

Name _____

Date _____

Female Coaches

In the United States, there are currently no women coaching men's sports teams at the professional level of basketball, football, hockey, or baseball. At the college level, women coach fewer than 3% of men's teams. Yet it is the norm for men to coach women's sports teams. In fact, at the college level, men hold 57.1% of all coaching positions for women's teams. How do we account for this disparity?

Some claim there is a lack of female candidates seeking such jobs. Others say that female candidates lack the experience necessary to be competitive for such jobs.

Some comment on the lack of female role models who have successfully coached men. And of course, there are the persistent stereotypes that women cannot coach men because they are too emotional, too weak, or cannot command men's respect. Most of these reasons are merely versions of the same flimsy excuse: women do not coach men because women have never coached men.

There is a problem with this paradigm. If women are not even considered for coaching positions in men's professional sports, then we are choosing our experts from only half the population—a very limited pool. There are likely women out there with incredible talent for coaching men's professional sports. This talent will remain untapped as long as our society remains content with the current situation.

