



Webinar Series – Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics
Reported Increases in College Athlete Suicide and
Other Mental Health Risks

Thursday, January 16, 2025– 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST

Meet Our Panelists



AARON MILLER, M.Sc., Ph.D., CPCC, ACC, MODERATOR, educator, author, podcaster, career coach, and cultural consultant. He is also a Lecturer in the Departments of Kinesiology at CSU East Bay, St. Mary's College, and San Jose State, and creator/host of the podcast, *The Power of Sports*. Miller has authored 4 books: *Discourses of Discipline: An Anthropology of Corporal Punishment in Japan's Schools and Sports*; *Buying In: Big-time Women's College Basketball and the Future of College Sports*; *Basketball in Japan: Shooting for the Stars*; and *Beyond the Black Clubs: A Youth Sports Manifesto for Japan and Abroad (with Atsushi Nakazawa)*. He has been a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University and a Visiting Professor at Waseda University. Miller received his B.A. from the University of California Los Angeles and M.Sc. and Ph.D. from Oxford University.



CATHERINE BEACH, M.A., MPH, National Program Manager, *Courage First Athlete Helpline*. The *Helpline* is a partnership between the ChildHelp National Child Abuse Hotline and the Foundation for Global Sports Development. Beach holds a Master's in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University and a Master's of Public Health from California State University, San Marcos. She was an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist in both Arizona and California and has worked in child welfare and family counseling for over a decade. She has been a presenter at the Alliance for Social Workers in Sports Summit, the Arizona Athletic Trainer's Association Conference, and the Arizona School Counselor's Conference, among others. Catherine assisted in abuse prevention and education research with the U.S. Center for SafeSport and is the former Chair of the Maricopa County Child Abuse Prevention Council.



RICK ECKSTEIN Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Villanova University. Dr. Eckstein's teaching, research, and advocacy interests focus on the commercialization, commodification, and corporatization of youth and college sport – with an emphasis on girls' and women's sports. He is the author of *How College Athletics are Hurting Girls' Sports: the Pay to Play Pipeline*, is a noted public speaker on such topics as college admissions advantages for recruited athletes and how such policies perpetuate social inequalities, and he was a featured speaker on *HBO Real Sports*. He is currently co-producing a research-based documentary series entitled, *Beyond Stigma: Mental Health in Women's College Sports*, which explores the systemic elements of college sport that increase emotional distress among college athletes. He received his B.A. from Marietta College and holds a Ph.D. from SUNY, Stonybrook.



DANIELLE SIRAGUSA, LCSW, Executive Director of the ChildHelp National Child Abuse Hotline. Siragusa is an accomplished executive leader with a robust background in clinical leadership and program management. She holds a Masters of Social Work and a Bachelor of Social Work from Arizona State University and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), having worked in the field for over 15 years. Siragusa understands the unique challenges and lifestyle of athletes and focuses on maximizing their success personally and professionally through a variety of therapeutic approaches. She is a member of The Alliance of Social Workers in Sports (ASWIS) and owner of a private practice, Elite Mental Health, specializing in anxiety, injuries, performance pressure, depression, trauma, athletic stress, and life transitions.



KATIE STEELE, LMFT, Executive Director, Athletes Mental Health Foundation. Steele is a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Co-Founder of Thrive Mental Health (an outpatient mental health clinic in Bend, Oregon) and co-author of *The Price She Pays: Confronting the Hidden Mental Health Crisis in Women's Sports from the Schoolyard to the Stadium*. She is deeply committed to ensuring sports are an enriching experience for youth that elevates their mental health and well-being. She is an advocate for changing the framework of sport and mental health and preserving the health of the athlete -- more fulfillment, longevity in the game, and development of characteristics that will benefit them for their entire lifetime. Steele is also a former NCAA runner at the University of Oregon and Florida State.



KENYATTA WALKER, Associate Director, Cox Communication Academic Center for Student-Athletes, Louisiana State University. Walker is an active member of the National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development (N4A), Women Leaders in College Sports (WL), and the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA). Formerly, Walker served as the Associate Athletic Director of Academics and Senior Woman Administrator at Alabama A&M, the primary academic advisor for multiple sport programs at Prairie View A&M, an academic coordinator at the University of West Virginia, and an athletic academic advisor and tutor coordinator at Alabama State. Walker earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in Sociology from Georgia Southwestern State and another BA and a Masters from Alabama State.