

Title IX in Athletics

Office of the General Counsel March 12, 2020

Rev. 03/20

Legal Framework of Title IX in Athletics

34 C.F.R §106.41 Athletics

(a) General.

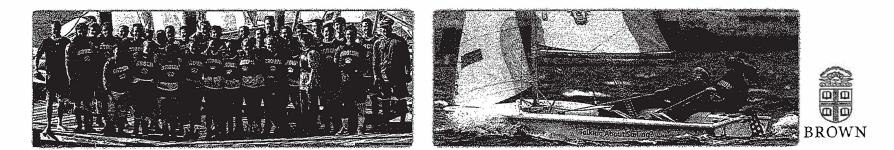
(b) Separate Teams.

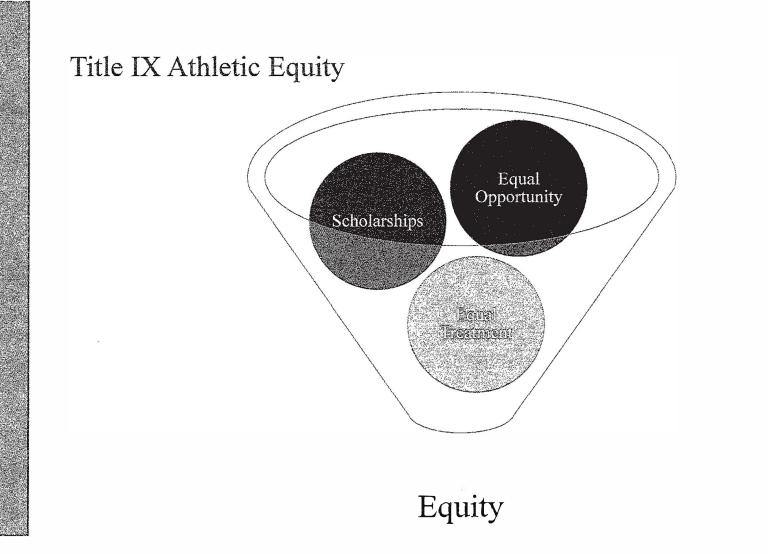
(c) Equal Opportunity

be excluded from participation in, be separate teams for members of each denied the benefits of, be treated sex where selection for such teams differently from another person or is based upon competitive skill or otherwise be discriminated against in the activity involved is a contact both sexes (see "laundry list"). interscholastic, intercollegiate, anv club or intramural athletics.

No person shall, on the basis of sex, A recipient may operate or sponsor sport (i.e. boxing, wrestling, rugby, ice hockey, football, basketball, etc.).

A recipient which operates or sponsors interscholastic, intercollegiate, club or intramural athletics shall provide equal athletic opportunity for members of







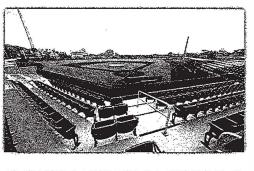
Title IX Athletic Equity - Equal Treatment

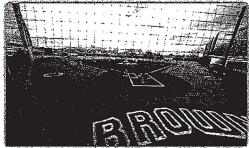
- Locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities
 Scheduling of games and practices
- Coaching: staffing, experience, and compensation
- Academic services

List'

'Laundry

- Equipment and supplies
- •Medical, training, strength and conditioning
- Communications and on-campus dining
- Travel and Per Diem
- Support services/director of operations
- Recruitment

