



## Women's Sports Policy Working Group

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Women's Sports Policy Working Group Announces Official Launch**

- *Science-based, ethical approach aims to establish middle ground that both protects girls' and women's sport and accommodates transgender athletes*
- *Bi-partisan group of world class athletes and influential sports administrators comes together in advance of National Girls & Women in Sports Day on February 3, 2021*

Washington, D.C. – February 2, 2021 – The **Women's Sports Policy Working Group** announced its official launch today in an event sponsored by Champion Women, kicking off an initiative to protect girls' and women's sports and accommodate transgender athletes by issuing the following statement:

*"The uncompromising vitriol in public conversations regarding the participation of transgender girls and women in girls' and women's sports is unacceptable. One side insists that transgender girls are 'boys' and seeks to ban them without regard to their physical sex-linked traits. Ten states have passed such laws and there are three federal bills proposing the same. The other side insists that transgender girls are 'girls, period' and seeks their full and unconditional inclusion, again without regard to their physical sex-linked traits. Seventeen states have adopted this approach and the Biden Administration has suggested that it may be considering doing the same. Both extremes ignore the reasons we have sex-segregated sports, and both are unnecessarily discriminatory. The first unnecessarily discriminates against all transgender women and girls. The second discriminates against biological females in a space that was designed specifically to secure and protect their opportunities. All girls, whether they are transgender or not, have a place within a fair, safe, and respectful women's sports environment. We ask the Biden Administration and Congress to reject 'either/or' positions and instead to adopt an ethical, science-based approach to the protection of girls' and women's sport."*

#### **Women's Sports Policy Working Group**

- Olympic gold medalist swimmer **Donna de Varona**, former President, Women's Sports Foundation, USOPC Board of Directors
- International Tennis Hall of Famer **Martina Navratilova**, 18-time Grand Slam singles champion, 31 Grand Slam doubles titles and 10 Grand Slam mixed doubles titles
- Olympic gold medalist swimmer **Nancy Hogshead-Makar**, J.D., CEO of Champion Women, former President, Women's Sports Foundation

- **Donna Lopiano**, Ph.D., former CEO, Women’s Sports Foundation, President, The Drake Group, National Softball Hall of Fame
- **Tracy Sundlun**, Founding Board member, National Scholastic Athletics Foundation, six-time Olympic coach and manager, Running USA Hall of Champions
- **Doriane Coleman**, J.D., Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Center for Sports Law & Policy at Duke Law School, U.S. collegiate national champion and two-time Swiss national champion in the 800 meters

In the wake of **President Joe Biden’s** recent [Executive Order](#), the Women’s Sports Policy Working Group has released a briefing book, titled [A Request to Congress and the Administration to Preserve Girls’ and Women’s Sport & Accommodate Transgender Athletes](#), that examines the issue and provides science-based recommendations for policymakers who wish to respond.

Other champion athletes, sports leaders, and organizations supporting the initiative include:

**Willie Banks**, three-time Olympian and former world record holder in the triple jump

**Joanna Harper**, former elite marathoner, transgender athlete and researcher

**Wendy Hilliard**, nine-time member and two-time captain of Team USA in rhythmic gymnastics

**Micki King**, Olympic gold medalist and ten-time national champion in springboard and platform diving

**Greg Louganis**, four-time Olympic gold medalist in springboard and tower diving, winner of 47 national and 13 world championships

**Edwin Moses**, two-time Olympic gold medalist and World Champion, former world record holder, undefeated in the 400 meters hurdles for 10 years and 107 consecutive races

**Benita Fitzgerald Mosley**, Olympic Gold Medalist, two-time Olympian, and eight-time national champion in the 100 meters hurdles

**Diana Nyad**, one of the greatest ever long-distance swimmers credited with a record setting swim around Manhattan island and being first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without a shark cage

**Renee Richards**, former professional tennis player, one of the first professional athletes to identify as transgender

**Sanya Richards-Ross**, four-time Olympic gold medalist, six-time World Champion, ranked #1 in the world in the 400 meters from 2005 to 2009 and in 2012

**Sally Roberts**, three-time national wrestling champion, 2003 World Cup Champion, 2003 & 2005 World bronze medalist and a 2008 Olympic Alternate

**Pam Shriver**, Olympic gold medalist, winner of over 100 professional singles and doubles championships over 19 years, International Tennis Hall of Fame

**Lyn St. James**, former Indycar and LeMans racecar driver, first woman to win Indianapolis 500 Rookie of the Year award, and one of *Sports Illustrated’s* “Top 100 Women Athletes of the Century”

**Inge Thompson**, ten-time national champion cyclist, three-time Olympian and two-time podium finisher at the Women’s Tour de France

**Champion Women**, non-profit legal advocacy organization for girls and women in sports;  
harnessing the power of sport for social justice

**The Drake Group**, non-profit advocacy organization committed to defending academic integrity  
and protecting the health and well-being of athletes participating in collegiate sport

**National Scholastic Athletics Foundation**, non-profit organization created to fund competitive  
opportunities for high school track and field athletes and host the indoor and outdoor high  
school nationals

**Wrestle Like A Girl**, non-profit organization empowering girls and women using the sport of  
wrestling to become leaders in life

For more information, please visit [WomensSportsPolicy.org](http://WomensSportsPolicy.org).

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