



For immediate release

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**Women's Sports Policy Working Group  
Wants to Support Vice President Harris and Governor Walz  
for President and Vice President of the United States**

*We are female<sup>1</sup> athletes and feminists, lifelong Democrats, gay and straight.*

*Our mission is to affirm and strengthen girls' and women's legal right to separate, single-sex sports competitions. We encourage accommodations for males who identify as transgender so long as those accommodations do not diminish females' opportunities, scholarships, or prize money, nor females' right to fair, safe, separate sports experiences.*

Like many Democrats committed to fairness for female athletes, we want to support the Harris/Walz ticket because Vice President Harris and Governor Walz are intelligent, honorable, experienced leaders who **have demonstrated longstanding commitments to women's rights and equal justice for all**. However, before we can support them, we are asking them to publicly demonstrate those commitments with the following two policy principles:

**1) Women and girls deserve equal protection under the law.**

To accomplish this, **sex-based spaces must be preserved**.

Title IX mandates that female athletes in schools and colleges be provided with equitable participation opportunities at every competition level, including scholarships, recruitment, treatment, benefits, and the opportunity to win. **Women have this right to single-sex sports competition because immutable physical and physiological differences between the**

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<sup>1</sup> We define the terms female, women, and girls based on their original, historical, and scientifically accurate meaning: biological sex, not gender identity.

sexes advantage male bodies. In contact sports, larger, stronger male bodies also threaten female safety.

Women have a legal right to **privacy and protection from male aggression** and the threat of male aggression when disrobing or using restroom facilities.

***These rights to sex-based sports and spaces are akin to reproductive freedom: rooted in respect for female bodily integrity and autonomy.***

**Sex-based spaces** include but are not limited to locker rooms and changing rooms; restrooms; healthcare; women's shelters; rape-crisis centers; and prisons.

## **2) Individuals who identify as transgender, nonbinary, or other gender identities deserve equal protection under the law.**

**People with any gender identities must enjoy the same human rights** afforded to every other citizen when it comes to housing, work, school, and related domains – and must be protected from discrimination.

**However, sex-based spaces must be preserved, as noted above.** In sports, males who identify as transgender or other gender identities and do not choose to participate in a men's or open category can be provided accommodations (such as separate scoring or events) *so long as those accommodations do not diminish females' opportunities, scholarships, or prize money, nor females' right to fair, safe, separate sports experiences.*

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

- Martina Navratilova, OLY: Winner, 59 Grand Slam singles, doubles, & mixed doubles tennis titles, the most ever; first openly gay professional athlete; LGBTQ rights advocate
- Donna de Varona, OLY: Two-time Olympic gold medal swimmer; Title IX leader; Hall of Fame broadcaster; first president, Women's Sports Foundation
- Nancy Hogshead-Makar, JD, OLY: Three-time Olympic gold medal swimmer; athletes' rights activist; Past-President, Women's Sports Foundation; CEO, Champion Women; member, U.S. Congress' legislative oversight commission of the USOPC
- Donna Lopiano, PhD: Hall of Fame softball player; Title IX expert; women's sports leader; former women's athletics director, University of Texas; first CEO, Women's Sports Foundation; CEO, the Drake Group
- Mariah Burton Nelson, MPH: former Stanford University and professional basketball player; pioneering author: *The Stronger Women Get*, *The More Men Love Football* and other books; columnist, *Stronger Women* on Substack.
- Tracy Sundlun: Six-time Olympic track coach and manager; founding Board member, National Scholastic Athletics Foundation; co-founder, Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Series; CEO, Everything Running

*We are champion athletes, coaches, and administrators, and lifelong advocates for the rights and opportunities of female athletes. For the past five years, we have been working to preserve female-only sports competition and locker rooms. We have [written extensively](#) on the subject of transgender participation in women's sports and provide a [detailed model policy here](#).*

*We are widely acknowledged as national and international leaders and have spent long careers advocating for the implementation of Title IX, for women's sports rights, and more broadly for LGBTQ rights.*

*We work with a team of [Olympic and other champion supporters](#), including Chris Evert, Willie Banks, Edwin Moses, Mary T. Meagher, Lyn St. James, Micki King, Paula Scanlan, Mary O'Connor, and three transgender athletes (Renee Richards, Jessica Gil, and Corinna Cohn), along with national and international bipartisan coalitions of women and men (such as the [International Coalition for Female Sports](#); [Our Bodies Our Sports Coalition](#)) who share our concerns.*

### **Champion Women**

Champion Women is a non-profit organization that provides legal advocacy for girls and women in sports.

*For more info: [Women's Sports Policy Working Group](#).*