Kim Russell

January 8, 2024

NCAA President, Governor Charlie Baker
The National Collegiate Athletic Association
700 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 7110
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222

Dear Governor Baker,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying your first year as President of the NCAA. I'm writing this letter believing that you are in the unique position to change history for the better, and to go down in the record books as the man who saved Title IX and Women's Sports!

Until recently, I was the Head Women's Lacrosse Coach at Oberlin College. Oberlin removed me from coaching and offered me an administrative position (which I refused) after I posted my opinion on social media that biological males should not be allowed in women's college sports, and I went public with my story.

VIEW MY STORY AT WWW.IWF.ORG/KIM-RUSSELL/

I am a long time athlete, coach (27+ years), PE teacher, wellness coach, fitness instructor, mother (four grown children) and advocate for women. I was five when Title IX was passed. I am one of the first groups of women who not only benefited from Title IX, but who watched those before me and those who coached me, continue to fight for Title IX in education and sports over the last fifty one years.

In 1985, I was recruited to play both DI field hockey and lacrosse at the College of William & Mary and received an athletic scholarship. Because of being an athlete at William & Mary, I was given an opportunity of a lifetime - an internship at Wimbledon. That internship led to a job when I graduated from W&M, working at International Management Group, the largest sports marketing and management company in the world.

None of this would have been possible for me without Title IX and the equal opportunities it created for women and girls in sports. When I started at IMG in 1989, I was one of two women who worked in the Golf Division who wasn't a secretary, and I was the only woman who worked in men's golf. I was twenty two. I planned to have a career in the world of professional sports. A few years in, I realized that was not the path for me. Seven years later, in March of 1996, I volunteered to coach a group of girls who wanted to start a lacrosse team at an all girls Catholic school in the western suburbs of Cleveland. A few months later, we started a field hockey team. In 1999, I started a girls club lacrosse team, in 2003 a girls youth program, and in 2012 I was hired as the first ever head coach of Baldwin Wallace University Women's Lacrosse. In 2017 I headed to Florida to create and coach the Girls Lacrosse Program at IMG Academy. In 2018 I began coaching at Oberlin College and remained there until this October. In 2022 I was asked to be the 1st coach of the US Virgin Islands Women's National Lacrosse Team. I am now the Women's Head Lacrosse Coach & Director of National Teams for the US Virgin Islands. I have been inducted into three Halls of Fame for Coaching and contributing to the game of lacrosse, and a high school girls lacrosse team has an award named after me.

So why this lengthy letter with what looks to be my curriculum vitae? Am I looking for a job with the NCAA? No. I am giving you a sense of my background so that you will understand my commitment to women's athletics and so that you will understand why I am passionate about saving women's sports.

The influx of biological males into women's and girls sports over the last couple of years has been mind boggling to me. Opportunities are being taken away from women. Every time a male competes on a women's team, multiple opportunities are lost for women: roster spots, playing time, starting positions, scholarship money, records and statistics, awards from the team/school/conference/region/national level/NCAA and sponsorship opportunities.
The list goes on.

THUS, Title IX is not being upheld.

Never in a million years did I think I would lose my job as a DIII lacrosse coach for standing up and speaking up publicly, about keeping women's sports female in 2023.

Never in a million years, did I think I would witness biological males entering girls' and women's competitions, winning them, and physically harming female competitors (HS Volleyball, HS Field Hockey, Jiu Jitsu, MMA, Boxing - just to name a few.). The fact that there are fully intact males in women's locker rooms is ludicrous and that female competitors aren't even being told beforehand…is preposterous. What's even more mind boggling, is that most people - administrators, coaches, athletes, parents, spectators - are too afraid to speak up or too apathetic. I know from coaches I've spoken to directly, that they are being told to keep quiet by their administration. Parents are afraid that if they speak up, it will affect their child's standing on the team. Administrators and coaches are towing the line to keep their jobs, while firmly believing that biological males have *no place* in women's sports.

THIS IS ABOUT FAIR COMPETITION. AND IT IS ABOUT SAFETY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

You are in a unique position to make a difference, to put your name in the history books and save women's sports! The majority of coaches, athletes, parents, spectators & supporters agree that women's sports should be for women - biological females - only. The more times I speak up, the more people - specifically, parents of current or former NCAA or youth athletes, current and former NCAA athletes, current and former NCAA, high school, youth and international coaches and administrators, reach out to me in support.

