

# Boys' Club flings open doors to girls Saturday

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SANTA CRUZ — Saturday marks the crumbling of one of the last bastions of male exclusivity in Santa Cruz — girls are coming to the Boys' Club.

Or at least they might be. "We're expecting it to be gradual," said Terry Kaup, executive director of

the club. Still, the club is now prepared to enlist females between the ages of 8 and 18 in its membership.

"We've segregated the locker rooms and made the gym lockers for the boys and the pool lockers for the girls," Kaup explained. "We've had to put different signs on the doors and we put up a wall to separate the rooms."

The changes are due to a decision by the state Supreme Court last October ordering the club to open its doors to girls.

In hopes of offering its potential female membership someone to relate to, the club has hired Annette Lanni as arts and crafts director. "We're doing as much staff training as we can and trying to be as sensitive to the needs of the girls as

possible," Kaup said. "It's going to be mostly co-ed programs with just a few segregated programs."

The question of whether the club will have to change its name to reflect its new membership is still an open one, according to Kaup. It will be discussed and decided upon by the club's board of directors.

As far as co-ed activities, Kaup isn't concerned about problems.

"We'll be going by the guidelines of the Women's Sports Federation as far as mixing in sports," Kaup said. "At the younger ages just about any sport can be co-ed."

There will also be other types of co-ed activities. Feb. 14 the club will sponsor a Valentine's Day dance for junior high schoolers and a Little Sister Day is planned for the future.

But some lines will be drawn. "We don't feel that everything has to be co-ed," Kaup added. "We'll be planning some segregated things, but there will be equal amounts for boys and girls."

The club has had to publicize the changeover so as to keep in line with the local court order that forced the change. "We've posted notices in all the elementary, junior and senior high schools in the area and at all the libraries" Kaup said.

But at the same time, "We're staying low-key about the change," Kaup said. "We're not making a big deal of it."

There is, of course, the question of how the boys themselves are going to react to having girls in their formerly exclusive domain. "Some of them are going to like it and some of them aren't," Kaup said. "The younger ones probably aren't going to like it while the older ones may think it's fine."

"But three or four months down the road, nobody will even remember the way it was," he added.