

IN HER OWN WORDS

“Playing softball has helped me in school. If I didn’t play sports, I’m not sure that I would have the drive to stay in school and pursue a career. Playing softball helps me to set my priorities regarding my grades, not only for myself but for my team.”

— Veronica Ollier, California high school softball player
Fair Play for Girls in Sports client

Fair PLAY

FOR GIRLS IN SPORTS

Want to **learn more** about Title IX and AB 2404, or **get answers** about what is happening in your school or parks and recreation department? **CONTACT US!**

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- * Support: Donate via our Fair Play web-site, or contact us directly.

Collaborators

- * American Association of University Women
- * Bay Area Women’s Sports Initiative (B.A.W.S.I.)
- * Coaching Corps
- * California Women’s Law Center



Fair PLAY

FOR GIRLS IN SPORTS

Ensuring Equality in Athletics for Girls in California through Title IX and AB 2404



Fair Play for Girls in Sports is a project of

LEGAL AID AT WORK

a 501(c)(3) non-profit

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

What Is Title IX?

Title IX, a federal law passed in 1972, gives female athletes the right to **participate equally in sports** in public schools, including **elementary, middle, and high schools**, colleges and universities.

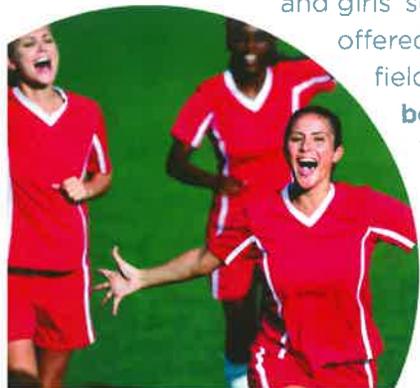
Example: At your local public high school, the number of team slots and the quality of facilities, uniforms, scheduling and coaching must be equal for boys and girls; **tight budgets are no excuse for inequality.**

What Is AB 2404?

AB 2404, a California law passed in 2004, requires **equity in local youth athletics**, such as sports programs run by your parks and recreation department. The law is **much like Title IX** in calling for equal athletic opportunities, facilities, publicity, and more. But, only a handful of California's 500+ parks and recreation departments are applying the law!

Example: Where leagues for boys' baseball and girls' softball are offered by local parks, field space **must be equitable.**

This includes the quality of lighting, dugouts, and storage space for equipment.



DID YOU KNOW?

Progress

- ✦ Prior to Title IX, fewer than 300,000 girls competed in high school sports; now there are **over 3 million**.
- ✦ California was the **first state** to pass gender equity legislation for parks and recreation athletics.

Education

- ✦ Overall, young women who play sports have **higher grades** and **score higher** on standardized tests than non-athletes.
- ✦ African American female athletes are 15% **more likely to graduate from college** compared to their non-athletic peers; Latina females who play sports are **more likely to graduate from high school and attend college** than those not playing.

Health

- ✦ Females who had the highest physical activity during adolescence and young adulthood were **20% less likely to get breast cancer** later in life.
- ✦ Women and girls who participate in regular exercise experience **lower rates of depression**.

Employment

- ✦ Girls who play sports in high school go on to earn **7% higher annual wages** than their non-athlete peers.
- ✦ Title IX directly **increased women's participation in the labor force**, while opening paths to higher-skill, previously male-dominated positions.



WHAT WE DO

Our Mission

Ensure **all** girls—regardless of race, income level, and geography—receive **equal opportunities, treatment, and benefits in athletics** offered by schools and parks and recreation programs.

Education

Give **Presentations, Workshops & Trainings** on Title IX and AB 2404 for:

- ✦ Girls
- ✦ Parents and Families
- ✦ Coaches
- ✦ Parks and Recreation Departments
- ✦ K-12 Schools
- ✦ Community Organizations
- ✦ Youth Advocates, Mentors & Teachers

Technical Assistance

Assess **schools and parks and recreation** departments to help them implement Title IX and AB 2404 and ensure equality.

Strategic Litigation

When necessary, represent clients in court to **enforce the law** where girls lack equal opportunities.