

#### U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights

Dr. Miguel Cardona Secretary of Education, Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202 Phone (202) 401 – 3000 ocr@ed.gov

Catherine Lhamon, J.D. Ass't Secretary, Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202 - 1100 <u>Catherine.lhamon@ed.gov</u>

Suzanne B. Goldberg, J.D. Acting Ass't Secretary, Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202 - 1100 <u>Suzanne.goldberg@ed.gov</u>

#### ADMINISTRATIVE CLASS COMPLAINT

#### **COMPLAINANT**

Champion Women Nancy Hogshead, J.D., OLY, CEO EMAIL: <u>Hogshead@ChampionWomen.org</u>

#### **RECIPIENT**

Monmouth University Jennifer Sansevero, Acting Director of Athletics 400 Cedar Avenue, West Long Branch, NJ 07764 EMAIL: jsanseve@monmouth.edu Monmouth University Patrick F. Leahy, President 400 Cedar Avenue, West Long Branch, NJ 07764 EMAIL: president@monmouth.edu

### I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This complaint is filed by *Champion Women*, pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.* ("Title IX") and the regulations and policies promulgated thereunder. *See* 34 C.F.R. § 106 *et seq.* Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in federally funded education programs and activities, including athletics.

2. *Champion Women* is a 501(c)(3) that provides legal advocacy for girls and women in sports.

3. As detailed in the Factual and Legal Allegations below, data submitted by Monmouth University, ("Monmouth") to the Office of Postsecondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education pursuant to the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act ("EADA"), 20 U.S.C. § 1092, as well as information collected from Monmouth's website indicates that Monmouth is discriminating on the basis of sex by providing unequal athletic participation opportunities and unequal athletic recruitment funding for its female students.

4. In order to address these disparities, *Champion Women* requests that the Office for Civil Rights ("OCR") investigate Monmouth to determine whether it is discriminating against women; is it providing women equal opportunities to participate in varsity sports and equivalent treatment, including recruitment funding as required by Title IX and, if not, to remedy any unlawful conduct.

## II. JURISDICTION

5. The OCR is responsible for ensuring compliance with Title IX and receiving information about, investigating, and remedying violations of Title IX and its implementing regulations and guidelines. 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.71, 100.7.

6. *Champion Women* has not filed this complaint with any other agency or institution.

7. As Monmouth currently violates Title IX's athletic equity requirements, this complaint is timely.

## III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

8. Monmouth receives federal financial assistance and is therefore prohibited from discriminating on the basis of sex pursuant to Title IX.

9. Data submitted by Monmouth to the U.S. Department of Education pursuant to the EADA that is publicly available on the Office of Postsecondary Education website for academic years 2003-04 through 2021-2022 indicates that Monmouth is not currently and has

not in the past been providing female athletes equal opportunities to participate in athletics under Title IX's three-part participation test.

10. *Champion Women* has edited the EADA data on our website <u>https://titleixschools.com/</u> in just one instance: to remove male practice players who are counted up in the tally as "women". These male practice players are not female athletes and have therefore been subtracted from the totals in the EADA.<sup>1</sup>

