Three Components of Title IX

*Three components* of the law provide a framework for measuring compliance by high school athletics departments. A *school or school district is expected to achieve compliance with all three components as they apply*. The three Title IX compliance components are:

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**COMPONENT 1: EFFECTIVE ACCOMMODATION OF INTERESTS**

Component I contains the 3-prong test illustrated hereunder. *NOTE* the *Three-Prong Test* listed below has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court:

The Three Prong Test For Compliance With Component One:

a. Female sports participation should be proportional to female enrollment in the school, *(e.g., if 49% of a high school enrollment is female, then 49% of the athletes participating should be female)* OR

b. The school shows a recent history of expanding sport offerings for women *(e.g., new sports or competitive levels for girls within the past 3 to 5 years)*, OR

c. The interests and abilities of female athletes have been fully and effectively accommodated *(as documented by regularly-administered surveys of females for emerging interests in sports.)*

In assessing compliance by a school or school district, the Office of Civil Rights uses the *THREE PRONG TEST* contained within the first compliance component *(see 1 a, b, and c, above)* to determine whether a school district conforms with this component of the Title IX compliance framework. *Satisfaction of any ONE of the three prongs provides evidence of compliance with COMPONENT 1 of the Title IX compliance framework.*

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**COMPONENT 2: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

*Financial assistance* must be strictly proportional. Although this component is primarily a collegiate requirement, it might be applied to private high schools that provide tuition waivers to athletes if not equally distributed between female and male athletes.

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**COMPONENT 3: EQUIVALENCE IN OTHER BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Included in this component are items such as uniforms, coaching quality, practice and game schedules, facility access, facility quality, equipment quality and quantity, competent officials, and a similar number of sport offerings and competitive levels. This is the component that elicits the greatest number of complaints. *Athletics directors are strongly encouraged to resolve complaints in this area before they are lodged with the Office of Civil Rights.* Once complaints are accepted and processed by the OCR, *monitoring and resolution proceedings may continue for several years.*

**Budgets**

Although budgets for boys and girls sport budgets need not be identical, it is important to *document that the needs of girls’ sports teams are being met*. In this regard, *documentation of school responses to information gathered from surveys of female athlete satisfaction levels and emerging interests in new girls’ sports can be extremely important.* The school’s past budget plans, long range plan and budgetary response to these surveys can be useful in demonstrating compliance and in providing evidence in times of challenge.