

MASON COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS GENDER EQUITY POLICY

Background:

The purpose of the Mason County Parks and Trails Department Non-Discrimination Policy is to help insure that the department's and third party sponsored athletics/sports programs and the department's facilities that support athletic/sports programs, provide equal opportunity and access for both boys and girls, and women and men.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal statute created to prohibit sex discrimination in education programs that receive federal financial assistance. Nearly every educational institution is a recipient of federal funds, and therefore is required to comply with Title IX.

In 1975, Washington adopted its own Title IX legislation in RCW 28A.640.010, which prohibits inequality in the educational opportunities afforded women and girls at all levels of public schools in Washington State. Currently, Washington law does not extend the protection of Title IX to opportunities in community athletic programs.

During the 2009 Legislative Session, ESSB 5967 was passed. This Bill states that no city, town, county, or district may discriminate against any person in a community athletics program on the basis of sex. "Community athletics program" means any athletic program that is organized for the purposes of training for and engaging in athletic activity and competition that is in any way operated, conducted, administered, or supported by local governments and districts, other than those created solely for the students of a school.

A third party receiving a lease or permit for a community athletics program from one of these entities or from a school district also may not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex in the operation, conduct, or administration of the program. The nondiscrimination policy must be adopted by January 1, 2010, and must be published and disseminated. At a minimum, it should be included in any publication that contains information about the program or information about obtaining a permit to operate a program.

The policy must also be published on the appropriate entity's website. School districts issuing permission to a third party for the operation of a community athletics program on its facilities must also follow these requirements, but may use and modify existing school policies to the extent possible. School districts are not required to monitor compliance, investigate complaints, or otherwise enforce school district policies as to third parties using school district facilities. Every entity covered by this act must publish the name, office address, and office telephone number of any employee responsible for carrying out compliance with this act.

1.0 Policy

It is the policy of Mason County Parks and Trails Department that the County, nor third party groups using County facilities shall discriminate against any person on the basis of sex in the operation, conduct, or administration of community athletics programs for youth or adults.

2.0 Policy Publication and Dissemination

A variety of media will be used to publish and disseminate Mason County's Gender Equity Policy. This media shall include the Mason County Web Site, in addition to correspondence sent to third party users of the County Facilities and rental forms and literature provided to third party users. The media to be employed will be the following:

2.1 Publications related to the departments and third party sponsored community athletic/sports facilities (policy reference)

2.2 Applications for scheduled facility use (policy included)

2.3 Mason County Parks and Trails Web Site (policy included)

2.4 Information flyers, notices, advertisements (policy reference)

3.0 Policy Administration

Mason County Parks and Trails Department will administer the Mason County Gender Equity Non Discrimination Policy for all Mason County Athletic Facilities to discourage discriminate against any person on the basis of sex in the operation, conduct, or administration of community athletics programs for youth or adults.

4.3 Responsible Official

The person responsible for this policy shall be the Mason County Parks and Trails Department Director, or his / her designee.

Mason County Parks and Trails Department Director
411 – North 5th Street
East 2100 Johns Prairie Road
Shelton, WA 98584
360-427-9670 #669 or #535

4.1 Implementation

This policy will become effective on January 1, 2010 and will remain in effect thereafter. Mason County Parks and Trails Department Staff will be responsible for communicating this policy to all community athletic organizations utilizing county athletic facilities.

Dated Adopted: _____

Signed: _____