

Name

Abstract 8

Title: Marquis, C. (2014). An equal playing field: The potential conflict between Title IX & the Massachusetts equal rights amendments. *BCJL & Soc. Just.*, 34, 77.

Purpose: The article aims to analyze the Title IX and the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's decision to allow boys' participation in girls' hockey team. The department of education had received the claim that the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) had allowed this participation and that the policy violates Title IX. As such, the article argues that even though the policy was wrong, the conflict between the two policies meant to promote gender equality should not be in conflict.

Problem: The decision of the MIAA to permit boys to play in girls' field hockey team has raised concerns regarding the effectiveness of the decision. Many physiological differences appear between boys and girls after adolescence. The differences include size, speed, and strength, which gives boys more athletic advantages over girls. Besides, this difference can cause challenges during competitions and this may discourage the participation of girls in sports.

Procedure: Many states do not allow the participation of boys in girls' athletes. Nevertheless, the Massachusetts Equal Rights Association (ERA) required teams to allow this approach. This approach was meant to discourage discrimination based on gender in the field of sports. The MIAA implemented this plan, and this influenced claims against the policy due to allegations that it would cause unfairness.

Results: The claims against MIAA are not relevant as it aims to promote gender equality in sports. As such, using a similar policy (Title IX) to dispute the approaches made by the policy only weakens the goal towards achieving equal opportunities for boys and girls. Therefore, other approaches, such as creating regulations to measure team players' strengths and competitors are better than creating gender stereotypes.

Conclusion: The conflict between MIAA and Title IX is unfair as the former did not violate the gender equality regulations. Nevertheless, this issue points out the need for better approaches to solving conflicts regarding the policy. The measures should be gender-neutral to prevent conflicts between policies and to avoid the spread of gender stereotypes.