	Undergraduate Enrollment						Athletic Participation		
Year	Men	Women	Total	Percent Women	Men	Women Prong 2: This # should Rise Continuousl y and Steadily Over Time, Without Going Backwards	Total	Percent Women	Female Athletes Who Would Need to be Added to Achieve
2003-04	1695	2207	3902	56.56%	221	160	381	41.99%	128
2004-05	1721	2313	4034	57.34%	295	238	533	44.65%	158
2005-06	1769	2348	4117	57.03%	293	226	519	43.55%	163
2006-07	1793	2382	4175	57.05%	299	229	528	43.37%	168
2007-08	1864	2436	4300	56.65%	295	214	509	42.04%	172
2008-09	1878	2414	4292	56.24%	330	262	592	44.26%	162
2009-10	1866	2440	4306	56.67%	324	254	578	43.94%	170
2010-11	1826	2447	4273	57.27%	339	265	604	43.87%	189
2011-12	1835	2531	4366	57.97%	360	273	633	43.13%	224
2012-13	1816	2614	4430	59.01%	341	276	617	44.73%	215
2013-14	1759	2541	4300	59.09%	373	245	618	39.64%	294
2014-15	1770	2595	4365	59.45%	367	286	653	43.80%	252
2015-16	1854	2586	4440	58.24%	402	300	702	42.74%	261
2016-17	1919	2565	4484	57.20%	442	309	751	41.15%	282
2017-18	1888	2613	4501	58.05%	396	300	696	43.10%	248
2018-19	1880	2567	4447	57.72%	402	299	701	42.65%	250
2019-20	1756	2545	4301	59.17%	414	302	716	42.18%	298
2020-21	1597	2492	4089	60.94%	358	251	609	41.22%	308
2021-22	1481	2421	3902	62.05%	469	325	794	40.93%	442

11. Monmouth does not and has not provided athletic opportunities to female students in numbers substantially proportionate to their enrollment pursuant to part one of the Title IX

<sup>1</sup> See *Champion Women* website for every college and university receiving federal funds: <u>https://titleixschools.com/2023/05/20/eada-data/</u> High school data for these schools receiving federal funds is available here: <u>https://titleixschools.com/2023/06/06/check-your-high-school/</u>

Champion Women, Sex Discrimination in Athletics in Violation of Title IX, 2023

participation test. Women are 62.05% of the student body, but just 40.93% of the student-athletes.

12. In 2021-2022, the most recent academic year for which EADA data is available that is not corrupted by disruptions related to Covid-19, Monmouth's participation gap was 442 athletes. In other words, Monmouth must add 442 additional athletic opportunities for women in order to provide athletic opportunities substantially proportionate to enrollment; 442 additional opportunities is enough to add almost an entire athletic department; Monmouth currently only has 137 women athletes. If the average squad size for a new women's team is 25 athletes – some more, some less - that is 17.7 new women's teams Monmouth will need to add.

13. Monmouth's has admitted more women as a percentage of the student body than men. These women deserve the same opportunities to the educational opportunities that come with varsity sport competition.

14. The EADA data and evidence gathered on Monmouth's website show that Monmouth does not have a history and continuing practice of expanding athletic participation opportunities for women pursuant to Prong 2 of the Title IX participation test. See column "Women" under "Athletic Participation" above. The number of women athletes does not consistently increase over time.

15. Over the 19 academic years covered by the available EADA data, Monmouth's numbers have fluctuated. In 2004 Monmouth offered a sports opportunity to 238 women, only to backslide for the next four years, losing 24 women's opportunities. In 2015, Monmouth offered a sports opportunity to 316 women. It took until the most recent data, 2021, or 6 years later, to equal that number of opportunities, with losses during this time period of up to 46 women's opportunities. *Champion Women* cannot know the 28-year history of adding sports between 1975 and 2003, but Monmouth cannot show a history of continuous program expansion that is demonstratively responsive to the growing interests of women in sport.

16. A review of Monmouth's website did not show any policy or procedure for adding new sports or elevating existing club sports to varsity status. Nor did it reveal any athletic gender equity plan, or any gender equity committee.

17. Monmouth sponsors 10 men's varsity sports (Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Lacrosse, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis and Track & Field) for 245 men and 12 women's varsity sports (Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Lacrosse, Rowing, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis and Track & Field) and 137 women.

18. Information available on Monmouth's website suggests that the university is not accommodating the interests and abilities of female athletes as required by part three of the Title IX participation test.

19. Monmouth women participate in the club sports of Ice Hockey, Dance, Soccer, Softball, Lacrosse, Wrestling, Sailing, *Club Sports*, Monmouth, 2023 (last visited August, 2023). The existence of these women's club teams indicates that there is unmet interest in women's athletics at Monmouth.

