

# Ten Distortions of Title IX

#1. Title IX's current interpretation does not resemble the original intent of the law. The law has been high-jacked by political forces that have their own agenda, morphing it into an arbitrary gender quota resulting in a loss of programs for Olympic sports.

#2. Title IX's current misinterpretation of proportionality leads schools to eliminate men's athletic programs instead of adding women's programs at the collegiate level. Unknowing supporters of Title IX claim that schools are coming into compliance, even-though the school may not have added any more women athletes--and probably just cut Olympic sports for men such as wrestling, track & field, baseball, and swimming.

#3. Title IX's advocate's misinterpretation of proportionality is reaching down to the high school level. Across the country high schools are falling under the OCR's threats and leaving opportunities behind for males as school administrators try to make the numbers line up. The Department of Education in Florida has imposed gender-equity guidelines with other states in the process of considering or implementing restrictive rules.

#4. Title IX's current misinterpretation shows no mercy for the walk-on student athlete. Even when a collegian wants to join a team at little or no added expense to the school, the walk-on athlete may be cut just to satisfy proportionality. Colleges are frightened by the OCR's inflexible interpretation of Title IX and feel they risk being sued if too many men compete in sports on campus--consequently the first to go are often the walk-ons, those who pay full tuition but are denied access to the program.

#5. Title IX's advocate's reliance on proportionality leads many schools to start women's programs that cater to white upper-class women, while schools cut programs that help minorities of less financial means. Schools are forced into adding women's crew, equestrian, and precision ice-skating at the expense of men's athletic opportunities.

#6. Title IX's advocate's reliance on proportionality overlooks the fact that there are many more women's teams than men's teams in the NCAA. In 2003, there were 843 more women's teams than men's teams in the NCAA.

#7. Title IX was passed in 1972 to provide equal opportunity in educational activities supported by the federal government. This law was not written exclusively about sports. Title IX could be applied to every aspect of the educational experience. If proportionality was used in extracurricular activities girls would have to be cut from such activities as choir, band, cheerleading, orchestra, drill team, drama, debate, and much, much more.

#8. Title IX's proportionality woes cannot be solved by making small cutbacks in "Big Time" sports numbers such as football and basketball participation by men. Right now, there still needs to be a cut of between 60,000 and 70,000 athletes within the NCAA to reach complete proportionality. To make up this difference, many more men's teams and men's slots will have to be cut, because of the inflexible interpretation of proportionality.

#9. Title IX's misinterpretation keeps men off the court and out of the pool. There are 64 campuses where only women compete in the pool and 83 campuses where the tennis courts are for women only. The colleges have the resources and facilities for both genders to play, but the men are eliminated to reach the quota of proportionality.

#10. Title IX's proportionality advocates overlook the fact that women compete at the same level in high school as they do in college. According to the NCAA news in the '95-'96 academic year there was only a .7 percent difference in gender participation from high school to college. What this means is that colleges are offering opportunities in the same numbers as reflected by the interest of women competing at the high school level.



**“Simply put, “proportionality” is a gender quota that forces schools to create an artificial numerical equality.”**