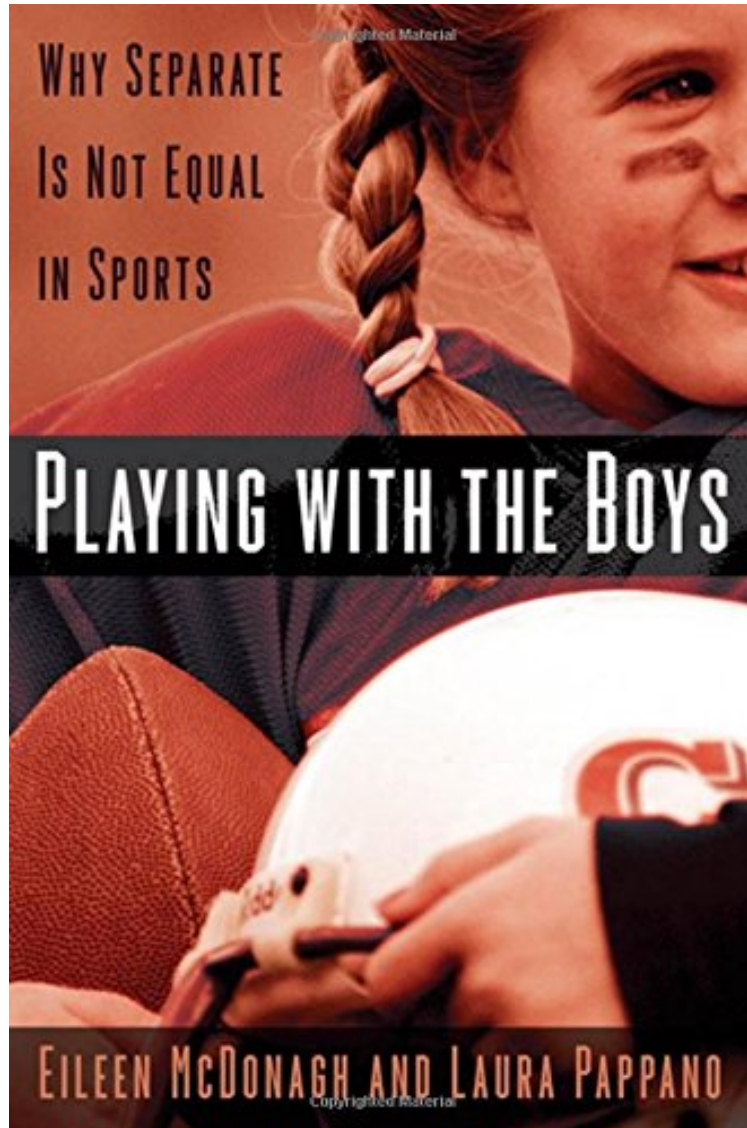


[Download pdf] Playing With the Boys: Why Separate is Not Equal in Sports

Playing With the Boys: Why Separate is Not Equal in Sports

Eileen McDonagh, Laura Pappano
ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1019842 in Books Eileen McDonagh 2009-07-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.10 x .90 x 9.201, 1.20 #File Name: 0195386779384 pages Playing with the Boys Why Separate is Not Equal in Sports | File size: 34.Mb

Eileen McDonagh, Laura Pappano : Playing With the Boys: Why Separate is Not Equal in Sports before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Playing With the Boys: Why Separate is Not Equal in Sports:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This book makes you think about things you haven't thought about before. By Alan Bain I wonder what the authors of this excellent and thought-provoking book would think about me and my country. I come from the UK where girls can by law be stopped from "playing with the boys" because women as a

