

Fairness in Women's Sports: Idaho

Case Name: Hecox v. Little

Case Status: On May 26, Alliance Defending Freedom filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit challenging Idaho's Fairness in Women's Sports Act on behalf of two female college athletes Madison Kenyon and Mary Kate Marshall.



Significance: Allowing males to compete in women's sports diminishes women's athletic opportunities and destroys fair competition.

Background: Madison Kenyon (pictured above) and Mary Kate Marshall are both college athletes on Idaho State University's track and cross-country teams. Since early childhood, both women have pursued the life-defining passion of athletic training and competition. But they were appalled to discover last year that a male athlete was allowed to compete in their women's collegiate cross country and track events. Both Madison and Mary Kate had the deflating experience of running against and losing to that male athlete, and being knocked down a placement level because of that athlete's participation. To keep other female athletes from facing unfair competitions like these, the state of Idaho enacted the Fairness in Women's Sports Act on March 30, 2020. Weeks later, the ACLU filed a lawsuit attempting to strike down the law and subject female athletes like Madison and Mary Kate to unfair competitive conditions that prioritize gender ideology over biological realities. These two female athletes are intervening to protect the integrity of women's sports.

Key Points

- Female athletes deserve a voice in this lawsuit and the opportunity to protect women's sports in Idaho.
- Female athletes deserve the same opportunity as male athletes to enjoy fair competition and experience the thrill of victory. Allowing males to compete in women's sports disadvantages women and destroys their athletic opportunities.
- When schools and society ignore those biological differences between the sexes, it's girls and women who pay the price.

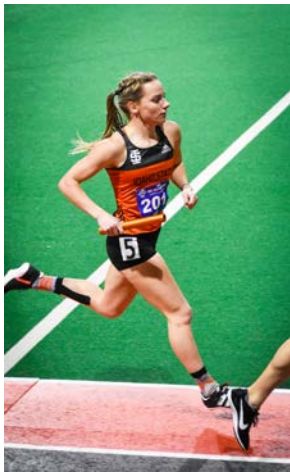
Key Facts

- Males will always have physical advantages over comparably gifted and fit females—that's the reason we have women's sports.
- Science and common sense tell us that males are generally bigger, faster, and stronger than females. They have larger hearts and lungs, denser bones, and stronger muscles. No amount of cross-sex hormones or testosterone suppression can eliminate all those advantages.
- Women aren't losing just the opportunity to win. They also stand to lose opportunities to earn college scholarships and launch their own careers in athletics, coaching, and more.

The Bottom Line: Women deserve to compete on a level playing field. Allowing males to compete in women's sports diminishes women's athletic opportunities and destroys fair competition.

Idaho Female Athletes Just Want Fairness

Girls deserve to compete on a level playing field. That's why Idaho lawmakers passed the Fairness in Women's Sports Act in early 2020. Unfortunately, the ACLU sued to strike down the law and allow males who identify as females to compete in women's sports. Two female college athletes in Idaho have said enough is enough. These courageous young women are standing up for fairness in women's sports.



Madison (“Madi”) Kenyon | 2020-21 Sophomore | Idaho State University

- Hometown: Johnstown, Colorado
- Competed four times (three individually) against a male athlete in her freshman year, each time losing by a significant margin resulting in lower placement than had she competed against other women.
 - 2019 Montana State Cross-Country Classic in the 3 mile event
 - 2019 Big Sky Cross-Country Championships in the 5K event.
 - 2019 NCAA Division I Mountain Region XC Championships in the 6K event.
 - 2020 Big Sky Indoor Track and Field Championships in the distance medley relay event
- “I believe that allowing males to enter women’s sports defeats an entire aspect of sports: It eliminates the connection between an athlete’s effort and her success. Sex separation in sports helps ensure that males and females each enjoy opportunities for fair competition and victory. It helps ensure that, if women like me work hard, that hard work pays off, and we have a shot at winning.”

Mary Kate (“MK”) Marshall | 2020-21 Junior | Idaho State University

- Hometown: Buhl, Idaho
- Competed against a male athlete at the 2019 Montana State Cross Country Classic in the 3 mile event and the 2020 Stacy Dragila mile event, resulting in lower placements than had she competed against other women.
- “I want to preserve the camaraderie and sisterhood that comes from competing with and against females only. I want other young women to benefit from sports as I did.”

