

Pay Inequity in Athletics

College and professional sports continue to provide unequal funding for women. Paying men more for the same sport gives women in the sport less incentive to push themselves and discourages future female participation in the sport.

Gender Inequity in Collegiate Sports

- Even though female students comprise 57% of college student populations, female athletes received only 43% of participation opportunities which is 56,110 fewer participation opportunities than their male counterparts.
- Although the gap has narrowed, male athletes still receive 55% of college athletic scholarship dollars, leaving only 45% to be allocated to women.
- Women's teams receive only 38% of college sport operating dollars and 33% of college athletic team recruitment spending.
- Women coach 43% of women's teams and only 2% of men's teams and comprise 19% of athletic directors at NCAA institutions.
- In the NCAA's Division I, the richest and most powerful athletic programs, women hold less than 8% of athletic director positions. There are more female college presidents of Division I-A schools than there are female athletic directors.
- In NCAA Division I-A, head coaches for women's teams receive an average salary of \$850,400 while head coaches for men's teams average \$1,783,100. This is a difference of \$932,700.

Gender Equity in Professional Sports:

- When Jelena Prokopcuka won the New York City Marathon in both 2005 and 2006 she became the sixth woman in the history of the race to achieve this feat. Both years the women's winner took home \$100,000 plus a bonus of \$30,000, equaling the largest purse in marathon history.
- In 2007 Wimbledon announced for the first time, it will provide equal prize purses to male and female athletes. All four Grand Slam events now offer equal prize money to the champions.

Gender Inequity in Professional Sports:

- Despite the French Open's announcement this year to offer equal prize money to both male and female champions, other female French Open competitors will still be paid considerably less than their male counterparts.
- While ESPN is commended for tripling the women's purse for Summer X 12, purses are still not equal and women competitors are significantly underrepresented in both the Summer and Winter X Games, making up only 931% of the total athletes in the Winter 2007 X Games and only 9% of the Summer 2006 X Games.

- Total prize money for the PGA tour, \$256 million, is more than five times that of the LPGA tour, \$50 million. Similar discrepancies exist throughout professional sports.
- For a WNBA player in the 2005 season, the minimum salary was \$31,200, the maximum salary was \$89,000, and the team salary cap was \$673,000. For NBA players in the 2004-2005 season, the minimum salary was \$385,277, the maximum salary was \$15.355 million, and the team salary cap was \$46 million.
- For finishing in third place in the 2003 Women's World Cup, each U.S. women's national soccer team member was awarded \$25,000. They would have received \$58,000 if they had won the Cup. For reaching the quarterfinal of the World Cup in 2002, the U.S. men's national soccer team members received \$200,000 each.
- In 2000, the average salary for vice presidents at sports corporate sponsors was 70% higher for men than for women (\$141,250 vs. \$83,067). The industry's overall average base salary for women was \$58,407 vs. \$88,796 for men. In 2002 the overall sponsorship industry, which includes sports sponsorship, still showed a large disparity between male and female salaries. Take-home pay for males averaged \$108,350 versus \$71,123 for females, a 52% differential. Also, 32% of men earned a commission, compared with 12% of women.

What you can do:

- Attend women's sporting events
- Support companies that advocate for women's athletics
- Encourage television stations and newspapers to cover women's sports
- Sign up to coach a girls' sports team, whether at the recreational or high school level
- Encourage young women to participate in sports
- Become an advocate: if you are or know a female athlete that is being discriminate – advocate for their rights. Read the Foundation's position paper on pay inequity to learn how to counter arguments against equal treatment: <http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/cgi-bin/iowa/issues/article.html?record=1136>

*Information compiled March 2007 by the Women's Sports Foundation. To learn more, please visit www.WomensSportsFoundation.org or e-mail Advocacy@WomensSportsFoundation.org.