

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
Catherine.lhamon@ed.gov

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
Suzanne.goldberg@ed.gov

ADMINISTRATIVE CLASS COMPLAINT

COMPLAINANT

Champion Women

Nancy Hogshead, J.D., OLY, CEO

EMAIL: Hogshead@ChampionWomen.org

RECIPIENT

University of Iowa Barbara J. Wilson, President Office of the President, 101 Jessup Hall Iowa City, Iowa 52242 EMAIL: president@uiowa.edu

Beth Goetz or Gary Barta N411 Carver Hawkeye Arena Iowa City, IA 52242

Director of Athletics

EMAIL: lowa-AD@hawkeyesports.com

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 the University of Iowa ("Iowa") 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 Iowa's website indicates that Iowa is discriminating on the basis of sex by providing unequal athletic participation opportunities, unequal athletic scholarship dollars, and unequal treatment and benefits, including but not limited to 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 Iowa to determine whether it is providing women equal opportunities to participate in varsity sports, equal opportunities to earn athletic scholarships, and equivalent treatment and benefits, 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 Iowa currently violates Title IX's athletic equity requirements, this complaint is timely.

III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 8. Iowa receives federal financial assistance and is therefore prohibited from discriminating on the basis of sex pursuant to Title IX.
- 9. Data submitted by Iowa 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 Iowa 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.

	Undergraduate Enrollment						Athletic Participation		
Year	Men	Women	Total	Percent	Men	Women Prong 2:	Total	Percent	Female
				Women		This #		Women	Athletes
						should Rise			Who
						Continuousl			Would
						y and			Need to
						Steadily			be
						Over Time, Without			Added
						Going			to
						Backwards			Achieve
2003-04	8196	9578	17774	53.89%	407	358	765	46.80%	118
2004-05	8201	9678	17879	54.13%	405	319	724	44.06%	159
2005-06	8485	9709	18194	53.36%	429	313	742	42.18%	178
2006-07	9541	10759	20300	53.00%	395	326	721	45.21%	119
2007-08	10035	10872	20907	52.00%	404	308	712	43.26%	130
2008-09	9063	9478	18541	51.12%	431	347	778	44.60%	104
2009-10	8963	9356	18319	51.07%	387	359	746	48.12%	45
2010-11	9119	9776	18895	51.74%	380	391	771	50.71%	16
2011-12	9282	9876	19158	51.55%	400	406	806	50.37%	20
2012-13	9419	10030	19449	51.57%	409	415	824	50.36%	21
2013-14	9289	10012	19301	51.87%	419	384	803	47.82%	68
2014-15	9301	10074	19375	51.99%	391	383	774	49.48%	40
2015-16	9394	10318	19712	52.34%	409	401	810	49.51%	48
2016-17	9801	10889	20690	52.63%	407	430	837	51.37%	22
2017-18	9899	11180	21079	53.04%	384	413	797	51.82%	21
2018-19	10010	11546	21556	53.56%	382	409	791	51.71%	32
2019-20	9652	11440	21092	54.24%	392	432	824	52.43%	33
2020-21	9050	11105	20155	55.10%	401	408	809	50.43%	84
2021-22	8650	10994	19644	55.97%	373	413	786	52.54%	61

10. *Champion Women* has edited the EADA data on our website https://titleixschools.com/ 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. 1

University of Iowa counts 22 men as "women" on their EADA report.

