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ADMINISTRATIVE CLASS COMPLAINT

COMPLAINANT

Champion Women
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RECIPIENT

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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 Southern Mississippi, (“Southern Miss”) 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 Southern Miss’s website indicates that Southern Miss is discriminating on the basis of sex by providing women with unequal athletic participation opportunities, unequal athletic scholarship dollars, and unequal treatment and benefits, including athletic recruitment funding.

4. In order to address these disparities, *Champion Women* requests that the Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”) investigate Southern Miss to determine whether it is discriminating against women; is it 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 remediating 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 Southern Miss currently violates Title IX’s athletic equity requirements, this complaint is timely.

III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

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

9. Data submitted by Southern Miss 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 Southern Miss 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.

Year	Undergraduate Enrollment				Men	Women Prong 2: This # should Rise Continuously and Steadily Over Time, Without Going Backwards	Athletic Participation			
	Men	Women	Total	Percent Women			Total	Percent Women	Female Athletes Who Would Need to be Added to Achieve	
2003-04	3950	6038	9988	60.45%	213	136	349	38.97%	190	
2004-05	4256	6425	10681	60.15%	210	135	345	39.13%	182	
2005-06	4248	6479	10727	60.40%	206	127	333	38.14%	187	
2006-07	5663	8759	14422	60.73%	215	118	333	35.44%	215	
2007-08	4066	6139	10205	60.16%	232	174	406	42.86%	176	
2008-09	4128	6202	10330	60.04%	221	168	389	43.19%	164	
2009-10	4114	6546	10660	61.41%	238	167	405	41.23%	212	
2010-11	4263	6753	11016	61.30%	204	123	327	37.61%	200	
2011-12	4268	7028	11296	62.22%	246	162	408	39.71%	243	
2012-13	4243	7132	11375	62.70%	237	171	408	41.91%	227	
2013-14	3875	6954	10829	64.22%	238	158	396	39.90%	269	
2014-15	3776	6800	10576	64.30%	222	174	396	43.94%	226	
2015-16	3664	6633	10297	64.42%	227	185	412	44.90%	226	
2016-17	3683	6559	10242	64.04%	236	206	442	46.61%	214	
2017-18	3766	6618	10384	63.73%	232	202	434	46.54%	206	
2018-19	3463	6383	9846	64.83%	221	175	396	44.19%	232	
2019-20	3367	6283	9650	65.11%	210	147	357	41.18%	245	
2020-21	3293	6343	9636	65.83%	240	193	433	44.57%	269	
2021-22	3051	5965	9016	66.16%	235	183	418	44.44%	276	

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

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/>

Southern Miss counts **five male practice players as women**, and they have been deducted from the totals in the narrative.

11. Southern Miss 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 66.16% of the student body, but just 43.78% 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, Southern Miss's participation gap was 276. Southern Miss counts 5 men as "women" in its EADA profile, male practice players. This makes the gap 281. In other words, Southern Miss must add 281 additional athletic opportunities for women in order to provide athletic opportunities substantially proportionate to the opportunities they are providing to their male students. 281 additional opportunities is a fantastic gap, enough to add an entire athletic department; Southern Miss currently only provides opportunities for 141 women athletes. Assuming a new team would have an average of 25 athletes – some more, some less – Southern Miss would need to add over 11 new women's sports teams.

13. The EADA data and evidence gathered on Southern Miss's website show that Southern Miss 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, Southern Miss's opportunities it offers to women go up and down. While *Champion Women* cannot find the pattern between 1979 and 2003, we do know that Southern Miss shrunk to some of its lowest opportunities in 2006, with just 118 opportunities, 18 fewer than in 2003. Southern Miss gave more opportunities for women in 2015, 2016 and 2017 than it is currently providing. *Champion Women* cannot know the 28-year history of adding sports between 1975 and 2003, but Southern Mississippi 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 Southern Miss'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. Southern Miss sponsors 6 men's varsity sports (Baseball, Basketball, Football, Golf, Tennis and Track & Field) serving 212 men, and 8 women's varsity sports (Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field and Volleyball) serving 141 women.

17. Information available on Southern Miss’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. Southern Miss women participate in the club sports of badminton, bowling, flag football, ice hockey. The existence of these women’s club teams indicates that there is unmet interest in women’s athletics at Southern Miss.

19. 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.²

20. Southern Miss is a member of the Sunbelt Conference, where athletes compete in a vast geographic reach of South Carolina, North Carolina, Arkansas, Georgia, Virginia, Louisiana, West Virginia, Alabama, Virginia, and Texas. It is difficult to imagine a collegiate sport that would not be competing within this enormously competitive geographic region.