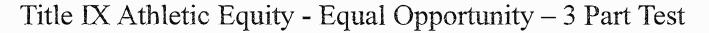


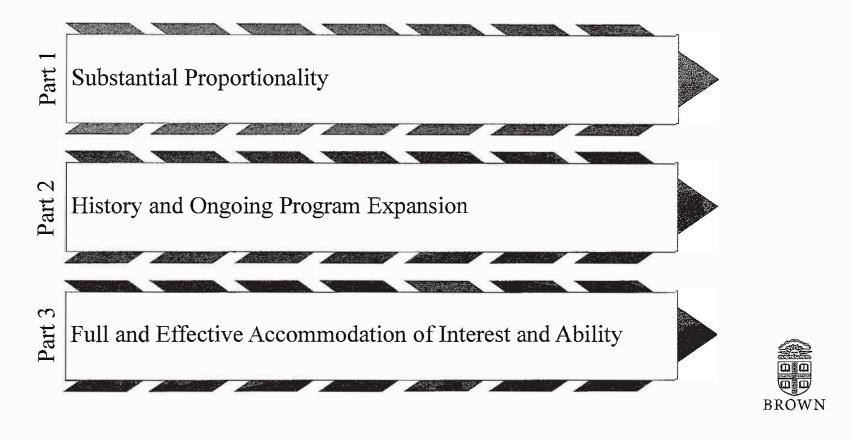




Title IX Athletic Equity - Equal Opportunity

U.S. Departme	ent of Education				
Student Loans	Grants	Laws			
OCCR Office for Civil Rights Home About			·		≅
Programs/Initiatives > Readure Office Contacts > Frage Cute Reports & Resources > Cute News Blog	The Clarification confirms nondiscriminatory particip				test in order to provide
Clarification of Inter Three-Part Test	rcollegiate Athletics Poli	cy Guidance: The		na mana na mana ka	
Jan 16, 1996 Dear Colleague: It is my pleasure to send you the enclose	Thus, the three-part test furr individuals of each sex with the three-part test, OCR will	nondiscriminatory opportu	inities to participate in inte	rcollegiate athletics. If an ins	
Clarification) As you know, the Office for Civil Rights on the basis of sex in aducation programs Athletics Policy Interpretation published in of extinsive comments—specifically addres to provide additional clarification regarding	and activities. The regulation implementing title ix a 1979-both of which followed publication for noice a s untercollegiate athletics. Since becoming Assistan what is commonly referred to as the "mree-part tes criminatory opportunities to participate in athletics	and the Department's Intercollegiate and the receipt, review and consideration I Secretary, I have reconstruction			
Accordingly, on September 20, 1995, OCR comments about whether the document pro- steed when circulating the draft of the C	wided sufficient clarity to an and a sufficient clarity to an				BROWN





Title IX Athletic Equity - Equal Opportunity – 3 Part Test

Part 1

Institution provides intercollegiate level athletic participation opportunities for male and female students in a number substantially proportionate to their respective full-time undergraduate enrollment numbers



OCR Analysis

- OCR analyzes those athletes who:
 are receiving institutionsponsored support;
 - are participating in organized activities during a sport's season;
 - are listed on the eligibility squad list; and
 - who, because of injury, cannot meet 1, 2, or 3 above but continue aid based on athletic ability.



Title IX Athletic Equity - Equal Opportunity - 3 Part Test



Institution A has a total of 600 athletes. Women make up 52% of the University's enrollment, but only represent 47% of its athletes. If the University provided women with 52% of athletic opportunities, approximately 62 additional women would be able to participate. Because this is a significant number of unaccommodated women, it is likely that a viable sport could be added.

Institution A has not met Part 1

Example B

> **Institution B** has a total of **60** athletes. Women make up **52%** of the University's enrollment, but only represent **47%** of its athletes. If the University provided women with **52%** of athletic opportunities, approximately **6** additional women would be able to participate. <u>6 participants are unlikely</u> to support a viable team.

Institution B would be able to meet Part 1



Title IX Athletic Equity - Equal Opportunity – 3 Part Test

Part 2

An institution can show that it has a history and continuing practice of program expansion which is demonstrably responsive to the developing interests and abilities of the underrepresented sex.



OCR Analysis

OCR will review the entire history of the athletic program including an institution's

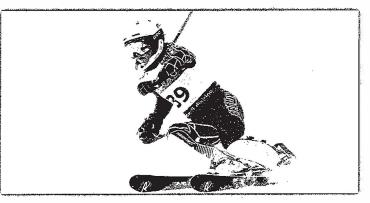
- record of adding or upgrading intercollegiate teams for the underrepresented sex;
- increasing the numbers of participants for the underrepresented sex; and
- affirmative responses to requests by students or others for addition or elevation of sports.