group are considered inferior. I used this law to threaten my school so me and my freinds could stop two girls from trying out for my school's soccer team. We even took advice from one of our fathers (a lawyer). The school backed down and we were very proud of ourselves. That was in 1997. I never thought we did anything wrong. Until I read this book. Although this book is mainly about the US I woud still recommend it to non Americans as a lot of the issues they raise cut across national borders. One issue is the practice of having different rules for male and female versions of the same sport. Until i read this book I never even thought of this so ingrained is the practice but some of the differences are ridiculous. There are plenty of examples in the book but I'll give one that has occurred since the book was published. At the best Olympics ever - London 2012 - women's boxing made its (very popular) debut. Fights for women last 4 2 minute rounds. For men it is 3 3 minute rounds. Is it really believable female boxers can't fight for an extra minute without needing a break, or that they need an extra break? Male and female versions of the same sport must have the same rules They are right. If that is uncontroversial, another of their ideas is not. They propose that women should be able both to "play with the boys" and play in single sex teams. My gut instinct was to think "Typical feminists. They want it all their own way" But.. this already happens in sport. Just substitute age for gender. Most sport in the UK has age limit teams or events - under 15, 17 19 etc. The vast majority stick to their own age group. But the talented 15 year old can play in the under 19 team but not vice versa. An example here is 15 year old cricketer Matthew Fisher who last year played for England under 19s.. It got a bit of publicity but no one said he should be stopped from "playing with the big boys" because 15 year olds as a group could not. Nor did they say 19 year olds should play for the under 15s. Youngsters can even play with adults. Australian cricketer Neil Harvey started playing with adults aged 12, India's Sachin Tendulkar at 15. Wayne Rooney - who I'm sure you've all heard of - made his EPL debut aged 16. If anyone in 2002 had suggested he should not play because 16 year olds as a group could not they would have been laughed at. Why should women be different? I don't agree with the most controversial of their ideas - the claim they make that women as a group are not inferior at sport compared to men as a group. I reckon 99 % of women could not "play with the boys" - but as in the age analogy above that should not stop the 1% that could from trying if they want to do so. Nor should it mean women can't have separate teams. Besides there are two principles at stake here. People should be judged as individuals not groups. In every other industry bar sport women are judged this way. Why on earth should sport be above the law? If - sorry when because IMO it will happen - sport is dragged into line with other aspects of life I do not expect to see women in the NFL EPL or MLB. But that will be because they will not be good enough - the vast majority of men aren't either - rather than the fact they are female. The book mentions a 5 year old girl who dreamed of being a pitcher for the New York Yankees. Aged 10 she turned out for a Little League tryout. She was the best player - but was banned for being a girl. Her dream was shattered. Now it wouldn't have come true anyway - but this also would have applied to most 10 year old boys. The difference is at least they would have been allowed to try. I would never have written most of the above had I not read this book. It made me think of things I've never thought of before. The authors deserve credit for their courage in writing this - even though I don't agree with all of their opinions. And I wish we had given the girls a chance back in 1997. They probably would not have been good enough - but we should have let them try. I'm now ashamed of what we did then. Thanks to this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Review after reading this for my CAPP Political Science Class!!! By SIllo This book does a good job at bringing you into the topic, but then gets a little dry. If you can stick with it the whole time it is actually an awesome bit of information to learn. I would recommend this book as a great educational piece, but there is not an overload of excitement. I think that there is a reasonable amount of Fact, Annotations and Politics to make it a good story. The duo of authors have a good opinion and an awesome way of conveying it! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating take on sports in American society By A. Millard Even if you don't like sports, you should read this book because it is about a lot more than games. It argues powerfully that sports matters in American society and that it is an entrenched bastion of sex segregated policies that perpetuate false assumptions that women are inferior to men. Yes, of course, there are sex group differences, but those differences don't explain the myriad rules, regulations, and prohibitions that make a person's sex, rather than ability, the first criterion when assigning team membership. While you can probably guess at the obvious in ridiculous sex segregation (billiards, for example) there are also stories and abilities that will surprise you. Read it.

Athletic contests help define what we mean in America by "success." By keeping women from "playing with the boys" on the false assumption that they are inherently inferior, society relegates them to second-class citizens. In this forcefully argued book, Eileen McDonagh and Laura Pappano show in vivid detail how women have been unfairly excluded from participating in sports on an equal footing with men. Using dozens of powerful examples--girls and women breaking through in football, ice hockey, wrestling, and baseball, to name just a few--the authors show that sex differences are not sufficient to warrant exclusion in most sports, that success entails more than brute strength, and that sex segregation in sports does not simply reflect sex differences, but actively constructs and reinforces stereotypes about sex differences. For instance, women's bodies give them a physiological advantage in endurance sports, yet many Olympic events have shorter races for women than men, thereby camouflaging rather than revealing women's strengths.

"A serious examination of the role of gender politics in sports."--The Nation"Convincingly argue[s] the notion that sports, like politics, higher education, and employment generally, should provide equal opportunity for women... Marshaling facts, research, and opinions from biology, history, sociology, law, media, and psychology, the authors make their feminist argument more plausibly than does Colette Dowling in *The Frailty Myth*... Highly recommended."--Library Journal"Playing with the Boys dismantles the common assumption that women must be inferior to men when it comes to sports. McDonagh and Pappano impressively show how this deep stereotype has no grounds and why it's so important we get rid of it."--Donna Brazile, author of *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics*"This is one of those rare gems of a book that makes you entirely reassess what you thought you knew. Provocative, absorbing and meticulously argued, *Playing with the Boys* questions the received wisdom about Title IX and women's sports from the most unexpected perspective. Read the book."--Mary Fainsod Katzenstein, Stephen and Evalyn Milman Professor of American Studies, Cornell University and author of *Faithful and Fearless: Moving Feminist Protest inside the Church and Military*"McDonagh and Pappano hit a home-run! This book shows that coerced sex segregation in sports does not benefit women, and in fact holds back women who are fully capable of competing with men--and that flies in the face of U.S. ideals of equality. Readers will never think of Title IX in the same way again."--Kim Gandy, President, National Organization for Women (NOW)"This is a wonderful work! It offers novel evidence from biology, history, and the law that makes us realize that women's sports are not only intrinsically interesting as a topic of study, but also a key part of larger debates about who we are as a society and a nation."--Kristin Goss, Assistant Professor of Public Policy Studies and Political Science, Duke University and author of *Disarmed: The Missing Movement for Gun Control in America*"In this informative, well-written book, [McDonagh and Pappano]...offer relevant information critical to understanding the role of gender in sport. The authors not only define the specifics of the problem but also probe questions associated with the formulation of gender roles... Offering conceptual frameworks, case studies, and practical applications, this book will be valuable both as a textbook and in libraries supporting the study of sports and gender, including sociological aspects... Highly recommended."--CHOICE"A strong case history about the inequalities that existed for female athletes not only in the 1800s and 1900s, but also today."--The Chicago Sun-Times"Makes a dynamic case for reshuffling our gendered assumptions about sports."--Bust Magazine"Start thinking about the issues they raise and you may never stop."--The New York Times"This exhaustively researched, historically informed book represents an important step in the debate surrounding gender equity in sport." --Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society About the AuthorEileen McDonagh is Professor of Political Science at Northeastern University and Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University. She is the author of *Breaking the Abortion Deadlock* and *The Motherless State*. Laura Pappano is an award-winning journalist whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *The Washington Post*. She is the author of *The Connection Gap* and is currently a writer-in-residence at the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College.