



Charlie Baker
President

August 21, 2024

VIA EMAIL

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Honorable Members of the United States Senate,

I appreciate your letter and interest in the well-being of college athletes. Ensuring safe, fair competitions is the top priority for the NCAA and the Association's members. During my tenure as NCAA president, the Association has modernized rules to avoid unnecessary penalties for young people and is strengthening benefits and enhancing the well-being and safety of over 500,000 NCAA student-athletes. We also understand that college sports are the premier stage for many women's sports in America, and the NCAA takes its responsibility to invest in those sports seriously. The NCAA is [increasing women's championships coverage](#) and showcasing women student-athletes to millions of new fans across more broadcast and streaming channels than ever before. Additionally, the NCAA increased its annual investment in the Division I women's basketball tournament by \$14 million. Right now, the NCAA is advancing a women's basketball performance fund, which will create a massive financial incentive for schools to further invest in women's programs on campuses everywhere.

The NCAA's competition eligibility policy for transgender student-athletes was adopted by the NCAA Board of Governors after a recommendation by the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports — a representative group of athletics administrators, coaches, sports medicine clinicians, researchers, faculty and student-athletes selected by their peers to provide health and safety leadership to the Association from all 1,100 member schools. The NCAA's policy, which was updated with more restrictive parameters in 2022, balances the Association's values of fairness, inclusion and opportunity. The policy also aligns with the 2021 International Olympic Committee framework that states unequivocally the need to address fairness, inclusion and nondiscrimination.

The current policy is in fact more restrictive than the policy established in 2010. In addition to safety and fairness, the NCAA policy seeks to align with other national governing bodies' policies because many college athletes either competed under those previously or may go on to do so. For example, two-thirds of Team USA is made up of current or recent NCAA athletes, and consistent competition policies between college and Olympic sports are vital to student-athletes' success.

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Our member schools are required to comply with the Title IX policies and regulations set forth by the federal government. Colleges and universities located in the 20 states that have adopted legislation that impacts transgender athlete participation specifically in college sports must adhere to these state laws, as well. The NCAA's transgender student-athlete participation policy is not mandatory, and federal, state and local laws supersede the Association's policy. Schools may also choose to operate in a different way due to institutional values.

The conflicting regulations, state laws and court decisions have created inconsistent and changing rules across the U.S. The NCAA and the 500,000 student-athletes we serve would welcome a clear, national policy on this topic.

Thank you for your support of collegiate sports and the health and well-being of the Association's student-athletes.

Sincerely,



Charles D. Baker
President, NCAA

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cc: Selected NCAA Staff Members