Title IX Athletic Equity - Equal Opportunity - 3 Part Test

Part 3

Is the institution fully and effectively accommodating the interests and abilities of its students who are members of the underrepresented sex - including students who are admitted to the institution though not yet enrolled.



OCR Analysis

- In making its determination, OCR will consider whether there is:
 unmet interest in a particular
 - sport;

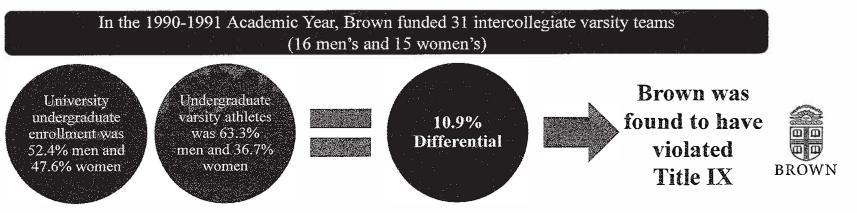
sex.

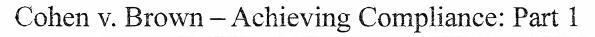
- sufficient ability to sustain a team in the sport; and
- a reasonable expectation of competition for the team.
- If all three conditions are present OCR will find that an institution has not fully and effectively accommodated the interests and abilities of the underrepresented



Cohen v. Brown - Class Action Lawsuit

- Brought in Rhode Island federal court against the University, Brown's President, and Brown Athletics Director
- Plaintiff class comprised of all present, future, and potential Brown women students who participate, seek to participate, and/or are deterred from participating in intercollegiate athletics funded by Brown
- The suit arose in response to Brown's decision in May 1991 to demote 4 varsity teams from University-funded varsity status to donor-funded varsity status
- The demoted teams were women's gymnastics and volleyball and men's water polo and golf





- The district court certified the class and denied Brown's motion to dismiss
- Preliminary injunction issued against Brown, ordering the reinstatement of women's gymnastics and volleyball to University-funded status and prohibiting the elimination or reduction in the status of funding of any existing women's varsity team until case resolved
- 1993

1995

1992

• Brown appealed preliminary injunction to the First Circuit, which upheld the district court's decision

- The district court ruled that Brown was in violation of Title IX
- Brown was ordered to submit a comprehensive plan for coming into compliance



Cohen v. Brown – Achieving Compliance: Part 1

- Brown submitted a plan which was rejected by the district court
- The district court pointed out that Brown could achieve compliance in a number of ways:
 - Eliminate its athletic program altogether
 - Elevate or create the requisite number of women's positions
 - Demote or eliminate the requisite number of men's positions
 - Implement a combination of these remedies



1995

- Brown appealed to the First Circuit, which upheld the judgment, but reversed the remedial order and remanded the case back to the district court
- The First Circuit reasoned that, as part of academic freedom universities deserve great leeway in their operations, and thus, Brown should be able to determine how it will bring itself into compliance with Title IX:

"Our respect for academic freedom and reluctance to interject ourselves into the conduct of university affairs counsels that we give universities as much freedom as possible in conducting their operations consonant with constitutional and statutory limits"



Cohen v. Brown – Achieving Compliance: Part 1

1997

1998

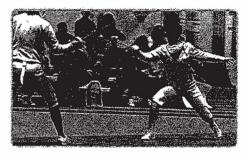
- On remand to the district court, Brown was ordered to submit its revised plan for compliance
- The district court gave final approval to the Joint Agreement and entered judgment for the plaintiffs against Brown

