



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
Tel. (202) 514-2151

June 2, 2025

Re: California Interscholastic Federation's Bylaw 300.D

Dear Public School District:

As a member of the California Interscholastic Federation ("CIF"), and a political subdivision of the State of California, you are exposed to legal liability due to a policy CIF has enacted that violates federal law.

CIF Bylaw 300.D requires California public high schools to allow male participation in girls' interscholastic athletics: "All students should have the opportunity to participate in CIF activities *in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on a student's records.*" (emphasis added). Section 300.D, however, is facially unconstitutional.

The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. Knowingly depriving female students of athletic opportunities and benefits on the basis of their sex would constitute unconstitutional sex discrimination under the Equal Protection Clause. Scientific evidence shows that upsetting the historical status quo and forcing girls to compete against males would deprive them of athletic opportunities and benefits because of their sex. Therefore, you cannot implement a policy allowing males to compete alongside girls, because such a policy would deprive girls of athletic opportunities and benefits based solely on their biological sex, in violation of the Equal Protection Clause.

As a political subdivision, you have an obligation to comply with the Equal Protection Clause. **To ensure compliance and avoid legal liability, you must certify in writing by 5:00 p.m. ET on June 9, 2025, that you will not implement CIF Bylaw 300.D.** Certifications may be sent by electronic mail to Jesus.Osete@usdoj.gov and CRT.schoolcertifications@usdoj.gov or mailed to 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20530-0001.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Regards,

Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Ron Nocetti
Executive Director
California Interscholastic Federation
rnocetti@cifstate.org

David Grissom
Commissioner
CIF – Central Coast Section
dgrissom@cifccs.org

Pat Cruickshank
Commissioner
CIF – North Coast Section
pcruickshank@cifncs.org

Gail Barksdale
Commissioner
CIF – San Francisco Section
barksdaleg@sfusd.edu

Vicky Lagos
Commissioner
CIF – Los Angeles City Section
vlagos@cif-la.org

Mike West
Commissioner
CIF – Southern Section
mikew@cifss.org

Scott Johnson
Commissioner
CIF – Northern Section
sjohnson@cifns.org

Ryan Tos
Commissioner
CIF – Central Section
ryantos@cifcs.org

Mike Garrison
Commissioner
CIF – Sac-Joaquin Section
mgarrison@cifsjs.org

Francisco Navarro
Commissioner
CIF – Oakland Section
francisco.navarro@ousd.org

Joe Heinz
Commissioner
CIF – San Diego Section
jheinz@cifsd.org