

**Message to all institutional presidents from Chancellor Cheng: Update: Executive Order on
Athletic Participation/Locker Room Access
Thu 2/13/2025 8:11 AM**

**On behalf of Chancellor Cheng*

Dear Presidents,

As many of you know, on February 5, 2025, President Trump signed the [Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports](#) executive order. The order purports to limit athletic participation and student-athlete locker room access based on “sex and not gender identity or testosterone reduction.”

On February 6, 2025, the NCAA updated their [Participation Policy for Transgender Student-Athletes](#). Under this policy:

- Student-athletes assigned male at birth or student-athletes assigned female at birth but taking hormone therapy may not compete on a women’s team.
- These restrictions do not apply to men’s teams and do not affect roster status or practice eligibility.

CSCU’s Compliance Office reviewed the student-athlete handbooks and other guidance for all CSCU institutions offering NCAA athletics and some reference now outdated NCAA competition eligibility criteria. The Compliance Office is supporting institutional Title IX Coordinators in updating any guidance related to NCAA eligibility.

Locker Room Access & BOR Policy

Regarding locker room access, under our current BOR [policy](#), individuals are allowed to use locker rooms consistent with their gender identity or expression. This aligns with state civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination and harassment based on gender identity.

Given that several states have laws requiring gender identity-based locker room access, we anticipate litigation, as this conflicts with the federal administration’s new stance. CSCU’s Office of the General Counsel is actively working with the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General to assess the legal implications and will provide updates as they become available.

Next Steps

At this time, CSCU does not see an immediate need to update its general restroom and locker room policies to impose additional restrictions on student-athlete access. We will continue to monitor

developments to ensure our student-athletes are supported while maintaining compliance with federal, state, and NCAA regulations.

Please feel free to reach out to Cameron Liston and/or Karen Buffkin (copied) with any questions you may have.