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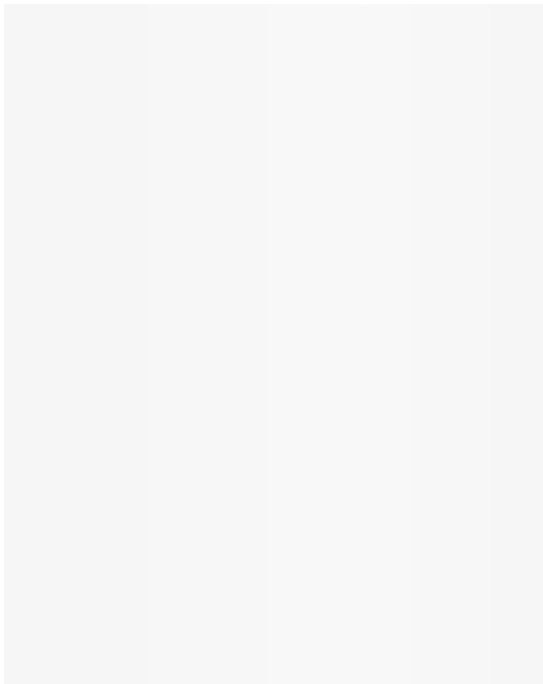
# High school girls' field hockey player loses teeth, injured by shot from male opponent

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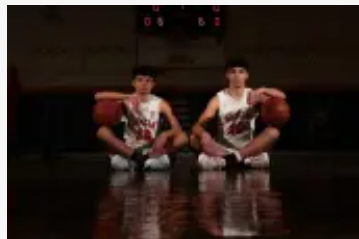
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It's reported that male player (#2 for Swampscott) knocked the teeth out of female player. Males are allowed to play on female teams in MA because of the "equal play act"

This is the town where NCAA president and past gov, Charlie baker lives. Care to comment, [@CharlieBakerMA](#) ?



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"This injury required hospitalization. The player, her family, teammates, and coaches remain in my prayers."

The female athlete lost two teeth and her condition is unclear, according to the outlet.

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The male player is seen moments after releasing his powerful shot, intended for the net.

X/Riley Gaines

“The shot was taken by a male member of the Swampscott girls’ field hockey team,” Runey stated in his letter to parents.

Following the on-field horror, Runey is calling for a change in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) rules that have been in place since the 1970s.



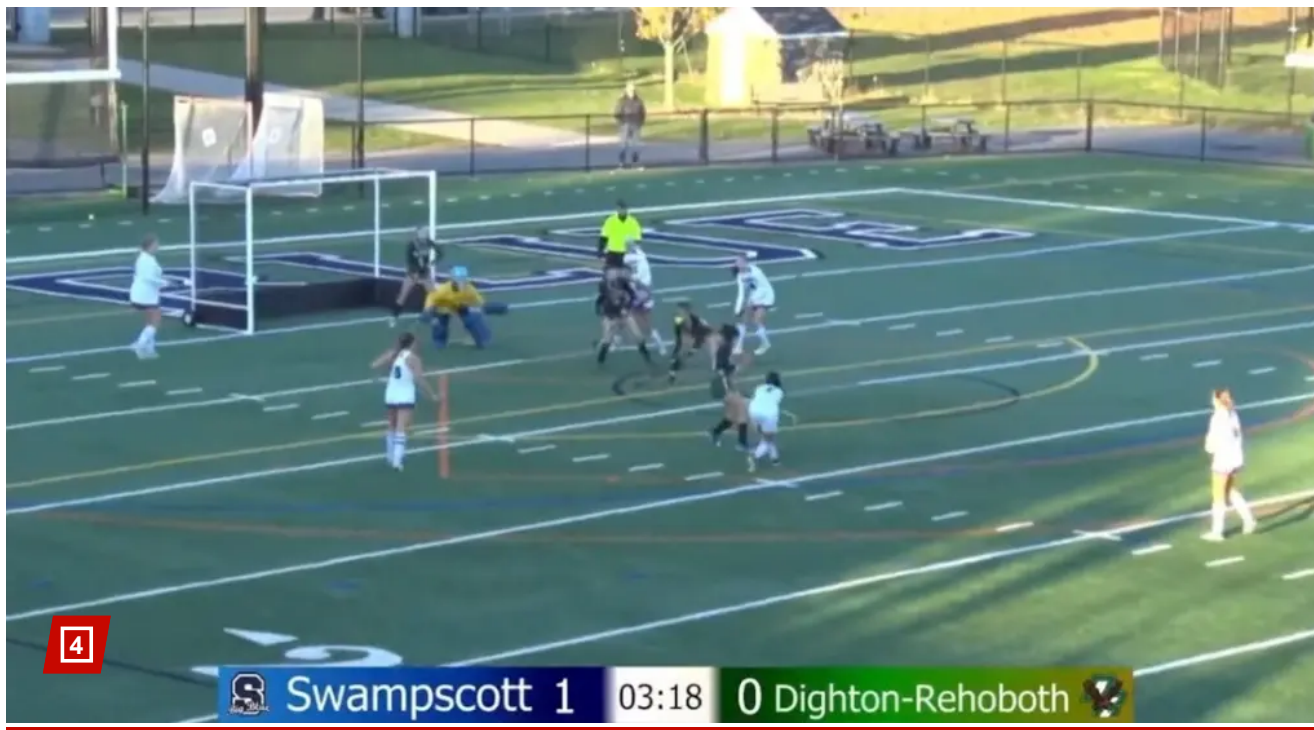
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The field hockey ball ends up slamming directly into a girl on the opposing team.

