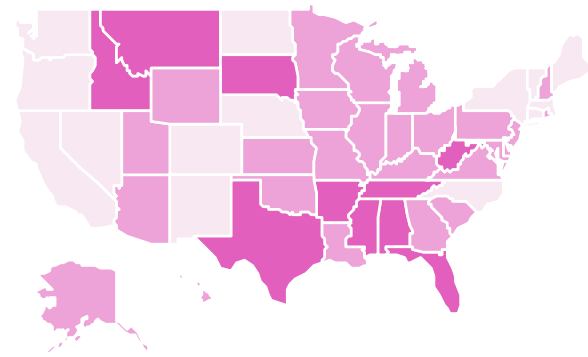
Comparing State Women's Sports Laws



State has enacted a women's sports law
State has introduced a women's sports bill this year

Effective women's sports legislation includes three main components, each of which is vital to ensuring fairness in athletic competition: limiting girls teams to females; applying the law to females of all ages, including college; and giving female athletes a legal remedy.

State	Year Enacted	Applies to Middle & High School	Applies to Colleges	Limits Girls Teams to Females	Gives Female Athletes a Legal Remedy
Idaho	2020	YES	YES	YES	YES
Arkansas	2021	YES	YES	YES	YES
Florida	2021	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mississippi	2021	YES	YES	YES	YES
Montana	2021	YES	YES	YES	YES
West Virginia	2021	YES	YES	YES	YES
Tennessee	2021	YES	NO*	YES	NO**
Alabama	2021	YES	NO*	YES	NO**
Texas	2021	YES	NO	YES	NO
South Dakota	2022	YES	YES	YES	YES
Total	10	10	7	10	7

*Bill introduced in 2022 to add collegiate protections
**Bill introduced in 2022 to add legal remedy

Save Women's Sports Laws Should Protect Every Girl—Including Those in College

Women's sports laws are legally stronger when they protect all women and girls. An 18-year old college freshman has the same right to a fair and level playing field as an 18-year year old high school senior.

- A Save Women's Sports law builds upon the foundation of Title IX, the federal law that guarantees equal opportunities for females—including equal opportunities in sports. Title IX applies to every educational institution that receives federal funding, including every K-12 school and every public university.

- Because a Save Women's Sports bill helps to fulfill the promise of Title IX, then the law should protect every female athlete covered by Title IX. Haven't college female athletes lost equal opportunities in sports because of men competing on their teams? Haven't they lost spots on the team, championships, and had their records broken by men?

If legislators are serious about ensuring that female athletes have a fair and level playing field, then they must include every female athlete who is at risk of being denied fairness.

Status of Legal Challenges

Six states' laws have not had legal challenges and are fully in effect. Here is the status of the legal challenges against the remaining four states:

ID	Lawsuit filed by a college athlete. An Idaho district court temporarily enjoined the law, and it was appealed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. However, on appeal, it was revealed that the college student challenging the law might no longer be eligible to play college sports. The 9th Circuit sent the case back to the Idaho district court to determine whether the case should be dismissed as moot. If that happens, then the Idaho law would no longer be enjoined.
FL	Lawsuit filed by a high school student. The case has been stayed (paused) until a ruling in another case. The law is fully in effect.
WV	Lawsuit filed by a middle school student. The court issued a narrow ruling in favor of the student, but allowed the law to remain in effect for all schools and college and all other students in the state. That case is currently at the trial level.
TN	Lawsuit filed by a high school student. There has been no ruling in the case yet. The law is fully in effect.