20. Monmouth is a member of the Coastal Athletic Association (CAA). The CAA spans most of the East Coast states. Member institutions are located in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Maryland. Monmouth will have many choices in finding other women's sports in this expansive competitive geographic region.

21. The CAA currently sponsors women's Volleyball as a Championship sport, and Monmouth does not offer Volleyball. These Championship sports are unique educational opportunities. And they demonstrate women's interest in these sports and that competition for these women's sports exists in the competitive geographic area.

22. Members of the CAA offer Beach Volleyball, Equestrian, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Sailing, Squash and Triathlon. These 7 sports demonstrate women's interest and athletic ability in these seven sports offered by other members of the CAA. These 7 sports are offered in Monmouth's competitive geographic region, making competition viable.

23. High school-age girls in the competitive geographic region compete in both school and club sports. Girls in New Jersey compete in <u>https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/states/NJ</u> Wrestling, Badminton, Fencing, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, providing Monmouth with plenty of women who are athletically trained and who are interested in these sports.

In addition, girls compete in club sports or travel teams, that are not associated with their high schools. These include: Basketball, Soccer, Golf, Tennis, and Track & Field, Table Tennis, Team Handball, Sailing, Field Hockey, Fencing, Swimming & Diving, Skateboarding, Water Polo, Archery, Field Hockey, Rifle, Triathlon, Ice Hockey, Sport Climbing, Artistic Swimming, Skiing, Snowboarding, Gymnastics, Rowing, Wrestling, Rugby, and all sorts of combat sports, like Judo, Karate, and Taekwondo, to name a few.

According to the NCAA,<sup>2</sup> in 2020, only 1.3% of high school girls basketball players were provided the opportunity to play in Division I. Just 2.9% of high school Field Hockey players, 2.8% of Golfers, 8.9% of Ice Hockey players, 3.7% of Lacrosse players, 2.4% of Soccer players, 1.8% of Softball players, 3.3% of Swimmers, 1.5% of Tennis players, 2.8% of Track & Field athletes, 1.2% of Volleyball players in high school are provided opportunities to play their sport in Division I.

These metrics demonstrate that women have expressed enormous demand to compete in sports that is unmet. Girls and women have the interest and athletic ability to play additional sports. It cannot be said that there are not women interested and athletically able to compete in many additional sports at Western Kentucky University.

<sup>2</sup> NCAA: Estimated Probability of Competing in College Athletics:

https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2015/3/2/estimated-probability-of-competing-in-college-athletics.aspx Champion Women, Sex Discrimination in Athletics in Violation of Title IX, 2023 24. Wrestling Rugby, Equestrian, and Triathlon are NCAA emerging sports. There are 163 college women's Wrestling programs, 42 NCAA schools sponsor Triathlon, 26 colleges sponsor women's varsity Equestrian, and at least 32 colleges currently sponsor women's varsity Rugby.

25. Sport Governing Bodies and the NCAA, for member schools, make it very easy to see where other competitors are located. The NCAA publishes the "NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report, 1956 - 2022" for schools to find competitors within the school's normal competitive region: NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report.<sup>3</sup>

26. A review of the Monmouth website does not reveal that Monmouth undertook any athletic interest surveys or other research into interest and competition to support the addition of women's varsity sports. While surveys are never sufficient to deny women sports opportunities, they are often helpful in determining *which sports* the school should add.

27. The failure to provide women with equal opportunities to play impacts the availability of athletic scholarship dollars for women. These are important sources of funding for educational attainment that women are being denied because of their sex. If Monmouth provided its male and female students with the same opportunities to participate, Monmouth would need to add **\$7,733,819** *additional* athletic scholarship dollars, to balance out the amount Monmouth provides to its male students.

