

Title: It's Not Just a Game: Assessing the Prevalence of Gender Discrimination in Sports
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Although several waves of feminism have propelled women's sports into mainstream society, discrimination against women in sports remains a prevalent issue. This research addresses the unequal treatment of women in sports by focusing on three main contexts: the gender pay gap in professional sports, unequal televisization of sporting events, and reinforcing gender stereotypes. Most researchers tend to focus on each context separately in assessing push and pull factors regarding gender discrimination in sports (Duncan and Messner 1993, Messner 2002, Anderson 2002). The purpose of my research is to assess how each context intersects together in perpetuating gender inequality in sports. I draw on scholarly journals to provide an empirical overview and intersection of these three main contexts. Unequal pay for women in professional sports is one of the main contributing factors to the unfair treatment (Cooky and Messner 2018). Not only are women getting paid less, women's professional sports are not on television as frequently as men's professional sports (Pelak 2002). Further, the institution of sports reinforces cultural stereotypes regarding gender, especially in terms of types of sports, game regulations, score expectations, and general deposition during games and events (Duncan and Messner 1993). Focusing on these three specific aspects of gender inequality in sports will inform the public on this issue, which will make athletes, broadcasters, and viewers more aware of this topic. I argue that eradicating gender discrimination in sports is a key step towards equalizing women and men within society as a whole.

Works Cited

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