

# NCAA Gender Inequity Is a Feature, Not a Bug – Article Notes

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Link: [NCAA Gender Inequity Is a Feature, Not a Bug](#)

- I. Many people think the NCAA should stop regulating athlete compensation and stick to what it does well: running national championships
  - i. **BUT**, massive gender disparities in Division I softball/baseball, golf, and basketball tournaments reveal the NCAA is not even good at running national championships
- II. Glaring inequities between the men's and women's basketball tournaments: unequal weight training facilities, meals, "swag" bags, branding on courts, restricting the use of "March Madness" to the men's tournament, and uneven access to outdoor space and COVID-19 testing during the pandemic
- III. "None of this is accidental. The NCAA's current organizational structure and operations depend on gender inequity. It's a feature, not a bug, fully and deliberately baked into the enterprise of major American college sports."
- IV. The NCAA's receipt of dues from universities (which receive federal funding) does not make it subject to the same standards as universities under Title IX
  - i. "The NCAA has embraced this Title IX loophole, paying lip service to gender equity while focusing on something else entirely: maximizing the value of the Division I men's basketball tournament."
- V. March Madness money is the source of the NCAA's power to pay for their headquarters, pay lawyers and lobbyists to preserve amateurism, and subsidize national championships in other sports
  - i. Based on the NCAA's point of view, women get to play sports only thanks to the financial fruit of men's labor . . . "Of course, we don't call it labor. We call it play. Because amateurism."
- VI. Based on the Kaplan Report, the "NCAA does not operate [basketball] championships with gender equity as a guiding principle. . . . Gender disparities in the NCAA championships stem from the structure and culture of the NCAA itself"
- VII. The NCAA takes an active role in uplifting men's basketball and driving down women's basketball, placing it in a "subordinate role to men's basketball"
- VIII. According to the Kaplan Report, the NCAA identified three championships as revenue producing or potentially revenue produced (excluding mens' basketball): baseball, men's ice hockey, men's lacrosse, and wrestling
- IX. The NCAA actively devalues women's sports, giving ESPN a \$34 million deal to broadcast the women's basketball tournament along with 28 other college championships . . . but the value of the women's basketball tournament alone will be worth \$81 to \$112 million annually by 2025
- X. **The NCAA's "history and relationship with gender equality is best summarized as one of opposition, resistance, and defiance"**
- XI. By arguing that if athletes of "revenue" sports receive a share of the revenue, other sports, especially women's sports, would be harmed is intentionally used to divide advocates for gender equity and economic justice in college sports

**XII. "An organization that hosts championships for its member schools should have gender equity as a guiding principle, regardless of legal loopholes in Title IX. . . . An organization purporting to care for and represent the best interests of all college athletes shouldn't pit them against each other or expect one group of athletes to pay for the rest."**