

Three Components of Title IX

Three components of the law provide a framework for measuring compliance by high school athletics departments. **A school or school district is expected to achieve compliance with all three components as they apply. The three Title IX compliance components are:**

COMPONENT 1: EFFECTIVE ACCOMMODATION OF INTERESTS

Component I contains the 3-prong test illustrated hereunder. NOTE the *Three-Prong Test* listed below has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court:

The Three Prong Test For Compliance With Component One:

- a. Female sports participation should be proportional to female enrollment in the school, (e.g., if 49% of a high school *enrollment* is female, then 49% of *the athletes participating* should be female) **OR**
- b. The school shows a recent history of expanding sport offerings for women (e.g., new sports or competitive levels for girls within the past 3 to 5 years), **OR**
- c. The interests and abilities of female athletes have been fully and effectively accommodated (as documented by regularly-administered surveys of females for emerging interests in sports.)

In assessing compliance by a school or school district, the Office of Civil Rights uses the **THREE PRONG TEST** contained within the first compliance component (see 1 a, b, and c. above) to determine whether a school district conforms with this component of the Title IX compliance framework. *Satisfaction of any ONE of the three prongs* provides evidence of compliance with COMPONENT 1 of the Title IX compliance framework.

COMPONENT 2: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance must be strictly proportional. Although this component is primarily a collegiate requirement, it might be applied to private high schools that provide tuition waivers to athletes if not equally distributed between female and male athletes.

COMPONENT 3: EQUIVALENCE IN OTHER BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Included in this component are items such as uniforms, coaching quality, practice and game schedules, facility access, facility quality, equipment quality and quantity, competent officials, and a similar number of sport offerings and competitive levels. This is the component that elicits the greatest number of complaints. *Athletics directors are strongly encouraged to resolve complaints in this area before they are lodged with the Office of Civil Rights.* Once complaints are accepted and processed by the OCR, *monitoring and resolution proceedings may continue for several years.*

Budgets

Although budgets for boys and girls sport budgets need not be identical, it is important to *document that the needs of girls' sports teams are being met.* In this regard, *documentation of school responses to information gathered from surveys of female athlete satisfaction levels and emerging interests in new girls' sports can be extremely important.* The school's past budget plans, long range plan and budgetary response to these surveys can be useful in demonstrating compliance and in providing evidence in times of challenge.