

YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA

September 30, 2024

Dr. Edward Seidel
Mr. Tom Burman
University of Wyoming
206 Old Main
Laramie, WY 82071

Dear President Edward Seidel and Director of Athletics Tom Burman,

University of Wyoming women's volleyball team is scheduled to play San Jose State University on October 5, 2024.

As a national organization standing for the rights and protections of women on the basis of sex, Young Women for America leaders in your state have an interest in ensuring citizens are aware of activities compromising female athletes.

In April 2024, an online news report¹ confirmed that a male born player, Blaire Fleming, had been competing on San Jose State University's women's volleyball team. Blaire Fleming, formerly Brayden, previously competed on Coastal Carolina University's women's team. Despite this public revelation, San Jose State re-rostered Fleming as a redshirt senior for the 2024-25 season in the position of outside hitter.

Knowledge of this player raises serious concerns for the safety of your women athletes competing against a male with superior vertical jump and power capacity on a net that is seven inches lower than the men's volleyball net. Fleming's advantage has already been seen in match play this season.

It also raises relevant questions of transparency and responsibility. What is the policy of the university concerning sex-based participation in women's sports? Has the NCAA notified your university that a trans-identifying male player is competing in Division I women's volleyball? How do you prepare your female athletes to compete against a male player on an opposing team and the heightened risk for injury? Have you considered opting out of such matches? If not, why not?

In a letter² to U.S. Senators dated August 21, 2024, NCAA President Charlie Baker indicated that NCAA member institutions have a right to opt out of participation in a policy that forces female athletes to compete on an unfair and unsafe playing field:

"The NCAA's transgender student-athlete participation policy is not mandatory, and federal, state and local laws supersede the Association's policy. Schools may also choose to operate in a different way due to institutional values."

Title IX was enacted in 1972 to ensure equality of opportunity and benefits for student-athletes on the basis of sex. Federal law allows separation by sex to respect and protect the enduring differences between the sexes, which includes matters of safety, privacy, and fairness.

The University of Wyoming is home to thousands of students who take pride in the culture, community, and safety that the university offers. It is not only an obligation of faculty and staff to ensure that the students are protected and safe, but for the students to hold faculty and staff accountable for students' well-being. As the university strives to protect students in every manner possible, the same effort should be put forth on behalf of our female athletes in competitions.

Boise State University, a team in your conference, recently made the right decision to forfeit its game against San Jose State University. In doing so, Boise State courageously upholds the dignity and safety of its female athletes and its obligations under Title IX. We urge you to make the same decision.

Young Women for America and concerned students on your campus appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Faith Ozenbaugh

National Director, Young Women for America



Briana Harper

Chapter President, Young Women for America at University of Wyoming

¹ [EXCLUSIVE: Biological Male Quietly Joined Women's NCAA Division I Volleyball At San Jose State University, Reduxx](#), April 17, 2024.

² [EXCLUSIVE: NCAA Responds To Sen. Marsha Blackburn, Refuses To Fully Protect Women's Sports | OutKick](#), September 11, 2024.