

NCAA News Double A Zone
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Ruling could impact Title IX proportionality interpretation - Jun 24, 2009 | 14:50:48
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Yesterday we celebrated the 37th anniversary of the adoption of Title IX. As I worked on a [timeline detailing the history](#) of the legislation, I was struck by how recent the struggle for equality has been.

And, the debate continues. Just last week, a California court issued a ruling related to Title IX that could have lasting implications for universities around the country.

Traditionally, judges have ruled that a school is compliant with Title IX if the proportion of female participation comes within five percent of the representative population of the school. So, in the past, if a school's population was 50 percent female and 50 percent male, the university would be seen as compliant if just 45 percent of its athletes were female.

But, the ruling between the UC Davis and three female student-athletes, requires that the university come within 1.5 percent of proportionality. If it stands, the change could have a lasting impact on universities around the country.

"It is a boost in the momentum toward the real goal of equality of opportunity, and not a goal of approximate equality, but real equality," Marcia Greenberger, co-president of the National Women's Law Center, [told the New York Times](#).

UC Davis has 10 years to meet these new requirements.

"UC Davis has a solid history of commitment to its female athletes and coaches and to expanding opportunities for women in competitive sports," Greg Warzecka, UC Davis athletics director, [said in a press release](#).

"The time frames set out in the settlement maximize the potential to add varsity opportunities for women in the future. We are continually trying to maintain our compliance efforts to give women athletes the very best access to intercollegiate athletics competition possible."

What impact do you think the UC Davis ruling will have on the future composition of intercollegiate athletics?