21. In addition, other members of the Sunbelt Conference participate in women’s Bowling, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Rugby, Rifle, Rowing, Sailing, Swimming and Diving, while Southern Mississippi does not. The existence of these women’s sports demonstrates women’s interest and ability to play, and a reasonable expectation within Southern Mississippi and the Sun Belt Conference competitive geographic region.

² See

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.collegexpress.com/lists/list/colleges-with-notable-synchronized-swimming-teams/581/>

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

Collegiate Rifle - <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>

22. As an NCAA Division I, FBS, Power 5 school, the student body and athletes are recruited nationally and internationally.

High school-age girls in Mississippi compete in a number of sports not offered by Southern Mississippi University. <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/states/MS>

High school-age girls in competitive geographic region are active in club sports or travel teams that are not associated with their school, such as Basketball, Soccer, Golf, Tennis, and Track & Field, Wrestling, Badminton, 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,³ 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 the University of Southern Mississippi.

23. 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.

24. A review of the Southern Miss website does not reveal that Southern Miss 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.

25. 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 Southern Miss provided its male and female students with the same opportunities to participate, if Southern Miss invested in women's sports as it does its men's program, Southern Miss would need to add **\$4,061,661** additional athletic scholarship dollars, to balance out the amount Southern Miss provides to its male students.

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>

26. If the OCR determines that Southern Miss is providing women with enough sports opportunities, and the ratio used is the student-athletes, instead of the student body, no more scholarship dollars would be required.

27. Southern Miss's EADA data further indicates that the university provides inadequate and unequal funding for the recruitment of female athletes. In 2021-2022, Southern Miss spent \$282,297 on men's recruitment and only \$153,727 on women's recruitment, even though women are 66.16% percent of the full-time undergraduate population. If Southern Miss provided its male and female teams with the same opportunities to participate and recruit, if Southern Miss invested in women's sports as it does its men's program, Southern Miss would need to add an additional **\$398,190** recruiting dollars to women's teams – and women's coaches – to balance out the amount Southern Miss provides to its male students.

28. If, for some reason, the OCR determines that Southern Miss is, in fact, not discriminating against women in providing opportunities in sport, Southern Miss would still need to provide its women's sports teams – and women's coaches – with **\$20,435** more recruiting dollars in order to be consistent with the school's investment in men's sports.

IV. LEGAL ALLEGATIONS

29. 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).

30. 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).

31. 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).

32. 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*].

33. 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*].

34. 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).⁴

It is worth noting how odd Prong 2 is as a legal test, in comparison to any other non-discrimination 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 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.

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.”

35. 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 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*.

36. 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.

37. 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.*

38. 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).

39. 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.*

40. 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.*

41. 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.*

42. 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.*

43. 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.*

44. 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.*

45. 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.

46. 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.*

47. 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*.

48. Lack of money is not a legal defense to sex discrimination. (*See, e.g., Roberts Colorado State Univ.*, 814 F. Supp. 1507, (D.Colo.1993), at 1518 (“[A] financial crisis cannot justify gender discrimination.”); *Favia v Indiana University of Pennsylvania*, 812 F. Supp. 578 at 585 (W.D. Pa. 1993) (finding that financial concerns alone cannot justify gender discrimination); *Cook v. Colgate University*, 802 F. Supp. 737, (1992) at 750 (“[I]f schools could use financial concerns as a sole reason for disparity of treatment, Title IX would become meaningless.”); *Haffer*, 678 F. Supp. 517, (1987) at 530 (finding that financial concerns alone cannot justify gender discrimination).

49. 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 (D.R.I. 1992) at 996 (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)”)

50. 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."

51. Southern Miss'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 recruitment requirements.

V. RELIEF REQUESTED

52. *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. Investigate the University of Southern Mississippi to determine whether it is discriminating against women; whether it is providing female students with equal participation opportunities in varsity athletics, equal athletic scholarship dollars, and equal treatment and benefits, including equal recruiting budgets.
- b. Take all necessary steps to remedy any unlawful conduct that it identifies in its investigation, as required by Title IX and its implementing regulations. Secure assurances of compliance with Title IX from Southern Mississippi, that include full remedies for the violations found.
- c. Among other steps to achieve compliance with Title IX, require Southern Mississippi 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 scholarships and recruiting budgets, and opportunities, and adopt and implement a plan to achieve compliance with Title IX.
- d. Monitor any resulting agreement with the University of Southern Mississippi to ensure that the school achieves full compliance with Title IX, throughout its athletic department, now and in the future.

I give the OCR my consent to disclose my name and *Champion Women's* name contained in this letter to others for OCR's investigation of, and enforcement activities related to, the Sex Discrimination Complaint.



Nancy Hogshead, J.D., OLY
September 18, 2023

