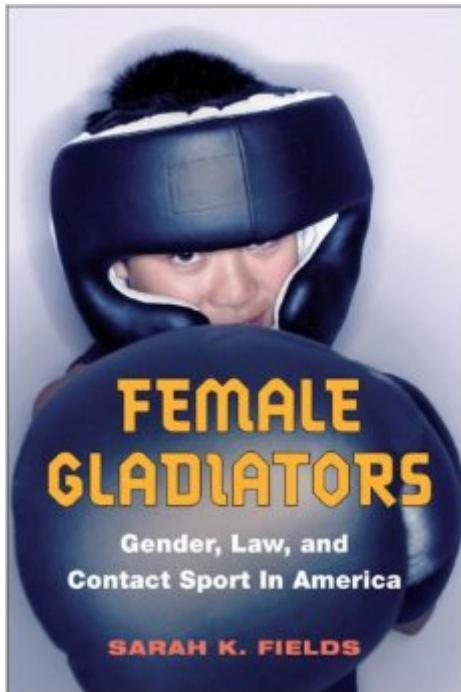


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# Female Gladiators: Gender, Law, And Contact Sport In America (Sport And Society)



## **Synopsis**

Female Gladiators examines the legal and social history of the right of women to participate with men in contact sports. The impetus to begin legal proceedings was the 1972 enactment of Title IX, which prohibited discrimination in educational settings, but it was the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution and the equal rights amendments of state constitutions that ultimately opened doors. Despite court rulings, however, many in American society resisted--and continue to resist--allowing girls in dugouts and other spaces traditionally defined as male territories. When the leagues continued to bar girls simply because they were not boys, the girls went to court. Sarah K. Fields examines the legal and cultural conflicts over gender and contact sports that continue to rage today.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Female Gladiators, part legal and social history, documents the beginnings of Title IX. Moreover she examines the schoolgirls who filed lawsuits using Title IX in order to compete in contact sports and the various communities that attempted to resist female involvement in contact sports. . Although not fully indicative of the atmosphere surrounding Title IX and gender inequality and prompting far more questions than it actually answers, the result remains a decent contribution to gender and sports studies that historians may want to examine. She ignores the monster Title IX has created and the detrimental effects its implementation has had on male athletics. Also some of her contentions seem quite speculative, particularly in regards to boxing. She ignores the fact that many

may view female boxers as a spectacle rather than a true sporting event. She attempts to address this issue but also seems equally determined to discount its importance. Just as problematic is the apparent naivetÃ© Fields holds for the changes in the American sporting landscape due to Title IX. She seems to believe that cultural change should occur far swifter than it has. Fields asserts, especially concerning football, that opposition to female participation remains very high. For the author, this appears a travesty. Cultural changes transpire slowly, especially in sporting practices. Fields, however, ignores this concept and despite the massive progress Title IX has made seemingly believes that football, America's true sporting passion, should be far more open to female participation than it is. Fields could have but chose not to ascertain the motivations of those that challenged discriminatory sporting practices. Why did girls want to play these sports?

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