Once you start this movement, there will be a waterfall effect, and other governing bodies, states, high school sports associations, will follow suit. YOU can be that leader. I believe that you are the man to do this. Please prove me right.

I would love to meet with you to discuss this further. **<u>You have a chance to be a hero.</u>**

With gratitude,
Kim Russell

Kim McGinnis Russell

US Virgin Islands - 1st Women's Head Lacrosse Coach & Director, National Teams 2022-Present

Barefoot Heart Warrior, LLC - Creator & Coach 2017-Present

- Individual & team coaching & clinics for athletes, coaches, executives, parents & those looking to enhance & improve their lives
- Lacrosse, performance breathwork, yoga, emotional intelligence
- Creator: Relaxation, Joy & Flow: Thriving in a VUCA World

Oberlin College - Head Women's Lacrosse Coach & Wellness Instructor 2018-2023

- IWLCA Academic Honor Roll every year (team) 2019-2022
  Multiple all academic student athletes every year - IWLCA & NCAC 2019-2022
  Multiple ALL NCAC Awards to student athletes 2019-2022

IMG Academy Girls Lacrosse - 1st Head Coach & Director of Camps & Clinics 2017

Baldwin Wallace University - 1st Head Women's Lacrosse Coach, Wellness instructor 2012-2017

- OAC Regular Season Champions 2014 & 2017
- OAC Coach of the Year 2017
- Coached OAC Midfielder of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Goalie of the Year & Clyde Lamb Award Winner 2017
- 10 All Conference, 2 All Region & 1 COSIDA All American 2017
- IWLCA Academic Honor Roll every year (team) 2013-2017
  Multiple all academic student athletes every year - IWLCA & OAC 2013-2017
  Multiple All-OAC Awards to Student Athletes 2013-2017

Force Sports - 1st Director & Head Coach, Girls Lacrosse, Ohio 2010-2017

- Started all girls lacrosse programming - clinics, camps & club teams

PE Teacher, VI Montessori & International Academy, St Thomas, USVI 2006-2010
Rocky River Youth Lacrosse, Founder & Coach 2003-2011
Ohio Premier Lacrosse - Co Founder & Coach, Northern Ohio 1999-2017
PE Teacher, Ruffing Montessori, Rocky River, Ohio 1998-2012
Magnificat High School, Head Coach, Lacrosse & Field Hockey 1996-2002
Summit Medical, Sales Rep - Orthopedic 1993-1995
International Management Group, Golf Division, Associate 1989-1993

College of William & Mary - DI 2 Sport Athlete - Field Hockey & Lacrosse 1985-1989

- Field Hockey - Captain, 1988, Regional All American 1987 & 1988
- Lacrosse - North South Senior All Star Game - South Starter 1989

Awards:

Ohio Lacrosse - Hall of Fame - Contributor & Coach	2020
Magnificat High School Hall of Fame - Coach, Field Hockey & Lacrosse	2018
Rocky River Girls Lacrosse - "The Kim Russell Award"	2017
USA Lacrosse, North Coast Ohio Chapter Hall of Fame - Contributor & Coach	2015

Certifications/Classes:

WADA Coach Certification	2023
World Lacrosse - Sixes	2023
Rocky Steady Boxing Coach	2023
Oxygen Advantage Advanced Instructor (in progress)	2023
Reflexive Performance Reset - Level 1	2020
From Zero to Dangerous - The Flow Research Collective	2020
Sky Breathing - Art of Living	2020
Yoga Instructor - Breathless, Yoga Alliance	2016
Zumba Instructor	2015
Stand Up Paddle Instructor - Level 2 (Open Water) - ASI	2015
Open Water Rescue - ASI	2015
Chakra Dance	2015
Aerobics & Fitness Instructor - IDEA	1988
CPR & First Aid	1988-2025

Mother of Maddie (29), Sam (26), Anna (24) and Charlie (19)
Maddie Russell:
US Virgin Islands Women's Lacrosse National Team Athlete

- Scored 1st goal ever (PALA Sixes v Jamaica 2023)
- Current goals and points leader (PALA Sixes 2023)

Lacrosse starting midfielder at Baldwin Wallace University 2014-17

- Currently holds multiple records at Baldwin Wallace
  Career :goals, goals per game, points, points per game, free position goals, free position shots, free position shooting percentage, ground balls, caused turnovers
- All OAC 2014 -2017
- OAC Midfielder of the Year 2017
- Clyde Lamb Award Winner 2017
- Regional All American 2017
- COSIDA Regional All American 2017