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

- 11. Iowa 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 participation test. Women are 55.97% of the student body, but just 52.54% 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, Iowa's participation gap was 61 athletes, taking into account the 22 men that Iowa is counting as women. In other words, Iowa must provide its women students 61 additional athletic opportunities in order to provide athletic opportunities substantially proportionate to the athletic opportunities Iowa provides to men. To put this into perspective, if the average team is 15 25 athletes some more and some less Iowa would need to provide an additional 4 to 2.5 new teams to women, *in addition* to its recent addition of women's Wrestling, under pressure from a Title IX lawsuit.
- (22 men function as "practice players" for the women's teams. The University of Iowa is counting these men as "women" on their EADA report; the 61 gap takes those men into account.)
- 13. The EADA data and evidence gathered on Iowa's website show that Iowa 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.
- 14. Over the 19 academic years covered by the available EADA data, Iowa's participation opportunities for women fluctuated. From 2003 to 2008, Iowa shrunk opportunities for women to play sports. In 2012, Iowa was offering women more opportunities than in 2021. By 2020-21, the total number of women athletes had actually decreased from 432 to 408. The current number of 413 is essentially the same since 2012. *Champion Women* cannot know the 28-year history of adding sports between 1975 and 2003, but Iowa cannot show a history of continuous program expansion that is demonstratively responsive to women's growing interest in sports of all kinds.
- 15. A review of Iowa'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.
- 16. Iowa sponsors 6 men's varsity sports (Baseball, Basketball, Track, Football, Golf, and Wrestling) for 296 men and 12 women's varsity sports (Basketball, Field Hockey, Golf, Gymnastics, Rowing, Soccer, Softball, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball and Wrestling), for 322 women. (University of Iowa counts 22 men as "women" on their EADA report; 322 takes that into account.)
- 17. Information available on Iowa'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.

- 18. Iowa women participate in the Club sports of Badminton, Fencing, Basketball, Diving, Field Hockey, Golf, Gymnastics, Rowing, Rugby, Soccer, Softball, Triathlon, Rifle, Sailing, Competitive Cheer, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Water Polo, Wrestling, *Sports Camps*, Iowa (last visited August 3, 2023). The existence of these women's club teams indicates that there is unmet interest in women's athletics at Iowa.
- 19. The University of Iowa is in the Big 10 Conference. Members of the east division hail from Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Members of the west division are from Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nebraska, Wisconsin. In 2024, new member will hail from California, Oregon and Washington. It is difficult to imagine a women's sport that wouldn't have women's interest, with the athletic abilities in this coast-to-coast competitive geographic region.
- 20. The Big Ten Conference, where the University of Iowa is a member, sponsors women's Lacrosse as a championship sport. Iowa does not. Women's championship teams demonstrate women's interest in these sports and that competition for these women's sports exists in the competitive geographic area.
- 21. A number of universities in the Big Ten sponsor women's Bowling, Fencing, Ice Hockey, Rifle, Synchronized Swimming, and Beach Volleyball, making competition in these six sports in Iowa reasonable. These women's teams demonstrate women's interest and athletic ability in these sports and that competition for these women's sports exists in the competitive geographic area.
- 22. Sport Governing Bodies and the NCAA make it easy to see other competitors' locations. 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.²

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Collegiate Field Hockey: https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Field-Hockey/PLAYERS/College/Team-Websites Collegiate Synchronized/ Artistic Swimming: https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Field-Hockey/PLAYERS/College/Team-Websites Collegiate Synchronized/ Artistic Swimming: https://www.collegexpress.com/lists/list/colleges-with-notable-synchronized-swimming-teams/581/

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

² See

23. Iowa recruits nationally and internationally for its athletes.

Iowa high school female athletes have very few opportunities to compete in college sports, and even fewer opportunities in Division I. According to the NCAA,³ in 2020, only 1.3% of high school girls basketball players were provided the opportunity to play in Division I, nationally. 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 nationally are provided opportunities to play their sport in Division I.

High school-age girls in Iowa and in the Big 10 competitive geographic region are also active in club sports or travel teams that are not associated with their school, such as Basketball, Soccer, Golf, Tennis, Track & Field, Wrestling, Equestrian, Badminton, Table Tennis, Team Handball, Sailing, Skiing, Field Hockey, Fencing, Wrestling, Rugby, Swimming & Diving, Skateboarding, Water Polo, Archery, Field Hockey, Rifle, Triathlon, Cycling, Sport Climbing, Artistic Swimming, Gymnastics, Rowing, and all sorts of combat sports, like Judo, Karate, and Taekwondo.

