

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
OF LOUISIANA

September 20, 2024

Jim Henderson
President
Louisiana Tech University
201 Mayfield Ave
Ruston, LA 71272
Email: President@LATech.edu

Dear Dr. Henderson,

Louisiana Tech's women's volleyball program participated in a season opening invitational at Cal State Fullerton August 30-31, 2024, along with San Jose State University.

As a statewide organization standing for the rights and protections of women on the basis of sex, Concerned Women for America of Louisiana has an interest in ensuring our citizens are aware of activities compromising female athletes. We are writing to ask why Louisiana Tech chose to participate in an invitational match against a team with a trans-identifying male on its roster in the position of outside hitter.

In April 2024, an online news reportⁱ confirmed that a male born player, Blaire Fleming, had been competing on San Jose State's women's volleyball team. Blaire Fleming, formerly known as 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.

Knowledge of this player raises serious questions. Did the NCAA notify Louisiana Tech that a trans-identifying male player was competing in Division I women's volleyball? Did the host team, Cal State Fullerton, notify other teams that an invited team included a trans-identifying male? How was Louisiana Tech able to prepare its women's volleyball team to compete against a male player knowing the heightened risk for concussion from the strength and speed of hits? What protocols were in place to ensure the rights and dignity of female athletes to sex-separated locker rooms?

In a letterⁱⁱ to U.S. Senators dated August 21, 2024, NCAA President Charlie Baker indicated that 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."

In 2022, the state of Louisiana enacted a law restricting participation in sports designated for women or girls to students of the female sex at all levels of education. Under Louisiana law, Blaire Fleming would be ineligible to participate on a college women's team at a state university. Neither could Louisiana Tech roster a biological male player to "level the playing field" against an opponent rostering the same.

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.

It is our expectation that Louisiana Tech desires to maintain the values of Louisianans and the laws of our state in administering its athletic programs, including upholding the rights of female athletes to sex-separated participation and fair and safe athletic competition at all levels of education.

CWA of Louisiana appreciates your attention to this request and looks forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Laura Huber
State Director

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

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