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	UNITED STATES DIS DISTRICT OF RHO AMY COHEN, et. al. Plainsfis, SRCWN UNIVERSITY, VARTAN GREGORIAN and DAMD ROACH, Defendants.				
	Defendants.				
1.8					
	JOINT AGRES	MENT			
+	This Agreement is made between Plaintiffs	and Defendants, Brown U	niversity, and		
	E. Cardon Gee (NUCCESSON to Granded Verten G	agarian) and David Roach,	each in their		
	afficial capacity (collectively referred to as "Brow	n'}.	38 		
WHEREAS this metter is currently before the Court explact to the Court of Appends					
for the First Circuit's Order reversing the District Court judgment in part and remanding to					
this Court for the purpose of Brown submitting its plan for compliance; and					
	WHEREAS Srown submitted a Proposal	d Compliance Plan to wh	kh Plaintis		
	objected; and	and the second se	u-		
WHEREAS Brown has developed an Amanded Barran					
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Cohen v. Brown – The Joint Agreement

- The Joint Agreement was entered October 9, 1998
- Indefinite in duration
- Contains mechanisms to bring Brown back into compliance if allowable variance is exceeded



The University will maintain no more than a 3.5% variance between percentage of women in the undergraduate population and the percentage of women varsity athletes





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Cohen v. Brown - Proportionality

Certain changes to the University's athletic program trigger a reduction in the permitted variance to 2.25%

The triggers are:

The elimination of intercollegiate athletic teams for women or of co-ed teams or the change in status of intercollegiate athletic teams for women or co-ed teams from the universityfunded to the donor-funded level

The replacement or substitution of existing intercollegiate athletic teams for women or co-ed teams at the university or donor-funded level

The creation of intercollegiate athletic teams for men at the university or donor-funded level

The change of intercollegiate athletic teams for men from the donor-funded to the universityfunded level





Brown Recent History of Variances

Year	Variance	
2009-2010	5.60%	
2010-2011	0.91%	
2011-2012	1.11%	
2012-2013	0.34%	
2013-2014	0.99%	
2014-2015	1.43%	
2015-2016	1.18%	
2016-2017	2.63%	
2017-2018	2.87%	
2018-2019	2.68%	

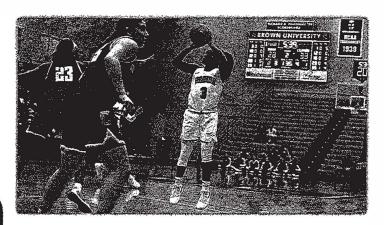


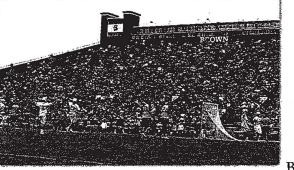


Funding Determination

- Private donations are institutional dollars
- Goods and services provided through private funding will be included in any equity analysis

"A school may not skirt the requirement of providing both sexes equal opportunity in athletic programs by providing one sex more than substantially proportionate opportunity through the guise of 'outside funding." (*Chalenor v. Univ. of North Dakota*)







Brown Pending Title IX Matter

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, REGION 1 5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, 8th FLOOR BOSTON, MASSACEUSETTS 02109-3921

May 9, 2017

Christina Paxson, President Office of the President Brown University Box 1887 I Prospect Street Providence, RI 02912

Re: OCR Case No. 01-16-2157 Brown University

Dear President Paxson;

This letter is to notify you that the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is opening for investigation the above-referenced complaint filed against Brown University (the University), alleging that the University discriminates against female students on the basis of gender with regard to its intercollegiate athletics program. Specifically, the Complainant alleged that the University is discriminating against women in the programs by failing to provide an equal opportunity for female athletics.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title IX of Section 1681, and its implementing

Complainant: Unknown

Allegations:

Brown discriminates against female students on the basis of gender with regard to its intercollegiate athletics program.

Specifically, that Brown discriminates against women by failing to provide an equal opportunity for female athletes in the areas of coaching, recruitment, and publicity.



-COHEN V. BROWN: DESIGNATED CONFIDENTIAL

Not Confidential: Publicly Filed at 378-3 (Ex. 27)