This data suggests women have athletic abilities, and they have expressed enormous demand to compete in sports; demand that is unmet.

- 24. Rugby, Equestrian, Triathlon, and Wrestling 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. A review of the Iowa website does not reveal that Iowa 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.
- 26. 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 Iowa provided its male and female students with proportional opportunities to participate, Iowa would need to add \$1,465,970 additional athletic scholarship dollars, to balance out the amount Iowa provides to its male students.

 $\label{lem:competitions} Collegiate \ Rifle - \underline{https://competitions.nra.org/competitions/nra-national-matches/collegiate-championships/collegiate-shooting-sports-directory/$

Collegiate Skiing - https://www.uscsa.org/

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

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

³ NCAA: Estimated Probability of Competing in College Athletics: https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2015/3/2/estimated-probability-of-competing-in-college-athletics.aspx

- 27. If, for some reason, Iowa is, in fact, not discriminating against women in providing opportunities in sport, then Iowa would still need to provide its women students participating in sports with \$367,060 more in athletic scholarship aid, to match the amount Iowa provides its male athletes.
- 28. Iowa's EADA data further indicates that the university provides inadequate and unequal funding for the recruitment of female athletes. In 2021-2022, Iowa spent \$1,382,213 on men's recruitment and only \$657,141 on women's recruitment; women were allocated only 32.22 percent of the recruiting budget. If Iowa treated women like it does men's teams regarding recruiting resources, women's teams and women's coaches would have an additional **\$1,099,627** in recruiting dollars.
- 29. If, for some reason, Iowa is, in fact, not discriminating against women in providing opportunities in sport, Iowa would still need to provide its women's sports teams and women's coaches with \$405,435 more recruiting dollars in order to be consistent with the school's investment in men's sports.

IV. LEGAL ALLEGATIONS

- 30. 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).
- 31. 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).
- 32. 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).
- 33. 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*].

- 34. 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*].
- 35. 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 higher ed 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).⁴

It is worth noting how odd Prong 2 is as a legal test, in comparison to other non-discrimination civil rights. 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, regulations 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 actions are acceptable, because the school is "improving." Title IX's Prong 2 allows schools to provide girls and women with less.

36. Therefore, it is understandable that Prong 2 is a strict legal test. 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 institution has expanded participation opportunities for the underrepresented sex in a manner that

⁴ 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."

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.

- 37. 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.

- 38. 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.
- 39. 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. (9th Cir. Cal. 2010).

- 40. 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.
- 41. 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.
- 42. 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*.
- 43. 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*.
- 44. 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.*
- 45. 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*.
- 46. 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.
- 47. 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.
- 48. 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,

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*.

- 49. 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).
- 50. 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)")
- 51. 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 nor 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 to as "Women's Basketball" and "Men's Basketball."
 - 2. "Basketball" would not be used to refer to Men's Basketball.
 - 3. 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."
- 52. Iowa'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, it is depriving women of important athletic scholarship dollars and depriving women of equal treatment and benefits, as required under Title IX.

V. RELIEF REQUESTED

- 53. *Champion Women* expects OCR investigators will find additional violations of Title IX, the law guaranteeing women equal educational opportunities, including athletics. *Champion Women* requests that OCR:
 - a. <u>Investigate</u> the University of Iowa to determine whether it is providing female students with equal participation opportunities in varsity athletics, equal and proportionate athletic scholarship dollars, equal treatment and benefits, including equal recruiting budgets.
 - 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 the University of Iowa, that include full remedies for the violations found.
 - c. Among other steps to achieve compliance with Title IX, require the University of Iowa 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, increase athletic scholarship recruiting budgets and opportunities, and adopt and implement a plan to achieve compliance with Title IX.
 - d. <u>Monitor</u> any resulting agreement with the University of Iowa to ensure that the school achieves full compliance with Title IX throughout the athletic department, now and in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Hogshead, J.D., OLY September 25, 2023