensures that federally funded institutions of higher education prioritize fairness and safety in women's sports.

Background Information on the Directed Investigations:

At San Jose State University (SJSU), male athlete Blaire Fleming's dominant performance on the women's volleyball team, which included [reported](#) dangerous strikes directed at opponent's faces, forced competing teams to forfeit games to protect their female athletes. A lawsuit against SJSU also [alleges](#) that the university awarded Fleming a scholarship over several female players and that SJSU retaliated against those, including the women's volleyball assistant coach, who defended female athletes.

The University of Pennsylvania [awarded](#) Lia Thomas, a male, a roster spot on the Women's Swimming and Diving team. One of Thomas' former teammates, Paula Scanlan [testified](#) before Congress that she and her teammates were "offered psychological services to attempt to re-educate us to become comfortable with the idea of undressing in front of a male."

A girls' high school basketball team in Massachusetts [forfeited](#) a game after a male playing for the opposing female team reportedly injured three female players. The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's handbook [states](#) that a "student shall not be excluded from participation on a gender-specific sports team that is consistent with the student's bona fide gender identity."