

# TITLE IX ISSUES

## What *could* happen and how *might* we respond?



### Arguments for leaving boys' and girls' soccer the same:

1. Soccer, especially girls' soccer, is still very much in an infant stage, especially on the west side of the state and at the northern schools.
2. As a young sport, we still struggle with facilities. A number of our member schools still have no *soccer specific* playing fields and, at times, practice fields.
3. As a young sport, we are still developing quality coaches. The argument that many of our coaches coach both boys and girls is true. But it is not because of the money; it is because we are still *developing* coaches. (If you think it is the money, you haven't done your research. There is more money in being a club coach and coaching all year around.)
4. We are also young in our development in regard to officiating.
5. Moving girls' or boys' soccer will be more difficult for us than an established sport since we are still developing in key components of the sport.

### Arguments for not combining girls' and boys' in the fall:

1. It is already difficult to find practice fields. Combining boys' and girls' would limit junior varsity and freshmen practice times. These are key athletes in development of our programs.
2. Where teams play soccer in the fall will also be complicated. Those schools who already play soccer on football fields, will find it even more difficult to play all the football games, as well as two soccer programs. Those who now have soccer only playing fields, may have to go back to playing on football fields to accommodate the number of games played in a week.
3. The overall quality of coaching would be severely compromised. The number of years of experience for our coaches is already considerably less than most sports due to the lack of years for our sport being an official MHSAA sport. This move would set us back in years of development of players.
4. The overall quality of officiating would also be compromised. Not only do we currently have a lack of quality officials, a number of coaches who coach in one season, officiate in the other. They are some of our best officials. If left with a choice, what would they choose? Coaching or officiating?

### Arguments for not flip-flopping girls' and boys' seasons:

1. This does not solve the basic argument of the case in regard to possible scholarships for players.
2. In a number of schools this would make it difficult to keep balance in opportunities for both boys and girls creating difficult decisions for student-athletes in the fall and spring.

### Arguments for not dropping girls' or boys' soccer:

1. This is probably not a possibility – but look at what has happens to college wrestling to keep college athletic programs in compliance. Wrestling currently has a lawsuit started charging reverse discrimination of Title IX.
2. Since soccer is still one of the fastest growing sports in the U.S., we would adamantly be opposed to dropping either girls' or boys' soccer to gain a new measure of compliance.