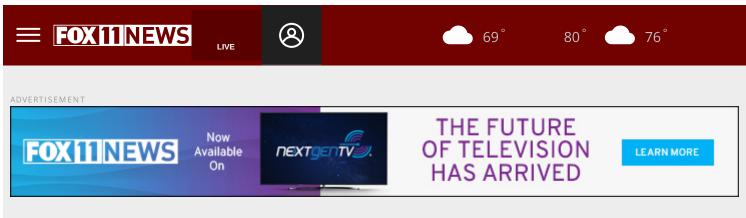
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Green Bay parents voice concerns about transgender athlete possibly on girls' sports team | WLUK

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# Green Bay parents voice concerns about transgender athlete possibly on girls' sports team

by Ben Krumholz, FOX 11 News Wed, August 9th 2023, 7:26 PM PDT



A group of Green Bay parents talks to FOX 11 about a transgender athlete potentially playing for a girls' sports team this fall. (Photo credit: WLUK)



**UPDATE:** The parents were told at a meeting Thursday night that the student would be allowed to play as long as WIAA guidelines were met.

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### $\equiv$ **FOX11** NEWS

GREEN BAY, Wis. (WLUK) -- Parents with students in the Green Bay Area Public School District are voicing their concerns about a transgender athlete potentially participating in a girls' sport.

The district is expected to address the issue at a meeting Thursday night.

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For confidentiality reasons, FOX 11 has decided to not name the school or sport involved.

If the transgender athlete is allowed to play on a girls' sports team this fall, at least three sets of Green Bay parents say their daughters won't be participating.

"They're just not used to the ball coming at them that hard," said Ryan Gusick, one of the concerned parents.

Tryouts for the sport are on Monday, but in summer practices and games, the parents say girls are leaving with welts and bruises they've never received before.

"A lot of these girls are specifically quitting this team because they're concerned for their safety," said Gusick.

FOX 11 asked the parents if the athlete is the most dominant in those summer games and practices.

"Got the most power, yes," said Heather Longlais, another concerned parent.

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### $\equiv$ **FOX11**NEWS

regarding a student's ability to participate in co-curricular athletics/activities are made in accordance with Title IX law, Board policy, and WIAA regulations."

The WIAA has had a three-page policy for transgender athletes since 2015, according to WIAA Director of Communications Todd Clark.

Clark tells FOX 11 he has never heard of any complaints about the policy or transgender athletes. However, he admits if there were complaints, the WIAA does not keep a record.

The policy states its goals are equity, physical safety, and competitive equity.

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It states, "a student's member school will be the point of contact for determining the student's eligibility to participate in WIAA sponsored interscholastic athletics."

The policy also states "a male-to-female transgender student must have one calendar year of medically documented testosterone suppression therapy to be eligible to participate on a female team."

"The rules are very soft at best," said Longlais. "Transgender people deserve a seat the table. It's just not necessarily the girls' table for sports when it's men going to women."

The parents say there are also locker room concerns.

The Green Bay school district's policy for bathrooms states "in most cases, a student who is transgender will be permitted to access the men's/women's segregated restrooms that correspond to the gender identity that the student consistently asserts at school and in other social environments."

For locker rooms, the district's policy states requests are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

A statement from the district to FOX 11 states the district "works with the transgender students to determine what they would prefer. However, they have a legal right to use the locker room. If they choose to use the locker room they gender identify with, students who may have concerns the District will work with to provide supports." **FOX11** NEWS

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A spokesperson for Green Bay schools tells FOX 11 the parents of the transgender athlete declined the opportunity to be interviewed for this story.

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The meeting on Thursday to go over this issue is for only players and their parents. FOX 11 has been told we will not be allowed at the meeting, but we expect to hear from parents after and will continue to follow up on what happens.

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