

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

Today, Sacred Heart University and Tara Brady announce a settlement of the lawsuit instituted by Ms. Brady claiming that Sacred Heart discriminated against her on the basis of pregnancy. Ms. Brady, a former starting center for the Sacred Heart women's basketball team, filed the Title IX lawsuit in March 2003.

Sacred Heart University admitted no wrong-doing in the case, but did agree to clarify its existing policy prohibiting all discrimination on the basis of sex. Sacred Heart will include in both the Student-Athlete Handbook and the Athletics Policies and Procedures Manual its policies on Hardship Waivers, out-of-season incapacitation due to injury, illness or pregnancy, and the NCAA policy on pregnancy. According to C. Donald Cook, Sacred Heart's Director of Athletics, "these policies have been in place, but previously were found in other University resources." According to Sacred Heart's existing policy, a student-athlete who becomes incapacitated during a season of athletics, including a pregnant student, is eligible, pursuant to NCAA rules and regulations, to apply for a Hardship Waiver. This status does not affect the student's scholarship, academic enrollment or team status for that season. Student-Athletes unable to compete due to incapacitation occurring outside the season of competition are also entitled to remain members of their team, retain their athletic scholarship, and remain enrolled at Sacred Heart. A student-athlete who does not compete during a season of competition or who receives a Hardship Waiver retains his or her eligibility to play his or her sport in future years.

"We are happy to provide our students with a more complete Student-Athlete Handbook, one that details procedures relating to existing policies we have had in place," said C. Donald Cook. The updated handbook will be available at the beginning of the next school year; for this school year, an addendum will be distributed to all student-athletes.

"I brought this lawsuit so I could complete my interrupted education and so that students in the future would know their rights. I am happy that the

settlement reached today accomplishes both of those goals,” said Tara Brady. Ms. Brady will be a senior this coming year at West Chester University in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Brady is represented by Livingston, Adler, Pulda, Meiklejohn & Kelly in Hartford, and the Women’s Law Project and Pepper Hamilton LLP in Philadelphia. Carol Tracy, the Executive Director of the Women’s Law Project, said, “Students at Sacred Heart will now more easily understand and access NCAA and Sacred Heart’s non-discrimination policies.” Ruth Pulda, an attorney with Livingston, Adler, Pulda, Meiklejohn, & Kelly of Hartford, added: “We are gratified that Sacred Heart will keep its students well informed.”

James M. Sconzo, an attorney with Halloran & Sage LLP, which represents Sacred Heart, stated: “Sacred Heart is equally satisfied with the resolution of this matter.”

The terms of the settlement are confidential.