Women's Collegiate Triathlon: <u>https://www.usatriathlon.org/multisport/ncaa-triathlon</u>

Collegiate Sailing is governed by the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) with 220 schools: <u>https://www.collegesailing.org/about/overview</u>

Women's Collegiate Ice Hockey: https://www.uscho.com/teams/#d1women

Collegiate Field Hockey: <u>https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Field-Hockey/PLAYERS/College/Team-Websites</u> Collegiate Synchronized/ Artistic Swimming: <u>https://www.collegexpress.com/lists/list/colleges-with-</u>

notable-synchronized-swimming-teams/581/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See NCAA:

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/research/sportpart/2022RES\_SportsSponsorshipParticipationRatesReport.pdf See individual sports' governing bodies for more, e.g.,

Women's College Rugby: <u>https://www.urugby.com/teams/womens-teams</u>

Collegiate Equestrian: https://collegiateequestrian.com/sports/2020/5/6/schools.aspx

Women's Collegiate Wrestling: https://wrestlelikeagirl.org/college-opportunities

Collegiate Competitive Cheer Teams: <u>https://www.ncsasports.org/cheerleading/colleges</u> (not to be confused with sideline cheerleading)

Collegiate Bowling - https://collegebowling.bowl.com/teams

Collegiate Rifle - <u>https://competitions.nra.org/competitions/nra-national-matches/collegiate-championships/collegiate-shooting-sports-directory/</u>

Collegiate Skiing – <u>https://www.uscsa.org/</u>

Collegiate Water Polo - https://collegiatewaterpolo.org/

Collegiate Women's Gymnastics https://www.ncaa.com/sports/gymnastics-women

28. If for some reason the OCR determined that Monmouth did not need to add additional participation opportunities, and the ratio used is the student-athletes, instead of the student body, no more scholarship dollars would be required.

29. Monmouth's EADA data further indicates that the university provides inadequate and unequal funding for recruitment of female athletes. In 2021-2022, Monmouth spent \$158,423 on men's recruitment and only \$77,592 on women's recruitment; women were allocated only 32.88 percent of the recruiting budget even though they account for 40.93 percent of the athletic population and 62.05 percent of the full-time undergraduate population. If Monmouth provided its male and female students with the same recruiting budgets, Monmouth would need to add \$22,417.52 to balance out the recruiting Monmouth provides to its male students.

30. If, for some reason, the OCR decided that Monmouth is, in fact, not discriminating against women in providing opportunities in sport, Monmouth would still need to provide its women's sports teams – and women's coaches – with **\$4,838.42** more recruiting dollars in order to be consistent with the school's investment in men's sports.

## IV. LEGAL ALLEGATIONS

31. Title IX provides that "[n]o person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." 20 U.S.C. §1681(a).

32. Title IX regulations prohibit athletic programs from discriminating on the basis of sex in interscholastic, intercollegiate, club or intramural athletics offered by the institution. 34 C.F.R. §106.41(a) (2000).

33. Title IX regulations require institutions that offer athletics programs to provide equal athletic opportunities to members of both sexes to participate in athletics. 34 C.F.R. \$106.41(c)(1).

34. Pursuant to the 1979 Title IX Policy Interpretation, compliance with Title IX's equal athletic participation requirement is measured by determining whether the educational institution meets one part of the following three-part test:

- 1. Prong 1: Whether intercollegiate level participation opportunities for male and female students are provided in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective enrollments; or
- 2. Prong 2: Where the members of one sex have been and are underrepresented among intercollegiate athletes, whether the institution can show a history and continuing practice of program

expansion which is demonstrably responsive to the developing interests and abilities of the members of that sex; or

3. Prong 3: Where the members of one sex are underrepresented among intercollegiate athletes, and the institution cannot show a history and continuing practice of program expansion, as described above, whether it can be demonstrated that the interests and abilities of the members of that sex have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program.

United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office for Civil Rights, *Policy Interpretation; Title IX and Intercollegiate Athletics*, 44 Fed. Reg. 71413 (Dec. 11, 1979) [hereinafter *Policy Interpretation*].

