

What the Executive Order on Women’s Sports Means for Your Campus

Title of Executive Order	Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports (February 5, 2025)
What is the policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bans transgender girls and women from participating in girls’ and women’s athletics programs from K-12 through college. ● Asserts, with no evidence, that allowing transgender girls and women to participate in girls’ and women’s sports harms and endangers non-transgender girls and women. ● Asserts that transgender girls and women have an unfair advantage over non-transgender girls and women, an assertion that is not backed by scientific consensus and that has been challenged by recent research. ● Undermines existing law and precedent by illegally encouraging the unequal treatment of transgender women and girls under Title IX’s provisions, uses these provisions as justification for the ban on transgender girls and women athletes, and “prioritize(s) Title IX enforcement actions” against educational institutions failing to comply with the ban. ● Pressures athletic organizations and governing bodies to perpetuate misinformation about transgender people and institute policies banning transgender girls and women from girls’ and women’s sports based on those falsehoods. ● Directs the secretary of state to pressure the International Olympic Committee and other international organizations and governing bodies to institute policies in line with these directives. ● Calls on the secretaries of state and homeland security to discriminate against transgender women by denying visas to athletes competing in women’s sports in the United States. ● Illegally rescinds funding to educational programs that don’t comply with the ban on transgender girls and women athletes.
How does it affect campus communities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creates unequal educational opportunities for transgender student-athletes. ● Removes protections, restricts access to campus life, and renders transgender student-athletes ineligible for athletic scholarships. ● Prevents international transgender student-athletes from accessing visas to attend US universities. ● Detracts attention from the actual issues facing girls and women in sports, including unequal access to funding and facilities and abuse by coaches, physicians, and other leaders. ● Exploits public misunderstanding of transgender people to feed a moral panic around gender in schools and on campuses. ● Weaponizes the idea of women's safety to suppress support for transgender athletes. ● Imposes ideological definitions of “sex” and “gender identity” on campuses, undermining local governance. ● Encourages use of Title IX as a means of punishing noncompliant educational institutions.
Who else is under attack?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All transgender, intersex, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming children and adults. ● Faculty, students, and staff of any educational institution receiving federal funds. ● Transgender student-athletes in K-12 schools and the parents, coaches, educators, and administrators supporting trans-inclusive athletics programs. ● International students and others applying for visas to enter the United States ● Defenders of free speech, the First Amendment, and academic freedom. ● American democracy, which requires an informed and educated citizenry.
Who benefits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extremist and hateful lawmakers attempting to erase transgender people from public life.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Authoritarian leaders wishing to enforce strict gender and sexual norms and limit bodily and reproductive autonomy for everyone. ● Christian nationalists advancing white supremacist family values agendas and weaponizing paternalistic notions of “defending women and girls” to counter equality, inclusion, and democratic principles. ● Anti-immigrant policymakers seeking mechanisms to flag visa applications as “fraudulent” and to limit access to the United States.
<p>What can you do / How do we fight back?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personalize the stories of transgender, intersex, and nonbinary student-athletes barred from participating in athletic programs. ● Emphasize the current lack of research on transgender athletes and athletic performance, which means claims about an “unfair advantage” are not grounded in any semblance of scholarly scientific consensus ● Work with organizations protecting the rights of transgender, intersex, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming people. ● Be an authentic fan of women’s sports and build real solidarity with women athletes. Attend the games, celebrate the athletes, and advocate for what they actually want. ● Highlight the absurdity of any claim to “defend” women and girls from an administration filled with domestic abusers and sexual predators, especially those whose legal “defenses” call for dismantling the very policies and practices essential to the advancement of women and girls’ equality and safety. ● Avoid anticipatory obedience in athletics administration and urge schools, universities, and sporting bodies not to comply. ● Join your campus union. If there is no union on your campus, join the AAUP as an active or associate member. ● If you or someone you know is adversely impacted by the EOs, share your story with lawyers at Democracy 2025, LDF, or Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. ● Write an op-ed in your local paper, weekly journal, or blog to share how students, staff, and administrators are being targeted by this EO and share with CDAF@aaup.org.
<p>Additional resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Statement on Trump’s Executive Order Banning Trans Athletes, Advocates for Trans Equality ● Four Myths about Trans Athletes, Debunked, ACLU ● “Trans Inclusion,” <i>Jock Talk</i> podcast ● Champions of Inclusion Online Curricula for Student-Athletes, K-12 Coaches, and Athletics Staff, Athlete Ally