

Perhaps the problem is less with transgender competition than with the notion of sports competition itself. If all competitors have access to the same quality of training, and presuming that all have the mental attitudes necessary to excel, then competitive sports boils down to the physical differences between the competitors. Those whose bodies are more physically capable will win.

So physical competition between XX and XY may hold an advantage for XY. But so do other characteristics. Short people of either sex can't run as fast as tall people. Those who are naturally slim can't lift as much weight as those with more muscle mass. Training will improve anyone's capabilities, but one's body sets a hard limit on what is possible. Yet we don't see short people suing because they can't win races. Why not?

We can't control our genes. For better or worse, we live with the chromosome combinations we were born with. Athletic competition in its ultimate form says simply that one person is better than another simply because of an accident of birth. It may be time to reevaluate our attitudes toward it. De-emphasize the competition aspects and promote the idea that we all should be as physically capable as our bodies will support.

No trophies. No sports scholarships. No outrageous salaries for the professional athletes in the arena. Replace those with a general appreciation for those who strive to be their best in all aspects of their lives. We don't need the Colosseum any more. After a couple of thousand years of development, we should be better than that.