"Instead, by focusing on equality of outcomes, it has made college athletics a zero sum game: women only win if men lose."

Carrie Lukas is a contributor to the National Review Online and the director of policy at the Independent Women's Forum. The following viewpoint discusses the impact Title IX has had on colleges and universities. Lukas claims that although the law intended to provide equal opportunities for women and increase their participation in sports, ultimately in order to comply with Title IX, many men's sports teams are being cut instead.

As you read, consider the following questions:

1. What does the author claim Title IX encourages besides female athletes' progress?
2. According to the viewpoint, what actions can universities take in order to satisfy the quota of Title IX?
3. What is the only "sure-fire" way for colleges to avoid expensive litigation?

The Super Bowl, the World Series, and March Madness all pulse with testosterone. But the Olympic Games—with heart-wrenching stories of years of sacrifice for one moment of glory in Athens—are ready-made for women. Not only do women account for more than half of the Olympics' television viewers, female athletes are Olympic stars. Networks cover women's gymnastics, diving, track, and swimming in primetime. The Olympic Games produce superstars like Kerri Strug, whose vault clinched the U.S gymnastic team a gold medal in 1996; and Marion Jones, who sprinted to five medals in 2000.

This Olympics [2004] is no different. Among the most anticipated events is return of soccer darlings Mia Hamm and Brandi Chastain. They won the gold in 1996 and will compete one last time as a team in Athens. Swimmer Jenny Thompson already has eight gold medals to her name, and could finish her fourth Olympic Games with 13 medals.

These female Olympians deserve to be celebrated: Their hard work will inspire many young girls to participate in sports. This decision can have an important impact: Female athletes have higher graduation rates, are less likely to have unwanted pregnancies, and report higher levels of self-esteem. Sports similarly benefit boys and may play an important role in helping them socialize and form positive relationship with their peers. That's why girls and boys should both be encouraged to participate in athletic activity at early age.

The Impact of Title IX

Unfortunately, instead of just encouraging participation in sports, the federal law known as Title IX pits our male and female athletes against each other. Under this regime, it's not just female athletes' progress that's celebrated, but the elimination of male athletes.
Consider a *Washington Post* Olympic preview entitled "Female Athletes Continue to Gain Ground" written in April 2004. The article celebrated that nearly equal numbers of men and women—an estimated 282 men and 263 women—will represent the United States in Athens. It goes on to note that in the last summer Olympics, the U.S. sent 338 men and 264 women to compete.

Should these numbers really be cited as evidence of progress for women? The number of women competing was essentially unchanged. The so-called victory for women was the elimination of more than 50 male athletes from the U.S. roster.

**Intention of Title IX**

This mentality comes as no surprise to those familiar with the application of Title IX. This federal law was intended to prevent discrimination based on sex on college campuses, including athletics, but has since become a death sentence for many male sports teams. The only sure-fire way for colleges and universities to avoid potentially costly litigation is to make their rosters "proportional" to their enrollment. Since women account for about 56 percent of undergraduates (and there has been no outcry about the "lack of proportionality" in college enrollment) at many campuses, women need to account for more than half of all athletes.

To meet this quota, universities can either try to increase female participation or reduce the number of male athletes. Many have struggled to attract greater female participation. When Brown University was sued under Title IX in 1992, there were 85 unfilled spots on female varsity teams. Many universities resort to eliminating male athletic teams, including those that were once the training grounds for Olympic athletes. The University of Miami's diving program, where gold medal winner Greg Louganis received a diving scholarship, was a casualty of Title IX. Since the last Olympics, more than ninety universities have eliminated track and field for men, and more than twenty have cancelled wrestling.

**Title IX Needs to Be Reformed**

Female athletes are not celebrating the loss of male teams. Cyndi Gallagher, UCLA swimming coach, described the positive affects of having the men and women train together on her female athletes: "When we had a men's team, we were always in the top 10." In 1994, UCLA dropped men's swimming and diving programs, which has produced 16 Olympians. Gallagher's conflicted feelings reveal how Title IX has drifted away from its core mission: "I fully support Title IX. But choosing to drop men's programs is not what Title IX wants."

Title IX was supposed to ensure that women have the opportunity to participate in athletics. Instead, by focusing on equality of outcomes, it has made college athletics a zero sum game: women only win if men lose. It's time for common-sense reform to the application of Title IX that allows for greater participation by both men and women in athletics. That way, male and female athletes alike can come out winners.

**Further Readings**
Books


- Carlos Velez, III. *En Garde!: A Girl’s Introduction to the World of Fencing*. Terre Haute, IN: Wish

• Susan Ware *Title IX: A Brief History with Documents*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007.


**Periodicals**


• Sara Lipka and Brad Wolverton "Title IX Enforcement Called 'Deeply Troubling,'" *Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 29, 2007.


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The school did not videotape girls' sports, provide cheerleaders, concession stands or bands for their events. These complaints caused the school to be investigated by the federal Department of Education. Since the passage of Title IX in 1972, participation in college women's sports has increased. According to NCAA statistics, the total number of female athletes increased by 25 percent in the first 20 years, and between 1992 and 1996, at least 800 women's teams have been added at the collegiate level. Locally, women are enjoying participating in teams that did not exist in the 1970s. Although women have welcomed the new opportunities to participate in sports, not everyone is happy. Finding the funding for each of the sports for both men and women is not easy. Title IX is a federal civil rights law in the United States of America that was passed as part (Title IX) of the Education Amendments of 1972. It prohibits sex-based discrimination in any school or other education program that receives federal money. This is Public Law No. 92–318, 86 Stat. 235 (June 23, 1972), codified at 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681–1688. The early legislative draft was authored by Representative Patsy Mink with the assistance of Representative Edith Green. It was then co-authored and Participation in Athletics. The girls' high school participation rate is greater than 10 times what it was when Title IX was passed, an increase of more than 1,000 percent. However, current girls' participation numbers have never reached the boys' 1971-72 level. In 1972, when Title IX was passed, boys' participation numbers were 3,666,917, which is 324,591 more than girls have in 2016. Both women's and men's NCAA championship sports participation opportunities have increased every year since Title IX was passed. In 2015-16, a record number of male and female student-athletes participated in NC Since the enactment of Title IX, women's participation in sports has grown exponentially. In high school, the number of girl athletes has increased from just 295,000 in 1972 to more than 2.6 million. In college, the number has grown from 30,000 to more than 150,000. In addition, Title IX is credited with decreasing the dropout rate of girls from high school and increasing the number of women who pursue higher education and complete college degrees. READ MORE: 7 Women Who Broke Down Barriers in Sports. Citation Information. Article Title. Schools do not have to offer the same number of teams or a particular sport. Have athletic opportunities for men decreased due to Title IX? Participation rates have increased for both men and women at the high school and college levels. Do schools have to cut men's athletic teams to be in compliance with Title IX? no. It does not mandate certain # of sport teams or equal # of sports teams. Only has to be proportionate to # of people with interest. This set is often saved in the same folder as Socialization into Sport. 4 terms. claire_fisher33.