X/Riley Gaines

“While I understand that the MIAA has guidelines in place for co-ed participation under section 43 of their handbook, this incident dramatically magnifies the concerns of many about player safety,” Runey wrote.

The MIAA **states in its handbook** that “no student shall be denied in any implied or explicit manner the opportunity to participate in any interscholastic activity because of gender.”

Schools could bar a student from playing a sport based on gender if the school “offers a girls’ team and a boys’ team” for the same sport,” the association writes in its rules.

But in cases where there is a “single team in a particular sport,” schools must allow a student to join “to ensure that the school’s gendered designation of athletic opportunities complies with Title IX.”



Players on the field were seen visibly shaken by the gruesome injury.

X/Riley Gaines

“For any male athlete that’s participating in a female sport, there are zero restrictions. So I’m looking for the MIAA to facilitate some conversations to have some middle ground in terms of player safety,” Runey told the outlet.

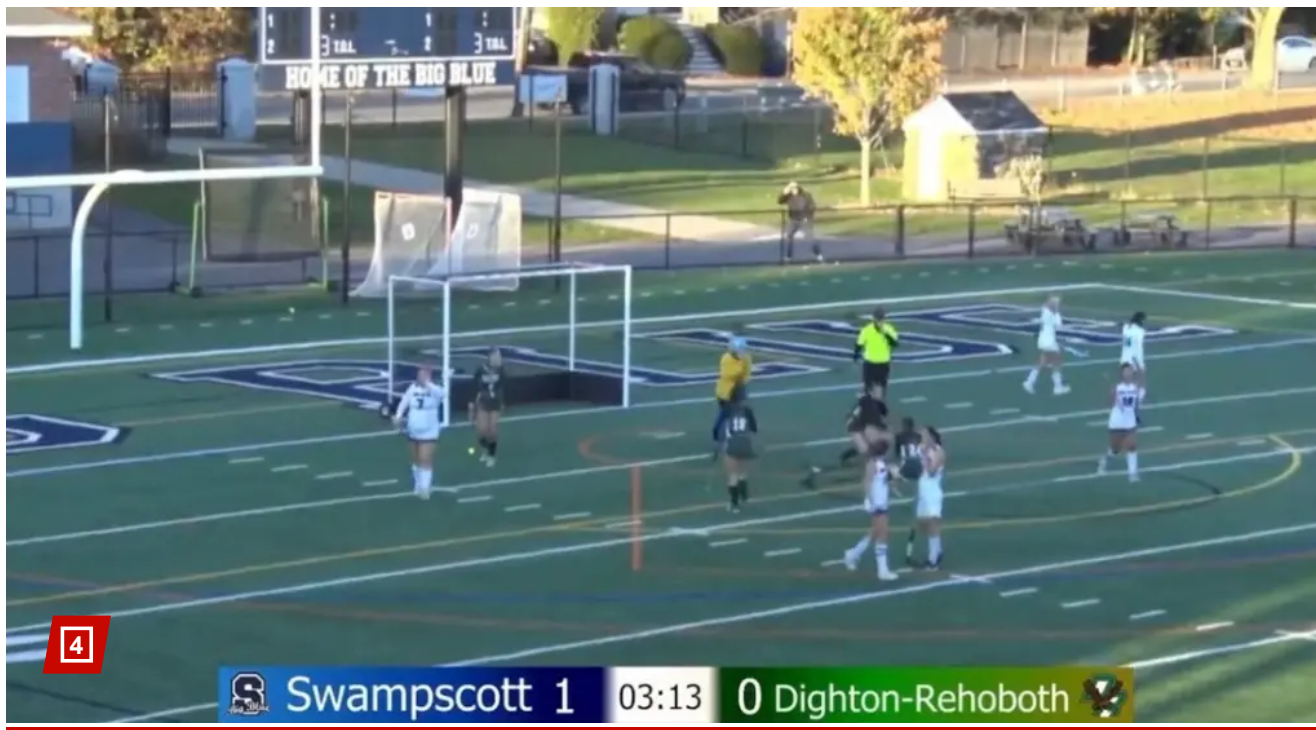
He writes that he understands the MIAA’s rules but believes they should be reviewed for players’ safety in co-ed competition.

“Seeing the horror in the eyes of our players and coaches upon greeting their bus last night is evidence to me that there has to be a renewed approach by the MIAA to protect the safety of our athletes,” Runey stated in his letter.

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The male player, who is not transgender, is allowed to play against females under Massachusetts state rules.

X/Riley Gaines

Swampscott Public Schools athletic director Kelly Wolff confirmed the player who took the shot was a male four-year varsity student and co-captain, according to the outlet.

Wolff firmly believes that the male student “has the exact same right to participate as any player on any team.”

The MIAA also released a statement following the accident, writing that the organization “supports our 383 member schools and all student-athletes as we strive to create a welcoming, safe and belonging atmosphere for all participants.”

The MIAA cited the Massachusetts Equal Rights Amendment, which has been a rule in scholastic sports in the state since 1979.

“The association and member schools must adhere to all federal and state laws to assure equitable opportunities for students of different

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sexes or genders,” the statement obtained by **WCVB** read.

The organization said it “respect[s] and understand[s]” the safety concerns over male players playing against females, but “student safety” alone has not been a “successful defense” to change the rule.

“Student safety has not been a successful defense to excluding students of one gender from participating on teams of the opposite gender. The arguments generally fail due to the lack of correlation between injuries and mixed-gender teams,” the MIAA wrote.

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