35. In determining substantial proportionality under part one of the three-part test, OCR considers the number of opportunities that would have to be added to achieve proportionality and whether it would be sufficient to support another team. If there are a significant number of unaccommodated women, it is likely that a viable sport could be added and therefore the institution has not satisfied part one of the three-part test. United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, *Clarification of Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Guidance: the Three-Part Test* (Jan. 16, 1996) [hereinafter *1996 Clarification*].

36. In 1975, schools were given three years to be in compliance with the equal participation mandate under Title IX. Schools had only one year to end sex-discrimination in all other areas of Title IX's non-discrimination mandate. Only athletics gave schools three years to add athletic opportunities and to stop discriminating against women – or until 1978. That deadline passed 45 years ago. 34 C.F.R. \$106.41(d).<sup>4</sup>

It is worth noting how odd Prong 2 is as a legal test, in comparison to any other nondiscrimination civil right. For a school to be able to argue that it is still playing catch-up with non-discrimination – exists nowhere else in law. This is especially true 51 years after the passage of Title IX, and 48 years after the passage of the regulations OCR depends on, that were passed by Congress. When a school uses Prong 2, it is admitting that it is not providing women with equal educational opportunities, but that their discrimination is acceptable, because the school is "improving". Title IX's Prong 2 allows schools to provide girls and women with less.

37. <u>Therefore, it is understandable that Prong 2 is a strict legal test.</u> In determining whether an institution has a history and continuing practice of expansion under Prong 2 of the three-part test, OCR reviews the entire history of the athletic program and evaluates whether the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 34 C.F.R. §106.41(d) "*Adjustment period.* A recipient which operates or sponsors interscholastic, intercollegiate, club or intramural athletics at the elementary school level shall comply fully with this section as expeditiously as possible but in no event later than one year from the effective date of this regulation. A recipient which operates or sponsors interscholastic, intercollegiate, club or intramural athletics at the secondary or post-secondary school level shall comply fully with this section as expeditiously as possible but in no event later than three years from the effective date of this regulation."

institution has expanded participation opportunities for the underrepresented sex in a manner that was demonstrably responsive to their developing interests and abilities, considering a number of factors, including:

- an institution's record of adding intercollegiate teams, or upgrading teams to intercollegiate status, for the underrepresented sex;
- an institution's record of increasing the numbers of participants in intercollegiate athletics who are members of the underrepresented sex;
- an institution's affirmative responses to requests by students or others for addition or elevation of sports; and
- whether the institution has effective ongoing procedures for collecting, maintaining and analyzing information on the interest and abilities of students of the underrepresented sex, including monitoring athletic participation, and assessing interest and ability on a periodic basis.

# United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, *Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Clarification: The Three-Part Test- Part Three* (Apr. 20, 2010) [hereinafter 2010 Clarification]; 1996 Clarification.

38. In determining whether an institution has a continuing practice of program expansion under Prong 2, OCR will consider a number of factors, including:

- an institution's current implementation of a nondiscriminatory policy or procedure for requesting the addition of sports (including the elevation of club or intramural teams) and the effective communication of the policy or procedure to students;
- an institution's current implementation of a plan of program expansion that is responsive to developing interests and abilities; and
- an institution's efforts to monitor developing interests and abilities of the underrepresented sex, for example, by conducting periodic nondiscriminatory assessments of developing interests and abilities and taking timely actions in response to the results.

## 2010 Clarification, 1996 Clarification.

39. OCR will not find a history and continuing practice of program expansion where an institution increases the proportional participation opportunities for the underrepresented sex by reducing opportunities for the overrepresented sex alone or by reducing participation opportunities for the overrepresented sex to a proportionately greater degree than for the underrepresented sex. *2010 Clarification, 1996 Clarification.* 

40. Courts have found that schools must have both a history *and* continuing practice of expanding opportunities for women for Prong 2 compliance. *Mansourian v. Bd. Of Regents of Univ. of Cal.*, 594 F. 3d 1095, 1108. (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. Cal. 2010).

