

## **Title IX in the PAC-12: Implementation and Education**

### **Abstract**

This project investigates the implementation of Title IX in the PAC-12 athletic conference, as well as the current educational level of student-athletes in said conference and their desire to learn more about the legislation and its effects. Through data collection and analysis of reported figures, a survey of student-athletes at respective institutions, and the writing of sample educational materials, the project displays the currentness of Title IX in the conference.

### **Introduction**

This project draws upon data, published by the United States Department of Education during the reporting year of 2020-2021, as each school is obligated to publish certain quantities and financial figures. Along with this data, a survey was conducted and administered to student-athletes across the included 12 campuses. The questions were formed to gauge the knowledge of the student-athlete population and aimed to answer the question of whether or not additional training should be required. Lastly, sample educational materials were created, which could be used in hosting an educational training. These include a presentation, handout, and a poster.

### **Research Question**

Are the schools in the PAC-12 conference in compliance with Title IX? Do student-athletes in the PAC-12 conference know what Title IX is, what it enforces, how a school complies, and the protection it offers to student-athletes? Is the current level of education surrounding the legislation satisfactory?

### **Literature Review**

Though the project relied heavily on the included sources, it was also influenced by Deana Garner-Smith, the Senior Associate Athletics Director for Arizona State's Sun Devil Athletics, and Sandy Hatfield Clubb, President of the Pictor Group. Christine Holman, Associate Teaching Professor at Arizona State University's School of Social Transformation also served as a mentor throughout the duration of the project.

Though all of the cited sources have been written about Title IX, and many share how to test an institution's compliance, they all leave out an important element of Title IX: the athletes. This project, instead, places the athletes at the center. It investigates the current level of education of a student-athlete population and asks them directly if they feel that they know enough and want to learn more. Instead of focusing only on the schools' implementation of Title IX, the project also focuses on the student-athletes' understanding, for the 37 words

were written with them in the center. The included sources all benefited the project in laying a foundational knowledge, explaining the legalities, and pushing the facet of compliance, but they remove the athletes from the equation. This project highlights them.

### **Methodology**

The initial data collection included each school's total student enrollment, reported athletic teams, number of athletes, number of head coaches, number of assistant coaches, head coaches' salaries, assistant coaches' salaries, athletically related student aid, recruiting expenses, operating expenses, total team expenses, and total revenue. This is a key component of the project as per Title IX, the percentage of male and female student enrollment should be proportional to the percentage of funds spent on male and female teams in each category.

In addition, a survey was sent to student-athletes at each of the 12 universities. Questions included ranged from personal experience, the meaning of Title IX, defining Title IX and basic education questions, such as "does Title IX apply only to athletes," "does Title IX benefit only girls and women," "does Title IX require that athletics programs limit and/or cut men's sports to increase opportunities for female athletes," and "does an institution comply with Title IX by having equal male and female athletic participation." The purpose of these questions was to gauge the level of education of athletes in the conference.

### **Results/Findings:**

At the conclusion of the project and in reviewing the collected data, two things became clear: 1) not all schools appear to be in complete compliance with the legislation according to the stipulations of the NCAA, and 2) the student-athletes in the PAC-12 conference are not only lacking education about Title IX, but have also expressed desire to learn more about it.

### **Conclusion**

The study demonstrates and leaves room for growth in many facets, as far as Title IX. There is still a need for progress, as equity is still a long way off. As the data shows, men and women competing in the PAC-12 do not have equality. As a whole, however, the student-athlete population of the conference backed the need for improved education, as the survey results show. The education materials designed as part of the project could be the next step in fostering this growth.

## References

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