

HAPPY 50th

ANGIE DOCTOR

IT'S A GIRL THING

Attitudes block equality in sports

Michael Jordan, Tony Hawk and Mats Sundin. What do all three of these personalities have in common, besides they are all famous athletes?

Give up? They are all men. If you had to name 10 famous women athletes, each from a different sport, could you?

About 90 per cent of high school students take part in sports activities, individually, or on teams. Most popular with teenage boys are hockey, snowboarding, baseball, football, skateboarding, and basketball, not necessarily in that order.

Among teenage girls, the most popular sports were basketball, baseball, figure skating, field hockey and volleyball.

This would seem to indicate there are distinctive borders between what the two sexes perceive to be "girls sports" and "boys sports."

In many sports, such as basketball, there is a girls team and a boys team.

But why do boys have to be on separate teams from the girls? In an interview, Grade 10 and 11 boys at Stouffville District Secondary School indicated boys and girls teams were separated because the level of play of boys teams is much higher than girls teams.

When I mentioned girls can try out for the boys football team, these same boys had no



Rebecca Cassey

The teachers then got involved and began asking if a girls hockey team was formed, would girls actually try out for it?

When this issue was presented at the school, a significant number of girls answered they thought a girls hockey team was a great idea and, yes, they would indeed try out. There is now a girls hockey team and many girls have tried out.

Many of the students I interviewed felt teams should be co-ed, however, most of these students were girls.

Only about half of the boys thought teams should be co-ed, expressing the belief that "girls are just as strong as the guys and there is no major difference between them when they play sports, so why should we keep them apart? Everybody is equal."

Those opposed to the co-ed idea reasoned, "the level of play in guys sports are higher than the ones in girls sports, so it would not be fair."

There is only one sport in which both men and women compete on an equal basis: equestrian sports.

Men and women compete against each other and there is no specific height or weight requirements.

Most students, male and female, were unaware of this.

Rebecca Cassey is a Grade 10 student at Stouffville District Secondary School.

At the Schools writer

comment

When I mentioned boys can try out for the girls field hockey team, they gave a look of surprise and then laughed, either not believing what I had said or not wanting to think of a guy playing on a "girls team."

Many of the students I interviewed felt teams

should be co-ed,

however, most of these

students were girls.

At the beginning of the year, a girls hockey team was proposed at the school.

The boys have both a junior and senior team and the girls of Stouffville Secondary began to wonder why they could not have a hockey team, as well.



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FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

CHANGES TO EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Do your earnings vary from week to week?
Do you work part time or have temporary work?

Changes to Employment Insurance (EI) may benefit you.

The Government of Canada is increasing the Small Weeks threshold to \$225. When you qualify for EI and we calculate your benefit rate, we will, where possible, ignore weeks where your earnings fall below this level.

This change could increase your EI benefit.

Why is the Government of Canada making this change?
These improvements will encourage Canadians to accept workweeks of lesser pay without lowering their employment insurance benefit rate on a future claim.


The new threshold of \$225 for a regular week of work (up from \$150) reflects increases in Canadian wages.

This change makes EI more responsive to the needs of Canadian workers.

Some things remain the same:

- All insurable hours will still be used for eligibility purposes, even if they are not used to calculate your benefit rate.
- You must continue to report all earnings in the weeks you earn them.
- Earnings allowed while on claim are \$50 per week or 25 percent of your weekly benefit rate, whichever is higher.
- Employers must continue to remit EI premiums on every dollar paid and complete Records of Employment.

For information on Small Weeks:
1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)
TTY: 1-800-465-7735
www.hrdc-dmcc.gc.ca/ei



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