41. Prong 3 of the three-part test requires an examination of whether there is an unmet interest in a particular sport, a sufficient ability to sustain a team in the sport, and a reasonable expectation for competition for a team in the sport. *2010 Clarification*, *1996 Clarification*.

42. Whether there is unmet interest and ability will be determined by examining a broad range of indicators, including whether the institution uses non-discriminatory methods of assessing interest and ability, the elimination of a viable team for the unrepresented sex, multiple indicators of interest and ability, and frequency of conducting assessments. *2010 Clarification*.

43. Sufficient interest can be established by student requests to add a sport or elevate a club sport, increases in club or intramural sport participation, responses to interviews and interest surveys, assessments of student athletic participation before entering the institution or in the secondary schools from which the university draws its students, and assessments of participation in intercollegiate sports in the institution's normal competitive regions. *Id.* 

44. Ability may be established by the athletic accomplishments and competitive experience of club sports and admitted students, the opinions of coaches, administrators, and athletes, and student participation in other sports. *Id.* 

45. Expectation of competition may be established through athletic opportunities offered by other schools with which the school competes or opportunities at other schools in the school's geographic area, including those against which the institution does not compete. *Id.* 

46. Under Prong 3 of the three-part test, OCR will also examine an institution's recruitment practices. If an institution recruits potential student-athletes for its men's teams, OCR will examine whether the institution is providing women's teams with substantially equal opportunities to recruit potential student-athletes. *Id*.

47. Title IX also requires schools to provide equal scholarship dollars, in proportion to the number of students of each sex participating in athletics. 34 C.F.R. §106.37(c) (2000). NCAA limits on scholarships per team is not a legal defense; schools cannot blame a third-party for sex discrimination; recipients are responsible for equality. Schools choose which sports to sponsor, and some schools have chosen scholarship-dense sports for men, such as football and basketball, and scholarship-light sports for women, such as track.

48. Title IX also requires equal opportunity in the recruitment of student-athletes where equal athletic opportunities are not present for male and female students. Compliance will be assessed by examining the recruitment practices of the athletic programs for both sexes and evaluating whether the financial and other resources made available for recruitment in male and female athletic programs are equivalently adequate to meet the needs of each program. *1979 Policy Interpretation*.

49. Title IX requires schools to provide women with equal treatment, including equipment and supplies; game and practice times; travel and per diem allowances; coaching and academic tutoring; assignment and compensation of coaches and tutors; locker rooms, practice *Champion Women*, Sex Discrimination in Athletics in Violation of Title IX, 2023

and competitive facilities; medical and training facilities and services; housing and dining facilities and services; and publicity. 34 C.F.R. §106.41(a) (2000), *Policy Interpretation*.

50. Lack of money is not a legal defense to sex discrimination. *See, e.g., Roberts Colorado State Univ.*, 814 F. Supp. 1507, 1518 (D. Colo. 1993) ("[A] financial crisis cannot justify gender discrimination."); *Favia v Indiana University of Pennsylvania*, 812 F. Supp. 578, 585 (W.D. Pa. 1993) (finding that financial concerns alone cannot justify gender discrimination); *Cook v. Colgate University*, 802 F. Supp. 737, 750 (1992) ("[I]f schools could use financial concerns as a sole reason for disparity of treatment, Title IX would become meaningless."); *Haffer v. Temple*, 678 F. Supp. 517, 520 (1987) (finding that financial concerns alone cannot justify gender discrimination).

