

BUCKS BULLETIN

PIAA Fails to Take a Clear Stance on Protecting Girls' Sports— It's Up to Our School Boards, Up for Election This November

As the debate over biological males competing in girls' sports continues to garner attention nationwide, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) finds itself facing an uncertain and conflicting stance on the matter. Sadly, as was the case during pandemic mask mandates affecting athletes in competition, PIAA has failed to provide clear and consistent guidance.

Since 2014, the PIAA has imposed strict criteria for allowing boys to compete in girls' sports, aiming to maintain fairness and safety. However, the focus on boys participating in girls' teams didn't directly address the related issue of biological males who identify as transgender competing in these sports.

The PIAA's only rule regarding transgender athletes states that, **when a student's gender is questioned or uncertain, the principal's decision on the student's gender will be accepted by the PIAA.** This lack of definitive guidance has led to confusion and differing practices among schools.

This May, a biological male who identified as transgender excelled in the girls' WPIAL state track and field championships. Coaches and competitive schools raised concerns about fairness, as the athlete took the place of a female athlete who would have otherwise qualified for states.



A year ago, the Pennsylvania Legislature - which is majority Republican - passed H.B. 972, which would have barred biological males from participating on girls' school sports teams. Unfortunately, former Gov. Tom Wolf (D) vetoed it.

Meanwhile, Sen. Steve Santarsieo (D) - Chair of the Doylestown Democrats - spoke at a rally last month in support of S.B. 150, his bill that would radically redefine "sex" such that there would no longer be any legal distinction between females and biological males who identify as transgender.

As Protect Bucks PAC, our mission is to safeguard girls' sports from being overtaken by biological males, ensuring a level playing field in the fifty-one year tradition of Title IX, and maintaining the safety of our female athletes. Since the PIAA is once again failing to protect our athletes, it will be up to our local school boards to set clear policy for their administrators to follow.

Following Sen. Santarsieo's lead, Democrat candidates in upcoming school board and county elections oppose our stance on this issue, favoring leftist political ideology and LGBTQ+ activism over the immediate and real need to protect our girls. If Democrats take control of our school boards, they will swiftly implement policies that will allow every facet of female student athletes' lives - from on-field competition to the very locker room facilities themselves - to be infiltrated by biological males.

We must elect candidates on November 7th who share our vision for fairness and equality within the realm of interscholastic athletics, or girls' athletic achievement will become a thing of the past.

PIAA 2014 BYLAWS	PIAA'S ONLY RULE ON TRANSGENDER ATHLETES
<p>A boy cannot compete on a girls' team, unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school provides fewer opportunities for boys to participate than girls. <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The boy would not displace any girl from the team's roster. <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The boy would not, due to his size, athletic ability and/or other characteristics pose an increased risk of harm to opponents. <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The boy would not provide his team with a significant competitive advantage. 	<p>Where a student's gender is questioned or uncertain, the decision of the principal as to the student's gender will be accepted by the PIAA.</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>Note that this directly contradicts and undermines PIAA's prior position on protecting girls' sports.</p>