

I am a certified coach at the high school and club track level. For 10 years, I've coached athletes as young as 4 to as old as 17. Before puberty, I've seen girls who can outrun and jump boys. After puberty, focus plays a big part in performance, along with ability. I have never seen a female athlete beat a male athlete of the same age and focus. So, to allow males to compete against females automatically disadvantages the females. In 2014, my daughter qualified, competed, and placed in the Region 5 Youth Championship in the Triple Jump. Had a boy of the same age and focus had competed as a girl, given the distances of the boy's jumps, she would not have qualified and missed out on that opportunity and experience. The following year, she missed qualifying for the Regional meet by 0.3m. She was heartbroken in that moment, and I - as coach and father - consoled her by the runway. Every coach feels the athlete's pain when they don't accomplish a goal. You wonder what you did wrong, you wonder what you could have done different, or what more you should have done. The reality in that moment is there were 8 girls who were better than her in that event on that day, so we accepted it. But what if one or two of those competitors had been boys who didn't qualify in the boy's Triple Jump the previous year? They would have won the event and pushed two deserving girls out - along with my daughter. As a coach, how would I have prepared my female athlete for that? As a father, how would I console my daughter from a loss she had no chance overcoming? How would I have taken that pain from her?

Keeping women's sports and events exclusively for women has nothing to do with oppressing people who want to identify or transition to from males to females. What they want to do in outside of sports is their business. But when it will cost female athletes that opportunity to advance in win a competition, to advance in a championship series, a college scholarship, or a spot on an Olympic team, why should that transgender athlete matter more than the female athlete? How is that fair? How is that equitable?