51. Monies and in-kind benefits from third-party sources, such as donors, sponsorships, television rights, ticket sales, and student fees, are not a defense to a sex discrimination charge, whether those resources were used to build facilities, fund scholarships, provide equipment and uniforms, or any other benefit of sports participation. None of those sources of money creates a legal defense against sex discrimination. Schools must ensure that their students are not receiving second-class educational opportunities because they are female. See 20 U.S.C. § 1687 (2005); See Office for Civil Rights, *Department of Education, Further Clarification of Intercollegiate Athletics Policy Guidance Regarding Title IX Compliance* (June 11, 2003), *Cohen v. Brown Univ.*, 809 F. Supp. 978, 996 (D.R.I. 1992) (concluding that "all monies spent by Brown's Athletic Department, whether originating from university coffers or from the Sports Foundation [booster club] must be evaluated as a whole under § 106.41(c)")

52. It is *Champion Women's* experience that most athletes and former athletes are acutely aware of all the ways they are treated as second-class within their athletics department, because they are women. As NIL monies become more available, equal promotion and publicity will be important for female athletes. *Champion Women* asked current collegiate athletes what equality would look like under this list. Here's what the athletes came up with:

- i. Men's and Women's sports would be equally featured, with equal prominence, on school and Athletic Department websites and social media.
- ii. Schools would invest equally in cameras and production equipment for Women's and Men's sports.
- iii. Schools would optimize Google searches for their Men's and Women's teams to receive equal search results.
- iv. Women's and Men's sports would employ an equal caliber of talent in their sports information and marketing departments, and they would be paid and promoted equally.
- v. Women's and Men's sports jerseys, apparel and memorabilia would be equally and easily accessible.
- vi. The needs of Women's teams would not revolve around Men's football and men's basketball teams.

- vii. The Women's and Men's teams would have equal access to dining halls, nutrition, etc. at times equally convenient to both teams.
- viii. Men's and Women's teams would have equal access to optimal practice times when they share facilities.
- ix. Men's and Women's sports marketing efforts would focus on performance; Broadcasters and schools would not focus on a woman-athlete's appearance or sexuality.
- x. Women's and Men's medical care and athletic training access would be equal; Neither male or female athletes would have priority accessing these resources.
- xi. Schools would hire competition officials of the same quality, with equal compensation, for the Women's and Men's teams.
- xii. Men's and Women's sports performance staff would be equal, and would be paid and promoted comparably.
- xiii. Schools would intentionally use language that equally prioritizes Men's and Women's sports.
  - 1. Teams would be referred as "Women's Basketball" and "Men's Basketball."
  - 2. "Basketball" would not be used to refer to Men's Basketball.
  - Schools would have Social Media handles that referred to men's and women's teams; "Oregon Soccer" would be changed to "Oregon Men's Soccer."

53. Monmouth's own data, as outlined in the Factual Allegations above, demonstrate that it is not providing equal opportunities for its female students to participate in sports under Title IX's three-part participation test, in addition to scholarship, treatment and benefits, including recruitment requirements.

#### V. RELIEF REQUESTED

54. *Champion Women* expects OCR investigators will find additional violations of the civil rights law guaranteeing women equal educational opportunities in athletics. *Champion Women* requests that OCR:

- a. <u>Investigate</u> Monmouth University to determine whether it is discriminating against women; is it providing female students with equal opportunities to participate in varsity athletics, equal and proportionate athletic scholarship dollars, and receiving equal treatment and benefits, as required by Title IX.
- b. Take all necessary steps to <u>remedy</u> any unlawful conduct that you identify in your investigation, as required by Title IX and its implementing regulations. Secure assurances of compliance with Title IX from Monmouth, that include full remedies for the violations found.
- c. Among other steps to achieve compliance with Title IX, require Monmouth to add more athletic opportunities for women, accord to additional teams and athletes the full range of benefits accorded to men's varsity teams and athletes.
- d. <u>Monitor</u> any resulting agreement with Monmouth to ensure that the school achieves compliance with Title IX, now and in the future.



Nancy Hogshead, J.D., OLY

September 20, 2023

Champion Women, Sex Discrimination in Athletics in Violation of Title IX, 2023 P a g e 13 | 14

Champion Women, Sex Discrimination in Athletics in Violation of Title IX, 2023 P a g e  $14 \mid 14$