

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Girls who play sports have higher self-esteem, greater physical fitness, and make healthier decisions about drugs, alcohol, and relationships. Additionally, female high school athletes earn higher wages as adults in the workplace.
- California is the first state in the country to pass a law requiring gender equity in its community youth sports programs. AB 2404, the Fair Play in Community Sports Act, or “Fair Play Act,” went into effect in 2005 to ensure that girls in California get the same opportunities to participate in community athletics as boys.
- Many park and recreation departments are still not aware of the law. In a recent survey, over one-third of park and recreation departments said they had never heard of the Fair Play Act. The survey also revealed that approximately half of departments are not tracking the gender of youth sports participants.
- Under the Fair Play Act, park and recreation departments must provide youth sports programs for girls and boys in numbers that reflect the percentages of girls and boys in the community.
- The Fair Play Act requires that girls’ sports teams get the same quality and access to fields, equipment, coaching, and other benefits as boys’ sports teams.
- Community members have the right to complain or bring a lawsuit if their local park and recreation department does not comply with the Fair Play Act.



## Fair Play in Community Sports Act

### FAQs



**LEGAL  
AID AT  
WORK**





## WHAT DOES THE LAW REQUIRE?

The Fair Play Act requires that park and recreation departments provide girl and boy athletes with equal opportunities and equal treatment in their youth sports programs. Your local department must provide youth sports participation opportunities for girls and boys in numbers that reflect the percentages of girls and boys in the community. Additionally, the law requires that girls' and boys' sports be given equal access to resources such as athletic fields and sports equipment. The Fair Play Act covers programs run directly by park and recreation departments as well as programs offered by third-party youth sports organizations that use park and recreation facilities.

## WHAT CAN OUR DEPARTMENT DO?

There are resources available to help your department clearly understand and comply with the law. The Fair Play for Girls in Sports project of the Legal Aid at Work and Coaching Corps have compiled a toolkit to help parks and recreation departments comply with the Fair Play Act. The toolkit provides step-by-step instructions on the Fair Play Act and compliance issues. This toolkit can be found at [www.legalaidatwork.org](http://www.legalaidatwork.org) and at [www.coachingcorps.org](http://www.coachingcorps.org)

## BE PROACTIVE

The best way to avoid complaints is to be proactive in getting your department compliant with the Fair Play Act. More importantly, treating all youth athletes equally is the right thing to do. For more information on the Fair Play Act, contact Legal Aid at Work or Coaching Corps:



### LEGAL AID AT WORK

Fair Play for Girls in Sports  
180 Montgomery Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Telephone: 877-593-0074  
Email: [fairplay@legalaidatwork.org](mailto:fairplay@legalaidatwork.org)  
Website: [www.legalaidatwork.org](http://www.legalaidatwork.org)

If your department is in need of additional coaches to meet the demand for girls sports, contact Coaching Corps to see if they can help.



### Coaching Corps

310 Eighth Street, Suite 300  
Oakland, CA 94607  
Telephone: 510-496-5101  
Email: [sheilagh@coachingcorps.org](mailto:sheilagh@coachingcorps.org)  
Website: [www.coachingcorps.org](http://www.coachingcorps.org)

## THE FAIR PLAY ACT

The Fair Play Act is a California law that prohibits gender discrimination in community youth sports programs. The Fair Play Act requires that girls be provided opportunities for participation in competitive sports programs that are equal, both in quality and scope, as those provided to boys.

**This law is currently in effect.** There is a common misconception that park and recreation departments are not required to comply with the Fair Play Act until 2015. This is false. Park and recreation departments are required to comply with the law now. Further, the law allows for community members to bring lawsuits against park and recreation departments that are not in compliance.

