

## Fairness in Women's Sports: Connecticut

**Case Name:** Soule v. Connecticut Association of Schools

**Case Status:** On Feb. 12, 2020, Alliance Defending Freedom filed a lawsuit in federal court on behalf of high school track athletes Selina Soule, Chelsea Mitchell, and Alanna Smith.

**Significance:** Allowing males to compete in the girls' category creates an unfair playing field and violates Title IX.



**Background:** Selina Soule, Chelsea Mitchell, and Alanna Smith are elite high school athletes in Connecticut. As dedicated competitors, they have devoted countless days, nights, and weekends to training, striving to shave mere fractions of a second off their race times. They do so hoping for the personal satisfaction of victory, an opportunity to participate in state and regional meets, and a chance to earn a college scholarship. Yet, despite their best efforts, Selina, Chelsea, and Alanna have entered races over the past three years knowing that they and their fellow female competitors have little chance of winning. That's because, since 2017, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) has allowed males to compete in girls' athletic competitions based on gender identity. As a result, two male athletes identifying as female have dominated the field, winning 15 women's track championship titles since 2017—titles held by nine different Connecticut girls in 2016. Because of the CIAC's policies, girls have lost over 85 opportunities to participate in higher levels of competition, and two males now hold 17 individual women's meet records in Connecticut—records that females have little hope of breaking. Not only does the CIAC's policy—and the endorsement of it by public high schools—create an unfair playing field for female athletes; the policy reverses nearly 50 years of advances for women under Title IX.

On Aug. 7, 2019 the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights agreed to investigate a complaint Alliance Defending Freedom filed on the athletes' behalf, but with time running out on the girls' high school careers, it is now up to the courts to restore a fair playing field in Connecticut.

### Key Points

- Girls deserve the same opportunity as boys to excel and chase their dreams. Allowing boys to compete in girls' sports shatters dreams and steals opportunities.
- Boys will always have physical advantages over girls—that's the reason we have women's sports.
- When schools and society ignore those differences, it's girls who pay the price.

### Key Facts

- In Connecticut, two boys have won 15 women's track championship titles since 2017—titles held by nine different girls in 2016.
- Science and common sense tell us that males are stronger than females. That difference shows up in size, strength, bone density, and even the heart and lungs. No amount of hormone therapy can eliminate all those advantages.
- Girls aren't losing just the opportunity to win, but to earn college scholarships and launch their own careers in athletics, coaching, and more.

**The Bottom Line:** Girls deserve to compete on a level playing field. Forcing female athletes to compete against biological males ignores real differences between the sexes, isn't fair, and destroys their athletic opportunities.