



A Resolution addressing Social Justice in the Sports Industry

Committee: Social and Economic Justice

Resolution: SEJ-20-11

- 1. WHEREAS**, Title IX states that “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance”.
- 2. WHEREAS**, African American women are underrepresented in all but two sports: Division 1 basketball and indoor track and field.
- 3. WHEREAS**, In the passing of Title IX of the Education Amendment in 1972 the percentage of women coaches has decreased and the percentage of men coaching women’s teams has increased, especially in basketball and soccer.
- 4. WHEREAS**, Title IX has been shown to benefit more white women in receiving high-level jobs within the sports industry than African American women.
- 5. WHEREAS**, In a study of physical education classes it concluded that there was a need in U.S. physical education to refocus efforts to ensure equity across gender, class, and racial lines as well as religious and political beliefs. That lack of equity is causing girls and women of color to be left behind in terms of sport and physical activity participation.

6. **WHEREAS**, A 2013 study shows that young African American girls have high expectations from them in their household impact their decisions about participating in after-school programs.
7. **WHEREAS**, Youth sports are racially diverse, yet African American girls are much more likely than their African American male counterparts to be non-athlete.
8. **WHEREAS**, More than 50% of African American parents feel that their communities offer more sports programs for more boys than they do girls.
9. **WHEREAS**, The disparate rates at which African-American and white girls participate in physical activity have been attributed to African-American girls more likely attending schools with few resources and higher poverty rates, impacting material resources, human resources and programs and opportunities to play.
10. **WHEREAS**, Many African American young girls have jobs in order to supplement family incomes, while others take care of siblings at home.
11. **WHEREAS**, African Americans have higher rates of obesity which decreases their participation in physical activity.
12. **WHEREAS**, 90 percent of editors, anchors, and commentators are men, male sports columnists alone only hold approximately 22 percent for those of color.
13. **WHEREAS**, In women's sports leagues the athletes are criticized more on their appearance than their talent in compared to men's sports leagues.
14. **WHEREAS**, After Billie Jean King threatened to boycott the 1973 U.S. Open due to pay inequality, the tournament became the first to award equal money to its

male and female champions. The other three Grand Slam tournaments eventually followed suit, and all have paid equal prize money since 2007.

15. **WHEREAS**, Professional tennis, by far, has the narrowest gender pay gap.
16. **WHEREAS**, The lowest NBA salary is \$779,658 more than what the WNBA's highest-paid player, DeWanna Bonner, makes.
17. **WHEREAS**, The NBA generates more than \$9 billion in revenue, while the WNBA generates about \$25 million.
18. **WHEREAS**, The NBA season is 82 games, and the WNBA season is 34 games. Most WNBA players also play overseas in order to make more money.
19. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women supports gender equity in professional sports.
20. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women promotes state-wide funding for after-care programs in low-income communities.
21. **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women will work to address gender pay gaps within the sports industry.