

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL**



**Is Your Athletics Program  
 Equitable for All?**

**Federal and State laws require that all schools provide equitable treatment for student athletes, as stipulated under Title IX regulations. Below is a non-exhaustive checklist of typical areas that should be considered regarding equity for males and females, in an effort to facilitate competitive athletic opportunities for all students.**

Scheduling	Budgeting	Equipment and Supplies	Facilities (Practice and Competition)
✓ Number of events	✓ Allocation of funds	✓ Quality	✓ Quality
✓ Number of practices	✓ Transportation	✓ Amount	✓ Availability
✓ Scheduling of games	✓ Coaching	✓ Suitability	✓ Locker room
✓ Scheduling of practice	✓ Concession opportunities	✓ Maintenance	✓ Weight room
✓ Publicity/announcements	✓ Fundraising	✓ Replacement (uniform, safety equipment, etc.)	✓ Fields
		✓ Availability	✓ Maintenance
			✓ Preparation

Title IX does not require that schools provide identical equipment or spend the same amount of money supporting comparable teams. For example, certain sports may require more funding and equipment due to various reasons (number of players, cost of equipment, required facilities). To ensure equity for all, any underrepresented team should be provided equal quality of equipment, practice/conditioning opportunities, and competitive play.

**Questions? Contact the Educational Equity Compliance Office at (213) 241-7682, or via email at [EquityCompliance@lausd.net](mailto:EquityCompliance@lausd.net).**

**INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS—OVERVIEW OF SELECTED LEGAL TOPICS  
ATHLETICS MEETING--AUGUST 2019**

1. **Fundraising/unauthorized student fees:** Students may not be charged fees related to extracurricular activities, including sports, unless authorized by statute.
  - California Constitution, Article IX, section 5: free public schools provision
  - Education Code section 49010 and following

Schools **cannot** charge students for uniforms/jerseys, transportation, field fees, game official fees, tournament fees, etc. Schools cannot require students/families to fundraise or donate in order to participate. Schools cannot give preference to students who have fundraised or donated over those who haven't. Schools **cannot** require/appear to require students to participate in outside programs/activities (summer school, camp) in order to participate in school athletics or as a fundraiser.

Fundraisers **must** meet District guidelines. Any online fundraising sites must be vetted for the following:

- Use of the school name/team name/logo/mascot on an online fundraising site must be approved.
- Terms and conditions of the website, including whether or not there is an administrative fee and whether or not donations are tax-deductible.
- Any website seeking student information must meet legal requirements for obtaining that information. Any posting of student information and/or photo or video footage requires written authorization prior to posting.
- School administration must be able to monitor funds received and expenditures from donated funds. This includes itemized lists of funds received and expenditures. Coaches, like any school employee or school volunteer, must not privately gain from fundraisers.

- For more information, see Interscholastic Athletics website, *Fundraising*: <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/1403>
- See also see Educational Equity Compliance Office (EECO) website, *Pupil Fees Quick Guide*: <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/3655>

2. **Coach hiring:** Prior to beginning any coaching service, be sure **all** coaches have met **all** coaching requirements. For more information, see Interscholastic Athletics website, *Processing Athletic Assistants*: <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/1403>

3. **Title IX—Publicity and Scheduling:** Title IX requires equity in sports. This includes areas such as practice and game scheduling and publicity. Administrators over athletics and athletic directors need to ensure equity in publicity (equal access to announcements, posting signs, signs on the marquee, information on the school website) and scheduling (ensure a mix of day and night contests; ensure Friday nights are equitably distributed).

- For more information, see Educational Equity Compliance Office (EECO) website, Title IX: <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/3654>

4. **LAUSD Code of Conduct with Students**—Online Training Available (see handout)

**All** provisions are important for **all** athletics personnel, including but not limited to:

- Unauthorized trips/transporting of students
- Being alone with students on campus after an administrator has left, Leading students to believe they need to be on a particular club team or go to a camp run by the coach in order to be on the school team
- Personal communications

- For more information, see EECO website: <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/3649>

*The above is for information only and does not constitute legal advice. If you have legal questions, please contact the Office of the General Counsel (213- 241-7600) to determine how this information may apply to your school's specific facts and circumstances.*